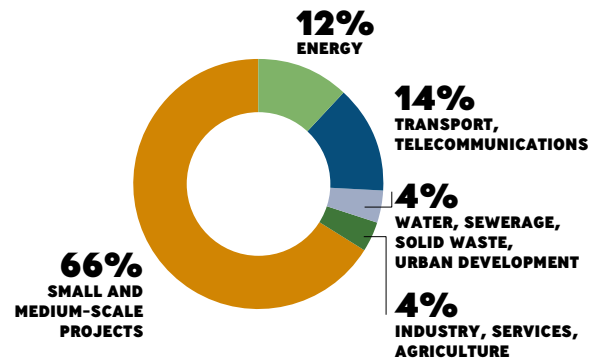




EIB Group activity in Czech Republic in 2019

- EIB Group (EIB and EIF) operations in 2019 led to support in the form of €1.49 billion of investments
- EIB Group support in the Czech Republic represented 0.68% of the country's GDP (11th position among the EU Member States)
- Thanks to the involvement of the European Fund for Strategic Investments – a core part of the Investment Plan for Europe – €4.7 billion of new investment is expected to be mobilised in the Czech Republic

EIB LENDING IN CZECH REPUBLIC
in 2015-2019 per sector



Source: EIB

In the Czech Republic, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund, jointly forming the EIB Group, support investment projects that reduce disparities in regional development, strengthen economic competitiveness and improve the living standards of Czech people. In 2019, EIB lending in the Czech Republic amounted to some €1.3 billion. Over the last five years (2015–2019), the Bank has provided €3.8 billion to finance projects in the country.

FINANCING UNDER THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The **Investment Plan for Europe** (the Juncker Plan) is one of the EU's key initiatives to accelerate investment in Europe and is focused on creating jobs and fostering growth. It enables a smarter use and combination of new and existing financial resources. The EIB Group is playing a vital role in this investment plan. With guarantees from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the EIB and EIF can engage in projects involving higher risks and encourage private investors to participate in the financing of strategic projects.

Last year, an EIB Group guarantee helped Česká spořitelna channel €306 million of new financing into small and medium-sized businesses. The agreement is helping about 250 companies and supporting nearly 43 000 jobs across the country. The operation, backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments, includes a guarantee of €76.5 million to cover possible losses on an existing portfolio of around €1 billion. This new type of transaction is also helping to develop the securitisation market in the region.

SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The EIB provided €444 million to finance eight components of railway infrastructure upgrading, modernisation and renewal located across the Czech Republic. The railway lines concerned are situated along the TEN-T network, including core Baltic-Adriatic, Rhine-Danube and Orient/East-Med corridors on sections pre-identified under the Connecting Europe Facility. The EIB financing is helping to implement the transport policy of the Czech Republic for 2014-2020. The long-term goal is to remove transport bottlenecks on the railway infrastructure and to support cross-border rail transport projects.

The EU bank granted €330 million to the Czech energy utility CEZ to finance an investment programme for the extension, reinforcement and modernisation of the electricity distribution network in nine Czech regions: Plzeň, Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, Central Bohemia, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Pardubice, Olomouc and Moravia-Silesia. The EIB funds are helping to reinforce and refurbish medium and low-voltage networks. The loan is also being used to install automation and tele-control systems. The project comprises a large number of geographically dispersed schemes, such as the installation of 4 160 km of new overhead and underground lines, the refurbishment of 2 475 km of lines and the addition of 861 Mega Volt Amps (MVA) of transformer capacity on the electricity network. The supported investments will also facilitate increased integration of future energy transmission capacity from renewable sources.



SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN TRANSPORT

The EIB provided €50 million (some CZK 1.25 billion) to Plzeňské městské dopravní podniky, a public transport provider in the City of Pilsen. The loan is helping to implement Plzeň's sustainable Transport Strategy, which aims to improve urban public transport while minimising the negative impact of transport on the environment and on urban life. The EIB financing enables the purchase of some 34 trams and approximately 34 trolley buses to replace existing vehicles. The project also involves the reconstruction of depot facilities and the modernisation of the power supply infrastructure.



SUPPORT FOR SMES AND MID-CAPS

In addition to the above EFSI-backed operation with Česká spořitelna, the EIB concluded €407 million worth of intermediated lending with four EIB partner financing institutions in 2019, further improving the access of Czech small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and municipalities to EIB financing. These operations support investments in local infrastructure, environmental protection, transport, energy, R&D and innovation, social inclusion and services, including tourism.

Thanks to EIB operations, some 1 228 SME and mid-cap projects are estimated to benefit from EIB loans in the Czech Republic, supporting about 83 650 jobs.

In the Czech Republic in 2019, the EIF committed a total of €255 million in 10 operations, aimed at raising €659 million. Some 5 700 businesses benefited from EIF operations in the Czech Republic in 2019 and about 54 000 jobs were supported.

EIB ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EIB Advisory Services in Czech Republic are delivered mainly through the European Investment Advisory Hub, Financial Instruments Advisory (FIA) (including *fi-compass* and bilateral advisory services), the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC), European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA), Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) and InnovFin Advisory (IFA).

Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS)

Currently, and in the context of the 2019 Action Plan for the Czech Republic, JASPERS is supporting 16 projects, 81% of which are assignments in the transport sector, rail lines in particular. In 2019, JASPERS completed 10 assignments in the Czech Republic, six of which are major projects in the transport sector.

The European Investment Advisory Hub is a partnership between the EIB and the European Commission and the second pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe. The Advisory Hub offers a single point of entry to a comprehensive offer of advisory and technical assistance (delivered either by the EIB Group, the European Commission, National Promotional Institutions or Managing Authorities), aimed at providing targeted support for the identification, preparation and development of investment projects across the European Union. As of December 2019, the Hub had processed 35 advisory requests from the Czech Republic, ranging from information inquiries to requests for technical assistance, funding, or both.

European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) is part of the EIB's broader effort to support the EU's climate and energy policy objectives. This joint EIB-European Commission initiative provides grants for technical assistance focused on the implementation of energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy and urban transport programmes (see [ELENA webpage](#)). In the Czech Republic, ELENA is currently supporting the Central Bohemia Region by contributing €2.4 million for the comprehensive renovation of around 170 public buildings, improvement of energy performance, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the mobilisation of investments amounting to €61.4 million.

OVERALL EIB GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

EIB Financing
€63.12bn

EIF Financing
€10.2bn

Total EIB Group Financing*
€72.09bn

Environment

€16.52bn

SMEs and mid-caps

€25.52bn

Innovation

€14.44bn

Infrastructure

€15.61bn

Climate

31% of total financing

Investment Plan for Europe

EFSI projects approved by the EIB Group
amounted to

€84.2bn

Investment Plan for Europe

EFSI-related investments

€458bn

92% of **€500bn** target

* EIB Group total financing figure excludes a small overlap due to joint engagements of the EIB and the EIF.

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