



THE EIB GROUP IN ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

Impact across borders

The European Investment Bank is the lending arm of the European Union. We are the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world and a leading provider of climate finance.

Together with our dedicated small business subsidiary, the European Investment Fund, and the EIB Institute, we are the EIB Group.

We support microfinance and alternative finance and promote social entrepreneurship.

SUPPORTING MICROFINANCE

The EIB Group has a long track record in microfinance inside and outside the European Union. We are a major player in the development of sustainable and responsible microfinance worldwide.

We help leading microfinance providers, investment fund managers, impact entrepreneurs and many other organisations create jobs and bring sustainable finance to micro and small enterprises.

To find more about microfinance at the EIB Group:

- [Microfinance at the EIB](#)
- [EaSI financial instruments at EIF](#)
- [Microfinance at the EIB Institute](#)

ALTERNATIVE FINANCE AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

The EIB Group provides financing and advisory support to a range of transactions, including venture capital, impact finance, fintech and crowdfunding.

Equity finance/venture capital

The EIB Group is one of the biggest direct investors in Europe. We make quasi-equity and venture capital investments through our investment advisory role in the European Innovation Council Fund. We help breakthrough technology entrepreneurs shape the future of Europe, increase EU competitiveness and create sustainable jobs through our long-term direct investments in startups and small and medium-sized enterprises.

To find more about equity and quasi-equity at the EIB Group:

- [Venture Debt](#)
- [EIC Accelerator Fund](#)

The European Investment Fund designs and develops venture capital, growth capital, guarantees and microfinance instruments to help Europe's micro and small and medium-sized businesses access finance.

The EIF has managed social impact fund of funds since 2013. Our success shows traditional venture capital investors that investing in impact funds is not philanthropy—it is business. There is no need to compromise on return when investing in impact ventures.

Advisory services

Innovative European companies can benefit from **free of charge** advisory services **under the InnovFin Advisory mandate**. Our [Innovation Finance Advisory](#) team engages with innovative startups, including in fintech, an emerging sector that is sure to grow in importance.

The team works on access to finance studies to ensure that startups and businesses have the right financial instruments to grow and scale up. Take a look at our [study on Artificial intelligence and blockchain](#) to understand the impact on the financial sector of two of the most disruptive technologies of our time. Our manual on [Crowdfunding and ESF opportunities: future perspectives for managing authorities](#) shows how to set up financial instruments for projects that seek finance through crowdfunding campaigns.

THE SOCIAL INNOVATION TOURNAMENT

The EIB Institute's annual Social Innovation Tournament rewards and sponsors European entrepreneurs whose primary purpose is to generate a social, ethical or environmental impact.

Every year, we select 15 finalists to pitch their projects to a jury. The best win prizes worth up to €250 000 and all our finalists become part of the Social Innovation Tournament Alumni, a network bringing together Europe's best impact entrepreneurs. Our network connects finalists and other impact entrepreneurs to new opportunities and resources.

Social Innovation Tournament finalists have received additional support from national and EU authorities and accessed European Innovation Council funding.