European Investment Bank (EIB) – Sovereign Portfolio

OVERVIEW

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the European Union’s (EU) bank and is owned by its member states. EIB works with other EU institutions to support EU policy and provides lending, blended finance, and technical advice for investment both within and outside the EU. EIB became an IATI member in 2013 and started publishing IATI data in September 2014.

ANALYSIS

EIB’s sovereign portfolio ranks in the ‘fair’ category for the 2022 Index. EIB publishes to the IATI Registry monthly and provides 48% of its data in the IATI format.

EIB’s sovereign portfolio scored above average for the joining-up development data component, achieving maximum scores across all indicators except for those relating to tenders, for which it provided no IATI data.

EIB – sovereign achieved good scores for the performance component. It scored maximum points again for objectives and made improvements in the impact appraisal indicator where it improved the quality of its IATI data from 2020. Its reviews and evaluations which were found through the manual survey.

EIB scored below average for the finance and budgets component because it did not publish total organisation budgets, disaggregated budget not project budget documents.

EIB lost scores for the organisational planning and commitments component due to failures in the quality checks of its organisational documents including its strategy, annual report and audit, all of which were out of date. Its allocation policy was not forward-looking and its procurement policy was not found. While it provided EU wide country strategies, these were not EIB specific and therefore were not scored.

EIB revised its access to information policy in 2021. It is Publish What You Fund's view that the new policy has weakened the bank’s standards on exceptions to disclosure. EIB was previously the top scorer in the Index for the access to information policy indicator. The new policy marks a step back in the EIB's commitment to transparency and we are no longer able to hold up the EIB Access to Information policy as a leader in the field.

EIB also scored below average for the project attributes component, where it dropped points for providing sector and date information for less than 50% of its IATI activities. As in 2020 EIB provided no sub-national location nor any conditions information.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- EIB should prioritise the identification and publication of sub-national location data to enable stakeholders to determine where interventions are taking place within a country’s borders.
- To improve impact transparency, EIB should commence publication of its reviews and evaluations in the IATI format so that they are available for all projects consistently.
- EIB should ensure basic organisational documentation such as strategies and annual reports are published annually.
- EIB should consider making adjustments to its access to information policy so that exceptions apply only where these protect against harm to identified legitimate interests.
- EIB should start to publish recognised organisation references for its partner governments using the latest guidance from the IATI community.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 7.8 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are published and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. We make note of any Freedom of Information laws and critically, we make sure that organisations have tried to make their information easy to access and understand. You should not have to be an expert in open data to be able to find and use this information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of FOI legislation</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation strategy</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual report</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation policy</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement policy</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy (country/sector) or Memorandum of Understanding</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finance and budgets

Score: 6.9 / 25

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component is critical to allow you and anyone else to follow the money. We expect to find the total budget of the organisation being assessed, right down to individual transactions for each development activity. In particular, forward-looking budgets from donors are important for partner country governments to be able to plan their own future finances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total organisation budget</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaggregated budget</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project budget</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project budget document</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements and expenditures</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Alignment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project attributes

Score: 11.5 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to descriptive, non-financial data, including basics like the title and description of a project. Information like this is important as it is often the entry point for data users to quickly understand what a project is about. We also look for other information that helps to put a project in context, such as its sub-national location or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

Joining-up development data

Score: 17.5 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well an organisation's data is able to be linked and connected with other bits of information. There is a diverse nature of flows, activities and actors within the development sector. Aid and development finance data needs to be effectively linked and connected with the rest to provide a full picture for the user. This can be particularly important for partner country governments, which need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.
Performance
Score: 12.5 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to the essential data and documents that assess whether a project is on track or has been achieved. This includes things like baseline surveys, progress against targets, mid-term reviews and end of project evaluations. This information is important to hold aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.

Objectives
Score: 5

Pre-project impact appraisals
Score: 5

Reviews and evaluations
Score: 2.5

Results
Score: 0