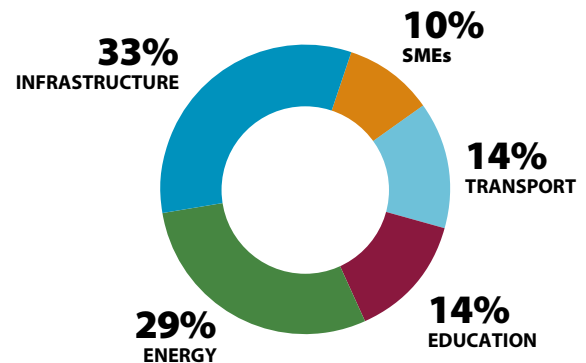


# EIB Group activity in Lithuania in 2020

- The EIB Group made available €987 million for Lithuanian projects in 2020
- Vital support for micro and small companies during the pandemic, as well as co-financing with EU funds
- Energy remains important, both in terms of supply security and efficiency

**EIB GROUP ACTIVITY IN LITHUANIA**  
2020



In spite of the profound impact of COVID-19 on people's lives, 2020 was a very good year for EIB Group financing in Lithuania. The EIB and the EIF together made no less than €987 million available for Lithuanian projects, equivalent to 2.04% of Lithuanian GDP – the second-highest figure after Estonia. Support went primarily to the energy sector and infrastructure, but also to education and SMEs.

The crisis required a bold, swift and genuine response at the European level, which the EU Member States delivered. Early on, the adoption of a package of measures worth €540 billion was the most tangible expression of solidarity. In March 2020 the EIB Group came up with a first package to support companies affected by the crisis. But the EIB Group also played a key role in the direct fight against COVID-19, backing European efforts to slow the spread of the pandemic, find a cure and develop a vaccine.

For SMEs, the first ever synthetic securitisation deal in the Baltics was signed, to help local companies weather the economic fallout of the pandemic. In the years ahead, the EIB Group will continue to support Lithuanian projects where needed.





## ENERGISING LITHUANIA

**The EIB stepped up its support for the energy sector in Lithuania with backing for key projects in energy security and energy efficiency.**

In 2020, the main focus of EIB investments in Lithuania was energy. Beyond its traditional investments in energy security, the EIB is now also investing significantly in energy efficiency. One main beneficiary in 2020 was the city of Kaunas, where the EIB signed a €55 million loan to support the implementation of innovative heat and cooling production facilities using renewable energy sources, digitisation of processes, as well as modernisation of pipelines and construction of new ones. Next to this, the EIB signed an even bigger €110 million loan agreement with Ignitis Grupė in support of smart metering systems and IT solutions for data collection and management, which will ensure that energy is used as efficiently as possible.

Energy security remains crucial in the Baltics, also with a view to the energy transition. The EIB supported local operator Amber Grid with a €65 million loan for a gas interconnection project between Poland and Lithuania which, apart from securing the gas flow between the two countries, also effectively integrates the other Baltic States and even Finland into the EU market. The loan will finance a 165 km connection running from the border with Poland to the Jauniūnai compressor station north of Vilnius, marking the last such project the EIB finances in Lithuania, as it will no longer finance fossil fuel projects as of the end of 2021.

### Annual EIB Group volume

Projects signed by the European Investment Bank Group in Lithuania amounted to

**€987 million**



## ALL BIG THINGS START OUT SMALL

**The EIF backs Baltic financial partners to support small businesses in rough times, leveraging financing of almost €700 million.**

When talking about support for SMEs, many people tend to leave microbusinesses out of the equation. The EIF, however, does not, as shown by the three deals signed this year with Lithuanian alternative financing providers like Noviti, Faktoro and the Central Credit Union. With a total signature volume of €4.6 million, the leveraged impact was no less than €28 million becoming available for local businesses – mostly to the benefit of micro-entrepreneurs.

The EIB Group also used another financial intermediary on the ground to support SMEs in all three Baltic States. This was the first-ever synthetic securitisation operation in the Baltics, signed with Estonian intermediary Luminor. In a combined effort of guarantees and counter-guarantees between the EIF and the EIB, Luminor will provide additional lending to small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-caps in this period of difficult economic conditions. The guarantee structure can support at least €660 million of additional loans and leases to these companies. Of this figure, around €45 million is earmarked for new lending to Lithuanian businesses. Not so small, after all.



**European Investment Fund**

The EIF, in support of Lithuanian projects, committed

**€4.6 million**





## OVERALL EIB GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

### Supporting good projects

Projects approved by the EIB Group amounted to

**€76.8bn**

both inside and outside the EU

### Green financing

Last year no less than

**40%**

of all EIB projects were green

### COVID-19 related financing

EIB Group COVID support totalled

**€25.46bn**

### Investment Plan for Europe

The European Fund for Strategic Investments approved

**€434m**

worth of projects in Lithuania between 2015 and 2020

### Significant financing

EIB Group financing for Lithuanian projects equalled

**2.04%**

of Lithuanian GDP in 2020 – the second highest in the EU

### over **7 500** Lithuanian jobs supported

in 2020 alone by the EIF's activities in recent years

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