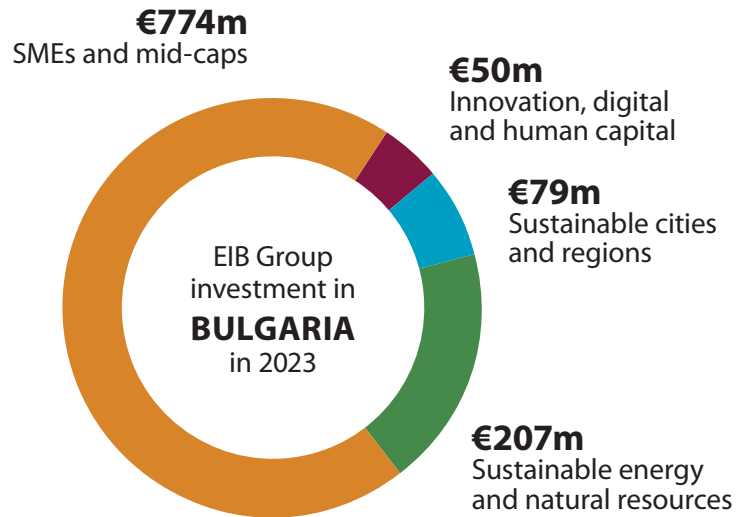


# EIB Group activity in **BULGARIA** in 2023

- Almost all of the full €1.11 billion in new financing for Bulgaria was granted for projects fostering economic and social cohesion in the country.
- In 2023, the EIB Group supported 8 000 SMEs and mid-caps, sustaining about 180 000 jobs.
- The EIB Group allocated €238 million for climate investments, driving Bulgaria's green transition.



The EIB Group, made up of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF), supported Bulgaria's economy with €1.11 billion in new loans, guarantee commitments and other financial instruments in 2023 — expected to mobilise €5.4 billion in investment. The EIB's activity in Bulgaria last year included financing for sustainable agriculture, transport mobility, healthcare, innovation, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps. Almost all of the financing arrangements signed across these sectors support the country's economic and social cohesion, with more than 20% devoted to the green and digital transformation of its economy.





## Supporting the green and digital transformation of SMEs and mid-caps

Projects signed by the EIB Group for SMEs and mid-caps amounted to **€774 million**

## Unlocking new financing for businesses

### Advisory support and financing for modern and efficient healthcare services for children

The EIB Group strengthened its cooperation with BDB, Bulgaria's national promotional bank, and signed a €175 million loan agreement to facilitate fresh financing for SMEs and mid-caps to boost their resilience, competitiveness, and green and digital transition. SMEs make up 98% of companies in Bulgaria, and account for about 60% of economic value added and 75% of employment — well above the EU average. At least 20% of the funds will go towards climate action and environmental sustainability projects. Through a synthetic securitisation agreement with the EIB Group, ProCredit Bank Bulgaria will be able to lend a further €416 million to SMEs, with approximately 30% allocated to green projects.

The EIB signed a €12.8 million loan agreement with the municipality of Burgas to co-finance a children's hospital in the Black Sea city, which will provide quality healthcare services to over 220 000 children from south-eastern Bulgaria in modern facilities. The first specialised children's hospital in Bulgaria, it also benefits from an extensive advisory and technical assistance package provided by EIB Advisory. The eight-story building with 123 beds will have an energy-saving lighting system and a drainage system that collects and filters rainwater, to be reused sustainably for the hospital's green areas.

### Annual EIB volume

Projects signed by the European Investment Bank amounted to

**€539 million**



## Promoting sustainable agriculture and greener transport solutions

### Improving Bulgarian farmers' access to global agriculture markets for sustainable growth

Supporting food safety and sustainable growth in less developed EU regions, the EIB granted €50 million to Bulgaria's Buildcom Group for a new grain terminal at the Black Sea port of Varna. The project will enable local producers to access export markets, facilitate trade and investment, and create jobs, while serving the wider EU goal of strengthening and diversifying supply chains for long-term food security. The new grain terminal will also promote less carbon-intensive maritime transport for sustainable growth. This is the first EIB transaction in Bulgaria under which a private company can draw on the support of the InvestEU programme.

The EIB also provided a €35 million loan to Agria Group Holding for the construction of a new sunflower oil processing plant and the acquisition of railcars to transport edible oils. The deal will help the group, one of Bulgaria's leading grain producers and traders, to optimise its own production of sunflower seeds and improve its access to export markets. With a total estimated cost of about €75 million, the project will also create new jobs and promote sustainability and resilience in rural parts of Bulgaria. The new plant will use waste-free, green technology, generating climate benefits by producing renewable energy from discarded sunflower seed hulls.



### Supporting agriculture exports and food safety

Projects signed for sustainable energy and natural resources amounted to

**€207 million**

### European Investment Fund

Projects signed by the European Investment Fund amounted to

**€741 million**



## Overall EIB Group achievements in 2023

**EIB Group activity**  
**€87.85 billion**

**EIB financing**  
**€75.14 billion**

**SMEs and mid-caps**  
**€19.96 billion**

**Sustainable energy and  
natural resources**  
**€26.80 billion**

**Sustainable cities and regions**  
**€21.33 billion**

**Innovation, digital and  
human capital**  
**€19.76 billion**

### PRESS CONTACTS

**Tsvetelia Tsolova**  
+359 888 311 435  
[t.tsolova@ext.eib.org](mailto:t.tsolova@ext.eib.org)

**EIB Group Office in Sofia**  
Moskovska 9  
1000 Sofia  
+359 2 907 70 00  
[sofia@eib.org](mailto:sofia@eib.org)

**Press Secretariat**  
+352 4379-1  
+352 4379-61000  
[press@eib.org](mailto:press@eib.org)  
[www.eib.org/press](http://www.eib.org/press)

### GENERAL CONTACTS

**European Investment Bank**  
98-100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer  
L-2950 Luxembourg

**Information Desk**  
+352 4379-1  
+352 4379-62000  
[info@eib.org](mailto:info@eib.org) – [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)