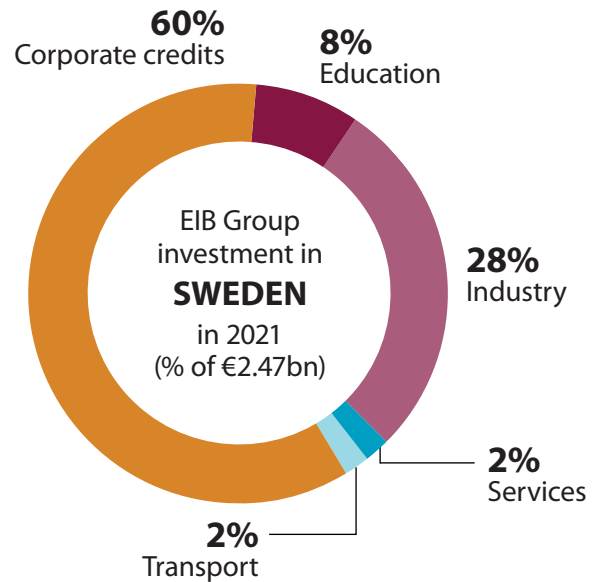


# EIB Group activity in SWEDEN 2021



- The EIB Group provided €2.47 billion in financing for projects in Sweden
- Investments focused on climate action, public transport and overcoming the coronavirus pandemic
- The European Investment Fund increased lending in Sweden by 290% to over €1 billion (about SEK 10.4 billion) in 2021



Despite the COVID-19 crisis, 2021 was a positive year for financing in Sweden by the EIB Group, which is made up of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF). In total, the EIB Group provided financing to the country worth nearly €2.5 billion (SEK 26 billion, or 0.47% of Sweden's gross domestic product (GDP)) to support a variety of initiatives, from climate-friendly transport and clean energy to combatting the pandemic and providing support for small and medium-sized companies.

On the climate action front, the EIB backed an innovative clothing recycling initiative in Sweden. A loan agreement of €30.75 million (SEK 311 million) was signed with the textile innovator Renewcell for its first commercial factory in Sundsvall. Renewcell has developed a way to turn discarded clothing into a material for making new fabric. The loan will be used to build a textile recycling facility with a production capacity of 60 000 tonnes per year, which will contribute to a circular economy within the fashion industry.





## Train towards the future

### Climate-friendly rail services in the Mälaren region

The European Investment Bank signed 14 loans in 2021 for operations in Sweden. A highlight of the year's projects was public sector support for new, environmentally friendly rail services provided by the regional transport authority Mälardalstrafik. This loan finances 12 new double-deckers, which will enable greater capacity for regional transport in the Mälaren region.

Replacing ageing rolling stock in the Stockholm-Mälaren region will raise the capacity to serve increasing demand, attract more commuters and residents and improve service reliability, comfort and flexibility. The loan for climate-friendly rail transport is consistent with the EIB's objective as the EU climate bank to ensure that 50% of its loans are climate-related by 2025.

Apart from the environmental benefits of improved energy performance and a shift away from road traffic, the acquisition of new trains will also lead to lower operation and maintenance costs for the operator.

**European Investment Bank**  
Amounts made available for operations in Sweden  
**€1.4 billion**





## Small companies make the economy bigger

**Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of the economy: in Sweden, they make up 99.9% of all companies<sup>1</sup>. EIF support for micro and small companies through financial intermediaries is therefore vital for the economy.**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (with up to 250 employees) and mid-caps (up to 3 000 employees) play a crucial role in the economy at European level, too. They create jobs, drive economic development, bring fresh ideas and new products to society, and have a high growth potential. Europe's 23 million small and medium-sized companies represent 99% of all businesses on the continent and provide around three-quarters of all jobs — but they often have difficulty finding financing. EIF support is therefore key for Europe's innovative firms to get easier access to finance and venture capital.

EIF financing accounted for €30.5 billion of the EIB Group's record €95 billion financing globally in 2021. This benefited 430 000 small businesses and mid-caps in Europe and sustained over 4.5 million jobs.

In Sweden, the number of EIF investments doubled in 2021 through the **European Guarantee Fund**, which was set up in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The fund's guarantees benefited financial intermediaries and investment funds, such as Almi, Norrlandsfonden and Ark Kapital. **The EIF loans sustained 31 136 jobs in 3 767 small businesses and mid-caps in the country.**

1. Source: Tillväxtverket (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth).



**European Investment Fund**

Amounts made available for operations in Sweden

**€1 billion**





## Overall EIB Group achievements in 2021

### Record year of financing

Projects signed by the EIB Group amounted to

**€95 billion**

both inside and beyond the European Union

### Projects and initiatives in Sweden

supported by the EIB Group amounted to

**€2.47 billion**

**€174.4 billion**

in guarantees  
**to help small companies overcome  
the pandemic**  
in Europe

**31 136 jobs**

**in small and medium-sized enterprises  
and mid-caps**  
sustained with EIF support in Sweden

### Supporting the green transition

Projects approved by the EIB Group amounted to

**€27.6 billion**

### Significant financing

EIB Group financing for projects in Sweden equalled

**0.47%**  
of its GDP

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