



SustainNet

Funding Opportunities

Erasmus Opportunities

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1. “Green and Digital Partnerships for Intelligent Transformation” (BG16RFPR0021.010)-1.010

What it is:

A **grant funding program** in Bulgaria that supports development, testing, prototyping, and validation of **green and digital innovations** — including sustainable products or technologies.

Key details:

- Total budget: ~BGN 60.8 million
- Grants typically range from **BGN 100,000 to BGN 1,500,000**
- Funding intensity: up to **80% for micro/small enterprises**, lower for medium-sized.
- Requires partnership with a scientific organization (e.g., university or research center)
- Suitable for testing, prototyping, market staging or sustainable product/business model development.

*Good for SMEs developing **innovative green products or technologies** and needing support for research, testing and early commercialization.*

2. Bulgarian Development Bank – Green Companies and Projects Programme

What it is:

A lending program specifically for “**green**” **companies and projects**, offering **preferential loans** (lower interest) for investment and working capital.

Who can apply:

- Companies with ecotechnology awards, patents, or ecocertifications (e.g., EU Ecolabel)-technology awards, patents, or eco-certifications (e.g., EU Ecolabel)
- Projects involving renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency or circular economy activities.

Funding range:

- Up to ~BGN 4.9 million (approx. €2.5M) per project
- Includes both working capital and investment financing.

*Suitable for SMEs that already have a **green product or technology** and need capital to scale production, invest in equipment, or improve processes.*

3. EU & National Structural Funds (via Recovery and Resilience Plan)

What it is:

Under Bulgaria’s **Recovery and Resilience Plan**, there are green transition funds aimed at supporting innovation, energy efficiency, and circular economy investments by SMEs.

Relevant instruments include:

- **Guarantee schemes** for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments
- **Grants for circular economy projects**
- Equity instruments to support innovative and green projects

This funding supports SMEs developing sustainable products and technologies as part of modernization and transition efforts.

4. European Investment Bank (EIB) Support & Financing Facilities**What it is:**

The **EIB Group**, in cooperation with Bulgarian banks, offers loans, guarantees and financial instruments for sustainable and innovative investments by SMEs — including green projects.

How it helps SMEs:

- Large capital lines made available through partner banks
- Guarantees and risk-sharing agreements that can make loans more accessible
- Part of InvestEU and other EU level programmes that can provide **better lending conditions** for sustainability projects-level
- Some financing is earmarked specifically for **climate action and environmental sustainability**.

*SMEs typically access this support **through local banks** rather than directly, but these instruments can help secure **lower cost loans** for green investments such as energy efficient equipment, circular production processes, or sustainable technologies.*

Tips for SMEs Seeking Green Funding in Bulgaria

- ✓ **Check eligibility early:** Many programmes require partnerships (e.g., with universities) or specific certifications for green technologies.
- ✓ **Combine instruments:** Grants can often be paired with loans or guarantees to cover more costs.
- ✓ **Use advisory services:** EU and national advisory centres can help prepare applications (business plans, financial cases) that meet funders' expectations.
- ✓ **Watch deadlines:** Calls for proposals are often annual or limited time — check ministry and EU structural funds announcements.

Where to Find More Information & Apply

- **Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIP)** – manages national and EU funding calls including green and digital partnerships.
- **Bulgarian Development Bank (BDB/BDB Invest)** – portal for loan programmes for green companies.
- **European Investment Bank & InvestEU portals** – info on financing instruments and how to access them via partner banks.

- **Regional innovation centres and chambers of commerce** – can offer support and information on upcoming funding opportunities and calls.