

## THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK IN ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**POPEL Serhii**

*PhD in Economics, Associate Professor,*

*Associate Professor at the Department of Finance, Banking, Insurance and Stock Market  
Leonid Yuzkov Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law*

*ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3834-1049>*

**Abstract.** *This article explores the activities of the European Investment Bank as a key financial institution of the European Union that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals and strengthening economic, climate, and digital resilience. The strategic directions of EIB financing are analyzed, particularly in the areas of climate neutrality, innovation, infrastructure modernization, and security. It is found that the Bank increasingly integrates the priorities of the European Green Deal, digital transition, and the new European security policy into its lending operations. Special attention is given to the EIB's involvement in supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, primarily Ukraine, in the context of post-war recovery, modernization of critical infrastructure, and investment stimulation. The main forms of EIB engagement in financing Ukrainian projects are outlined, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises, development of energy, transport, and digital technologies. It is established that despite existing risks – military, economic, and regulatory – the EIB's operations in Ukraine are an essential factor in ensuring long-term financial stability and gradual integration into the EU internal market.*

**Keywords:** *European Investment Bank, economic development, European Union, digitalization, innovation.*

The purpose of the article is to explore the activities of the European Investment Bank in the context of ensuring the sustainable development of the EU, implementing climate, digital, and security strategies, as well as to identify the Bank's role in supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular Ukraine.

This article explores the activities of the European Investment Bank as a key financial institution of the European Union that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals and strengthening economic, climate, and digital resilience. The strategic directions of EIB financing are analyzed, particularly in the areas of climate neutrality, innovation, infrastructure modernization, and security. It is found that the Bank increasingly integrates the priorities of the European Green Deal, digital transition, and the new European security policy into its lending operations. Special attention is given to the EIB's involvement in supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, primarily Ukraine, in the context of post-war recovery, modernization of critical infrastructure, and investment stimulation. The main forms of EIB engagement in financing Ukrainian projects are outlined, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises, development of energy, transport, and digital technologies. It is established that despite existing risks – military, economic, and regulatory – the EIB's operations in Ukraine are an essential factor in ensuring long-term financial

stability and gradual integration into the EU internal market.

The novelty of the study lies in a comprehensive analysis of the role of the European Investment Bank in ensuring the sustainable development of the EU, taking into account contemporary climate, digital, and security challenges, as well as highlighting the specifics of supporting the Eastern Partnership countries, particularly Ukraine, amid geopolitical instability.

The activities of the European Investment Bank are a crucial factor in achieving the EU's sustainable development goals, providing financial support for key projects and promoting economic stability and innovation in the region.

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