



**European
Investment
Bank**

The EU bank

A circular arrangement of twelve small blue stars, representing the European Union flag.

improve lives.
together.

Structure

- ▶ Investing strategically in child care is important... but why?
- ▶ Where do we stand in terms of providing good quality child care to children? And why do we face challenges?
- ▶ Where does investment in child care fit into our strategy and action plan?

Why to invest in child care?

- ▶ The linguistic, cognitive and social skills developed in early childhood determine the foundations for lifelong learning and well-being.
- ▶ Providing childcare can contribute to narrow educational inequalities.
- ▶ Child care is not just a personal issue, it is an economic one too: Improving the availability, accessibility and affordability of high quality childcare facilities can improve gender equality, and help women enter and advance in the workforce.

Where do we stand?

- ▶ On average, EU has reached the target of 33% for children from 0 to 3 having access to childcare but wide disparities remain despite progress.
- ▶ The situation is even more complex outside the EU and in developing country contexts.
 - ✓ in 31 developing countries, only four per cent of women reported using childcare services, with almost 40 per cent minding their children themselves.

...what are the main factors?

- ▶ Availability and accessibility of childcare (location, access to transport, languages spoken, special needs)
- ▶ Affordability: high costs associated with childcare
- ▶ Quality of childcare

PROTECT, IMPACT, INVEST

The EIB Group Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment

Why an EIB Gender Strategy

- ▶ Equality between women and men is a matter of fundamental values and human rights
- ▶ Gender equality contributes to more just, fair and prosperous societies.
- ▶ inequality between women and men remains a stark reality
- ▶ evidence shows that women and girls are overwhelmingly more exposed to gender-based discrimination and violence in every part of the world,

EIB Gender Strategy – a Strategic Fit

- ▶ EIB plays a central role in contributing to long-term growth and, where needed, to economic recovery
- ▶ EIB Group Gender Strategy aims to fit strategically within its business model and mandate
- ▶ Under the Strategy, the Group's activities will better support the EU's efforts to include gender equality outcomes in its policies and activities inside and outside the Union, as well as the efforts by Member States

Scope of EIB Gender Strategy

PROTECT

the rights of all, regardless of sex, by taking gender into account in the due diligence

IMPACT

and mainstreaming gender equality in our business

INVEST

in woman's economic empowerment and women's labour force participation

EIB Group Gender Action Plan – from Strategy to Implementation

- ▶ Determine the prioritisation and phasing in the implementation of the strategy over a 5-year period, set against clear and incremental milestones for said period across the different streams.
- ▶ Introduce necessary frameworks that will support the integration of gender considerations in our modus operandi.
- ▶ Build institutional commitment and capacity, and ensure support and resources to implement the strategy;

Scope of EIB Gender Action Plan

PROTECT

Develop toolkits, skills and guidance necessary for EIB to pursue compliance along **revised due diligence processes**:

- catering to the effective protection of women's and girls' rights.
- ensuring benefits are equitably shared, and
- negative impacts on men and women, girls and boys are identified and mitigated;

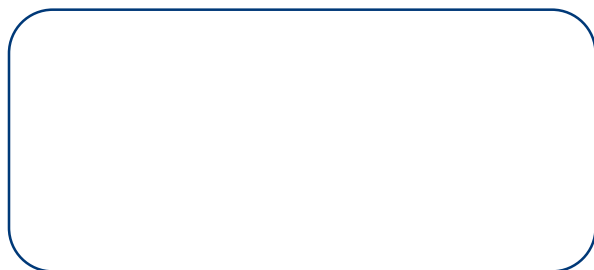
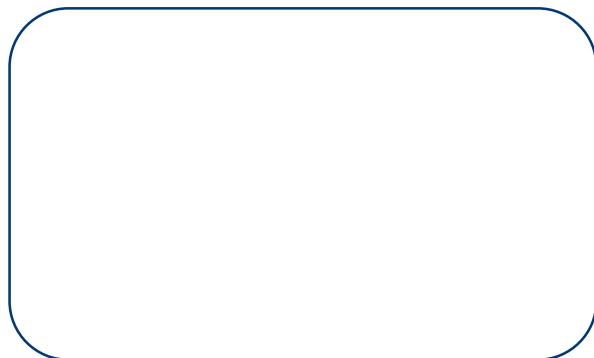
Scope of EIB Gender Action Plan

IMPACT

Equip staff with the skills, tools, and resources they need in order **to take gender into account in project design and implementation** so as to:

- increase the impact and sustainability of projects,
- increase the social benefits of projects on women and girls, and
- improve gender equality in job creation and corporate decision-making.

Scope of EIB Gender Action Plan



Identify opportunities, and provide staff with skills, intelligence and support to develop approaches and actions **to invest in the economic empowerment of women.**

Scope of EIB Invest Pillar



**Investment in child care:
Map projects in the EIB current
portfolio and in other IFIs
Establish current barriers to further
investment**

Challenges in child care

- ▶ High costs remain a barrier
- ▶ Childcare investment needs to be accompanied by other labour market measures to yield expected results
- ▶ Awareness raising