

The European Investment Bank is helping nurses, delivery services and technology workers, while improving life at home for families and teleworkers.

The coronavirus is shaking up daily routines and helping us rediscover the important things in life. We now have more appreciation for nurses, delivery drivers, grocery store workers and information technology staff. We're also learning how important it is to spend time at home with family members.

The Bank is supporting all these parts of daily life and more. It is financing state-of-the-art medical facilities, expanding internet connections that allow widespread teleworking, and ensuring that we have other activities and resources at home to get us through the day. We're also supporting many companies that shifted their operations overnight to fight COVID-19.

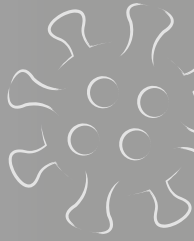
CENTRE OF THE CRISIS

It is now clear that having access to quality medical care saves lives. The EIB contributes heavily to the healthcare sector across Europe, financing hospitals and other care facilities in almost every European Union country. The EIB Group is making €5 billion available for research and innovation to combat the spread of the coronavirus and find a cure.

We also offer advisory services and technical assistance to make sure projects succeed. The **JASPERS** technical assistance programme, for example, helped refurbish 12 hospitals in Latvia, Romania, Croatia and Poland.

With schools closed, online learning is the flavour of the day. The European Investment Bank supported about 150 primary and secondary schools in Croatia, providing a wide range of digital infrastructure and equipment. Now that you have to stay home, you can still get your education.





FOOD DELIVERY FOR PEOPLE STUCK AT HOME

Supermarkets and other essential shops remain open, but many people can't go outside. That's where delivery services come in. The EIB Group approved a so-called intermediary loan to Luxembourg bank BGL BNP Paribas. This deal supported a smaller loan to **Grosbusch**, a family-run fruit and vegetable supplier in Luxembourg that wanted to provide more services. One of these new services is the delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables to those in need during the crisis.

Many people are getting through the lockdown with audiobooks and podcasts. The country with one of the highest usage rates for podcasts is Sweden. In 2019, the EIB signed a loan agreement to help the Swedish podcast company **Acast** expand. Another Swedish firm supported by the Bank is **Bonnier**, the large media group. The company received a loan back in 2017, and one of the results is "BookBeat," an e-book service helping people get through their days in Sweden and Germany.

TRUSTWORTHY TELEWORKING

The millions of people working from home place a big strain on servers and other communications services. The EIB has invested heavily in broadband internet services, especially in rural areas. The Bank helped **Magyar Telekom** in Hungary, **Telekom Slovenije** and the Warminsko-Mazurskie area of Poland upgrade their fibre-optic networks, and we financed the updating of mobile broadband in Bulgaria. We helped build local fibre networks in Malta and Cyprus. These projects ensure that teleworking works better across Europe.

Our assistance is helping many companies go the extra mile during this crisis. **QEV Technologies**, a Spanish company making drive systems and other parts for electric vehicles, has started importing respirators and making parts for respirators using 3D technology. The company is also making protective masks and visors for healthcare workers. Speaking of 3D, emergency components for respirator masks are being printed using **Ultimaker's** 3D machines, a technology supported by the Bank.

PRESS CONTACTS

Tim Smit

☎ +352 4379-89076

✉ t.smit@eib.org

Press Secretariat

☎ +352 4379-21000

✉ press@eib.org
www.eib.org/press

GENERAL CONTACTS

European Investment Bank

98-100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

Information Desk

☎ +352 4379-22000

✉ info@eib.org
www.eib.org