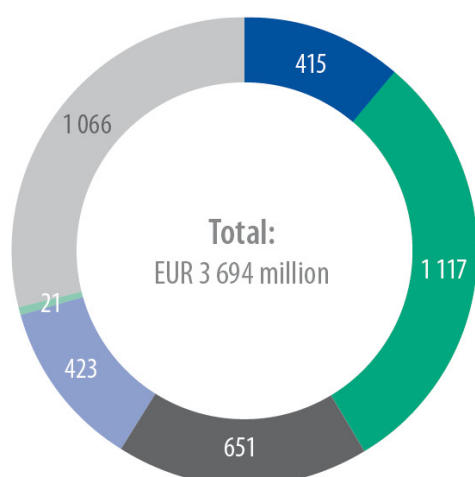




The EIB in Slovakia in 2018

In Slovakia, as in other EU countries, the EIB supports investment projects that reduce disparities in regional development, strengthen economic competitiveness and improve living standards. In 2018, EIB lending in the Slovak Republic amounted to some EUR 616m. Over the last five years (2014–2018), the Bank has provided some EUR 3.7bn to finance projects in Slovakia. Financing projects that contribute to economic progress in EU-assisted areas remains the key activity of the EIB. In Slovakia, most of the regions fully qualify for EIB loans as well as allocations from the European Union’s Structural and Cohesion Funds.



EIB lending by sector in Slovakia from 2014 to 2018 (in EUR m)

Energy	11%
Transport, telecommunications	30%
Water, sewerage, solid waste, urban development	18%
Industry, services, agriculture	11%
Education, health	1%
Small and medium-scale projects	29%

Strategic infrastructure

In 2018, the EU bank provided EUR 320m to the Slovak government for transport infrastructure. The EIB funds co-finance priority projects that are being supported by EU funds from 2014 to 2020. This loan is the second tranche of the EUR 670m EIB lending package, after a EUR 350m loan granted in 2015.

This EIB financing is combined with EU grants from the Operational Programme for Integrated Infrastructure and the Connecting Europe Facility, providing a total amount of EUR 4.7bn. This support is building the missing sections of rail and road networks along strategic trans-European corridors, purchasing railway rolling stock and building port infrastructure. The investments also will develop urban trams, upgrade regional roads and bypasses and implement intelligent transport and management systems for road and rail.

The EIB has approved 32 individual investment projects, such as the modernisation of the Púchov – Žilina railway line, allowing it to handle speeds of 160km/h. Projects also include the construction of related infrastructure, integrated terminals and Park&Ride facilities. EIB funds will finance the modernisation of public transport in Bratislava, trams in Košice and trolleybuses in Prešov and Žilina. Other projects involve the reconstruction of national roads, bridges and bypasses in Brezno and Bardejov.

Support to Slovak corporates

The EIB is a long-term partner of the Slovak corporate community. Last year, EIB corporate lending was mainly directed to the energy sector. The Bank granted a EUR 60m loan to Slovenské elektrárne, a long-term partner of the EU bank, to support nuclear safety improvements in nuclear power plants. These investments enable the Slovak electricity generation company to fulfil its obligations under EU and national legislation and support the safe operation of low-carbon electricity generation. It implements certain measures defined in the National Action Plan for Slovakia, prepared on the basis of the post-Fukushima European Stress Tests for Nuclear Power Plants.

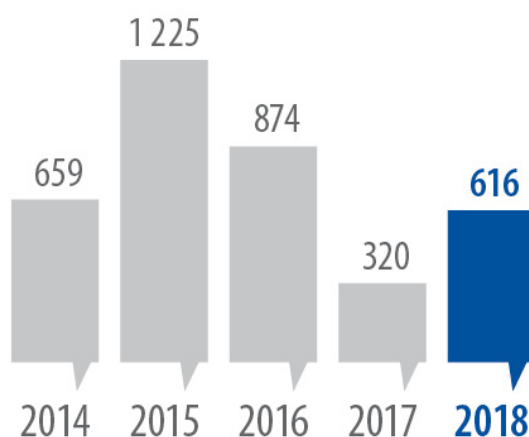
In 2018, the EIB also granted a loan of EUR 60m to SPP – distribúcia, a.s. (Slovak Gas Distribution Company) to finance its 4-year investment programme. In particular, it includes the replacement of old pipelines operating under various pressures, the reconstruction of regulation stations and the update of key information technology systems and metering equipment in various parts of Slovakia.

Loans for SMEs and midcaps

The EIB concluded five intermediated loan contracts amounting to EUR 165m with Slovakia's financing institutions in 2018. These institutions lend the EIB funds to SMEs and municipalities to support local infrastructure, environmental protection, energy, R&D and innovation, and services, including tourism.

EIB loans help SMEs get medium- and long-term funds at good rates. The estimated aggregate number of SME and mid-cap projects to be financed from EIB loans in Slovakia in 2018 is 320, supporting about 233,000 jobs.

European Investment Bank Signatures in Slovakia 2014-2018 (in EUR m)



Source: EIB

Project example: EUR 50m to support export businesses

Last year, the EU bank provided EUR 50m to EXIMBANKA to finance projects promoted by export-oriented small and medium-sized businesses in Slovakia. As the country's national export financial institution, EXIMBANKA contributes to the Slovak Government's economic development policies.

EIB Advisory Services

The Advisory Services in Slovakia are delivered mainly through JASPERS, the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the Financial Instruments Advisory (FIA), the InnovFin Advisory (IFA) and the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC).

JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) has operated in Slovakia since in 2006. To date, 90 assignments have been completed, of which 70% are in the transport sector, and 82% support major projects. In addition, 27 assignments are ongoing. In over a third of them (40%), we are helping to build capacity or providing horizontal and strategic advice. In 2018, JASPERS completed 16 assignments in Slovakia. Once again, the transport sector attracted most of the assistance (81% of all assignments). JASPERS is now assisting more sectors, such as smart development. In 2018, it completed an assignment that should improve broadband internet accessibility in the Slovak Republic, and it started working on an assignment that should lead to a Smart City Strategy and Road Map for Bratislava.

The Advisory Hub, as a partnership program between the EIB and the European Commission, is actively represented in Slovakia. As of the end of 2018, the Hub had processed 16 advisory requests and provided advisory support for two Investment Platforms. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Slovak Investment Holding (SIH). In March 2018, the EIAH and SIH organised an EIAH roadshow in Bratislava. The Hub, through the **Financial Instruments Advisory**, is providing support to SIH in the identification and development of a pipeline of projects, in order to develop investment opportunities in the area of smart cities (Smart Cities Investment Platform).

The Financial Instruments Advisory, in close cooperation with **JASPERS**, is providing advice to the Ministry of Finance on the use of Energy Performance Contracting for public sector building renovation. This assignment includes advice on model contracts and financing to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs).

The European Investment Fund

The European Investment Fund (EIF) is the specialist arm of the EIB, providing risk financing solutions to financial intermediaries to support SMEs and midcaps and foster innovation in Europe. In 2018 it committed more than EUR 10bn in support of business, through which approximately EUR 43.7bn of additional capital will be leveraged.

The EIF committed EUR 3.5bn for equity in 155 equity transactions with early and growth stage funds, which are expected to raise EUR 19bn of additional commitments. On the guarantees side, it committed EUR 6.5bn in 151 transactions, which acted as a catalyst in generating EUR 23.9bn of new loans for SMEs. The EIF's support for micro- and social enterprises totalled EUR 95m, creating a loan volume of more than EUR 864m. More than 280,000 SMEs and mid-caps were supported by the EIF in 2018, sustaining some 2.75 million jobs.

In Slovakia in 2018, the EIF committed EUR 14.4m in 3 operations, aimed at raising EUR 71m. Some 1,400 businesses benefitted from EIF operations in the Slovakia in 2018, supporting about 6,700 jobs.

For more information: www.eif.org/slovakia.

The EIB at a glance

The EIB is the EU's long-term lending institution and is owned by all EU countries. It makes long-term finance available for sound projects, contributing to growth, jobs, regional convergence and climate action in Europe and beyond. In 2018, its total financing amounted to EUR 55.6bn.

To ensure maximum impact, the EIB combines EU funds with its loans and advising on technical and financial aspects.

The EIB is supporting Europe's economic recovery by implementing the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). By the end of 2018, the EIB Group had committed EUR 70.4bn under EFSI, mobilising total investment of EUR 375.5bn, or 75% of the target of EUR 500bn.

The potential investment triggered by the EIB Group in Slovakia thanks to EFSI transactions totalled EUR 1.2bn as of the end of 2018. The EIF signed 7 EFSI transactions with an aggregate EIF contribution of EUR 80m.

The EIB's activities around the world reflect EU external priorities. The EIB is active mainly in pre-accession countries and eastern and southern neighbours. The EIB also operates in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Asia and Latin America, supporting local private sector development, social and economic infrastructure and climate action projects.

The EIB is financially autonomous and raises the bulk of its lending resources on the international capital markets through bond issues.

Overall EIB Group achievements in 2018	
A total of EUR 64.2bn in financing by the EIB Group.	By end of 2018, the EIB Group has approved EUR 70.4bn under EFSI for more than 1000 financing transactions which are expected to support investment of EUR 375bn since the EFSI launch.
EUR 13.5bn EIB Group support for innovation and skills , including education and digital infrastructure.	EUR 23.3bn EIB Group support for SMEs and midcaps – the biggest ever volume.
EUR 12.25bn supporting key infrastructure in transport and energy, as well as urban infrastructure.	EUR 15.15bn for environmental projects supporting resource-efficiency and sustainability.

For further information on the EIB in Slovakia: www.eib.org/slovakia	
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