



2018, delivering impact in finance

- Over 2.3 billion euros in financing for more than twenty innovative projects all around the country.
- Transport, water projects and SMEs high on the agenda.

EIB Group financing in the Netherlands amounted to 2.32 billion euros in 2018, with a focus on flood protection and transport projects, as well as significant support for SMEs and hospitals. In all, the European Investment Bank alone has invested over 11 billion euros in the Netherlands over the past five years (2014-2018) supporting the priorities of the European Union.



The main pillar of the so-called “Juncker Plan”, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), calls for the EIB Group to support innovative and higher-risk projects. In the Netherlands, this has so far meant support for SMEs through the European Investment Fund (EIF), which made financing and guarantees available through local intermediaries, as well as major EIB support. The Bank has used the EU budget guarantee to finance hospitals, micro-credits, circular economy initiatives, and more. Altogether, some 2.5 billion euros in loans supporting total investments of nearly 11 billion euros. The Bank’s Amsterdam office remains a hub and first-access point to strengthen relationships with local project promoters and authorities.

Plugging in to e-mobility

With the Juncker Plan in full swing, new types of financing are increasingly being used to fund businesses that might otherwise have a hard time taking off. Allego B.V. is one such example. Late in the year, the EIB signed a 40 million euro ‘quasi equity’ loan facility with this provider and operator of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The European financing will allow Allego to accelerate its investments in the extension of their charging infrastructure all around Europe. The objective of the project is to make EV charging stations more widely and easily available, thus contributing to cutting emissions.



Keeping the Netherlands dry

The largest loan of 2018 was awarded to the urgently needed renewal works on the Netherlands’ main flood defence infrastructure; the so-called “Afsluitdijk”. The EIB made 330 million euros available for the project, which will not only strengthen the dike, but will have benefits for local fauna as well. Special works will be carried out to create “fish passages” that will allow the re-establishment of fish migration between the sea and the interior lake.

Support for sustainable SMEs

One of the EU’s main priorities is support for small and medium sized enterprises, or SMEs for short. In 2018 Rabobank and De Lage Landen signed new facilities with the EIB. SME and mid-cap companies in the Netherlands seem increasingly inclined to transition to sustainability, social impact and circular business models and the EIB is committed to support this. Through these collaborations, over 1 billion euro is available for new lending to companies that want to invest in their and our future.

Shining a light on medical technology

Philips probably does not need an introduction. In 2018, an EIB loan helped this European industry leader in maintaining the high quality of its research and development (R&D) activities in the medical and healthcare sectors. As part of the pan-European objective of creating overall economic growth in Europe, the financing also contributed to preserving skilled R&D employment in Europe, as the proceeds of the loan were used by Philips in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

Getting you there, by road, rail or air.

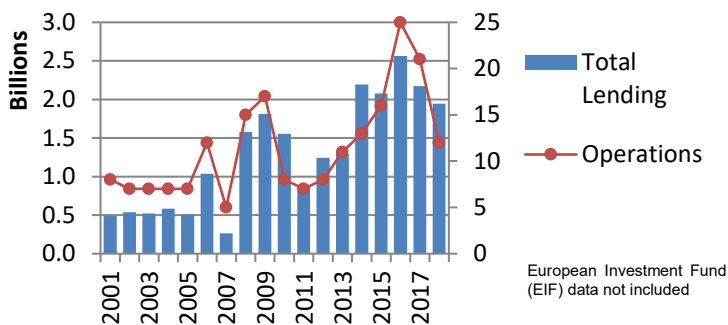
Transport has traditionally been an important area of support for the European Investment Bank. The bank’s expertise in this sector showed in 2018 when it financed some major investments in mobility and transport across the country. In June, the national railways company NS was awarded a 350 million euro loan for next-generation intercity trains, followed by nearly 330 million euros for the construction of the so-called “Blankenburg” connection, that will unlock traffic congestion around the city and port of Rotterdam. Finally, Dutch national carrier KLM drew the second part of the loan it first saw approved in 2017, for the acquisition of highly efficient Embraer aircraft to replace its ageing regional fleet.

Supporting the Wetterskip – managing water in Frisian

Water is always an issue in the Netherlands, usually because there is too much of it and dykes are needed to keep it out. For this reason, the Netherlands boasts the world’s oldest continuously functioning democratically elected bodies; the “waterschappen”. These water authorities take care of things like dyke reinforcements, waste water management, and ensuring that agriculture does not impact surface water quality. The EIB is proud to support the local *wetterskip*, as it is called in the Frisian language, in the province of Friesland with its multi-annual investment programme running up to 2021. The programme foresees strengthening the flood protection dykes as well as the management of water bodies to achieve correct flows. Through this, it can prevent pollution and at the same time ensure sufficient water for both agriculture and nature.



EIB lending in the Netherlands (EUR)



Future EIB engagement in the Netherlands

The EIB will continue to work towards developing its activity in the Netherlands for 2019 and beyond, building on the experience of past years. After looking towards supporting new sectors in current years, themes like access to finance for SMEs and healthcare remain on the agenda, as well as cooperation with national promotional banks.

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