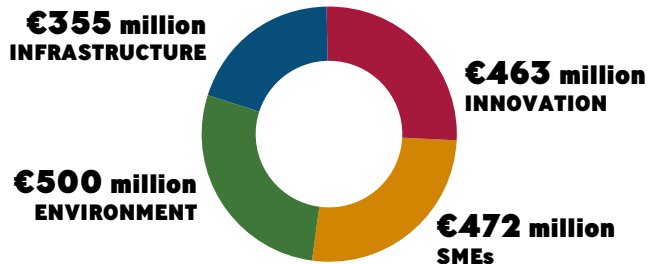




EIB Group activity in Austria in 2020

- Continued improvement in results despite the difficult economic conditions
- High demand for business liquidity due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Strong commitment to financing for climate action and environmental protection

EIB GROUP ACTIVITY IN AUSTRIA



The EIB Group, consisting of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF), once again achieved very good results in Austria in 2020 despite the challenging economic environment. The lending volume stood at €1.79 billion (2019: €1.72 billion), including €1.63 billion (2019: €1.55 billion) from the EIB. The main driver for this was the high demand for business liquidity due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular to help small and medium-sized enterprises weather the crisis.

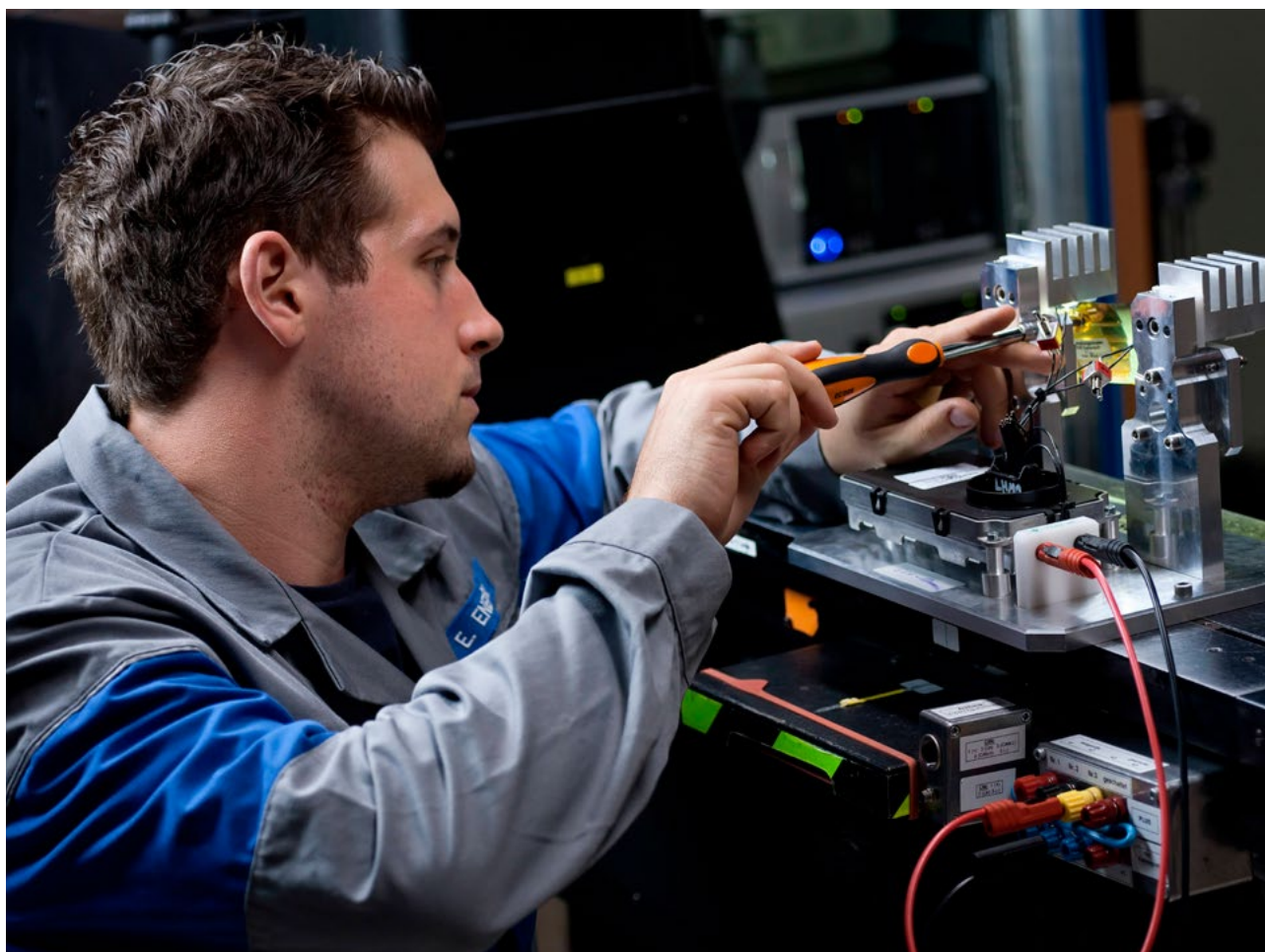
Other priorities included investments in climate action and environmental protection and financing for research, development and innovation to strengthen competitiveness, for which the EIB and the EIF provided around €1 billion altogether. The EIB Group is confident that its results for the current year will be in line with 2020.



INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE JOBS

Promoting research and development a core objective for the EIB

Strengthening research, development and innovation is one of the EIB Group's priorities and a key prerequisite for ensuring sustainable growth and high-quality jobs. Last year, the EIB and the EIF provided total financing of €463 million to support this objective. The Austrian software developer TTTech Auto received €30 million from the EIB for research and development and to fund further growth. TTTech Auto specialises in the development of a safety software platform for intelligent advanced driver assistance systems and automated driving. Based in Vienna, the company is an established software partner of global car manufacturers. Other innovative companies that received multi-million-euro loans from the Bank include the international automotive supplier Hirschmann and ZKW Group, which manufactures premium lighting systems and electronic components. These EIB funds also went mainly towards research and development, with Hirschmann receiving €65 million and ZKW Group €150 million.



Strengthening competitiveness in Austria

The investment volume for research, development and innovation in 2020 was

€463 million



EIB makes tackling climate change a priority

Austria has made a firm commitment to combat climate change, and the EIB is proving to be a powerful ally in supporting this effort, for example through the financing of wind farms in Prinzendorf and Powi. Investments in climate action and environmental protection in Austria were a priority for the EIB in 2020, and it provided a total of €500 million towards this objective. However, the Bank goes beyond directly supporting the generation of renewable energy or energy efficiency improvements in housing. It also ensures that projects that do not directly target climate action have a positive climate and environmental impact, as is now the case for one in every two EIB projects in Austria.

The EIB's activities in Austria are therefore in line with its central mission of leading the global fight against climate change. As the EU climate bank, the EIB has set three overarching targets. First, to increase the share of funds for climate action and environmental sustainability to more than 50% of annual financing by 2025. Second, to catalyse €1 trillion in green investments inside and outside the European Union over the critical decade ahead. Third, to continue aligning all new financing with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as it has done since the end of 2020. This means that many projects are now off limits and it steers clear of investments involving traditional fossil fuels, such as the construction of new conventional power plants, CO₂-intensive agriculture or the expansion of airports.

A strong partner for Austria

Last year investments to combat climate change stood at

€557 million

THE EIB GROUP IN 2020: AN OVERVIEW

Projects

The EIB Group approved projects worth

€76.8 billion

inside and outside the European Union

Leverage effect

EIB Group lending facilitated

€240 billion

of investment in the EU-27

Green financing

Last year

40%

of all EIB projects were green

COVID-19 support

The EIB Group provided COVID-19 support of

€25.46 billion

Investment Plan for Europe

The European Fund for Strategic
Investments provided

€102.8 billion

for projects in Europe (2015-2020)

Nearly

4.2 million jobs

secured since the start of the
Investment Plan for Europe

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