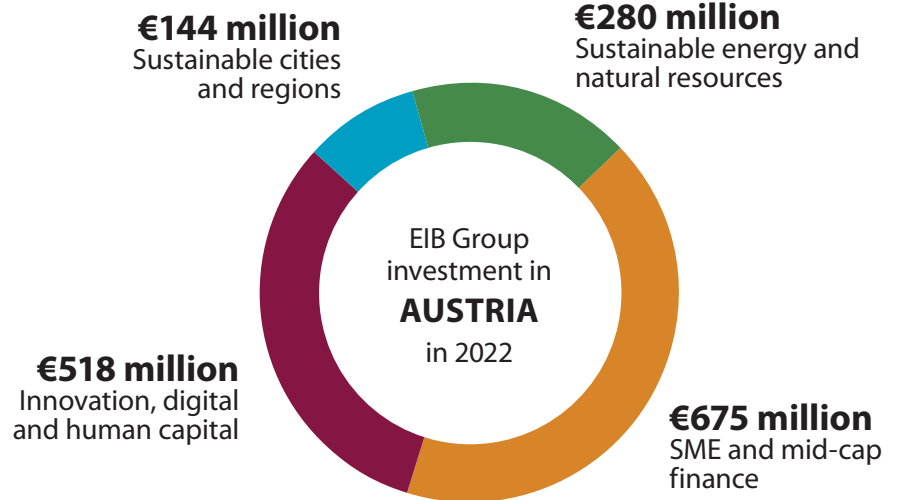


# EIB Group activity in **AUSTRIA** 2022



- EIB Group provides total financing of €1.6 billion in Austria in 2022
- Small and medium-sized enterprises among the main beneficiaries of EIB financing
- Investment focus on innovation and digitalisation



The EIB Group — consisting of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) — recorded stable business in Austria in 2022, granting financing of €1.62 billion overall. Annual lending in the previous years was also in the realm of €1.6 billion.

In 2022, project finance focused on innovation, renewable energy and affordable housing. After the pandemic, multiple joint projects with banks, both public and private, secured financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the backbone of the Austrian economy.

Other key areas of financing in 2022 were research, development and innovation to boost competitiveness, and climate action and the environment.





**Supporting small companies after the pandemic**  
Projects financing SMEs and mid-caps approved by the EIB Group amounted to  
**€675 million**

## Helping small firms weather multiple crises

**The EIB Group works with both private and public banks to secure SME financing**

**The European Guarantee Fund covers many of these activities in Austria.**

The economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic continued to be felt in 2022, with disrupted supply chains and limited bank lending to small and medium firms. To counter this, the EIB Group granted partially secured credit lines for banks' SME portfolios so that they could continue to provide financing on attractive terms.

For example, the EIB has granted a loan of €150 million to Österreichische Hotel- und Tourismusbank (ÖHT), to be paid out in several tranches. It will go towards supporting SMEs in Austria's leisure and tourism industry, and is designed to enable family-run hotels and restaurants to invest in sustainable projects.

The European Guarantee Fund (EGF) also proved to be effective again, like in 2021: With guarantees from 22 Member States worth €23.2 billion, a total of €183.47 billion had been mobilised for SMEs in the European Union by the end of 2022. Based on the latest reports available, over 100 000 SMEs in Europe have already benefited from EGF support.

## Investments in innovation and climate

### The EIB establishes itself as the EU climate bank in Austria, financing new windmills

**An innovative cell therapy startup is one of our flagship projects for 2022.**

In Austria, life sciences are an important field for innovation. Regenerative medicine in particular is viewed by many as an emerging pillar of modern medicine. One example of the EIB's work in this area in 2022 was a venture debt loan to Innsbruck-based biotech firm Innovacell AG. The loan will provide up to €15 million to finance Innovacell's €40 million investment plan over the next three years. The company develops innovative autologous cell therapies for treating faecal and urinary incontinence — health problems that affect many people, especially older people.

As in 2021 and in the coming years, climate action remained the other key field of EIB financing in 2022. For example, we co-financed four additional windmills for the Pretul wind farm, built high in the Alps. Thanks to its location, the project will be one of the first in Austria to use the latest turbine model designed for a cold climate. The EIB has supported the Pretul wind farm from the outset, with an initial loan of €36.7 million.

Modern infrastructure is one of the EIB's strategic priorities, and this applies to public transport in particular. Last year, the EIB strengthened its longstanding partnership with the City of Graz by helping finance the purchase of new trams and electric buses, as well as initiatives to promote cycling and walking. We will also support similar projects in other Austrian cities.

In addition we are maintaining our commitment to affordable rental housing by financing the construction and energy renovation of homes. Since 2018, various loans have been signed for this purpose with Austrian banks and the municipal housing company Wiener Wohnen.



**Strong focus on innovation, digitalisation and human capital**  
Projects approved by the EIB Group amounted to  
**€518 million**

## Overall EIB Group achievements in 2022

### Projects

signed by the EIB Group worldwide in 2022  
were worth a total of

**€72.45 billion**

### Overall investments

triggered worldwide by the EIB amounted to

**€260 billion**

### EIB Global

financed investments outside the  
European Union totalling

**€10.8 billion**

### SMEs and mid-caps

were supported with financing of

**€16.35 billion**

### Climate financing

as a share of total EIB Group financing  
in 2022 reached

**58%**

### Jobs secured

in SMEs and mid-caps by  
EIB Group financing numbered

**5.3 million**

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