

# Eco-Industrial Parks in the Western Balkans

FACT SHEET

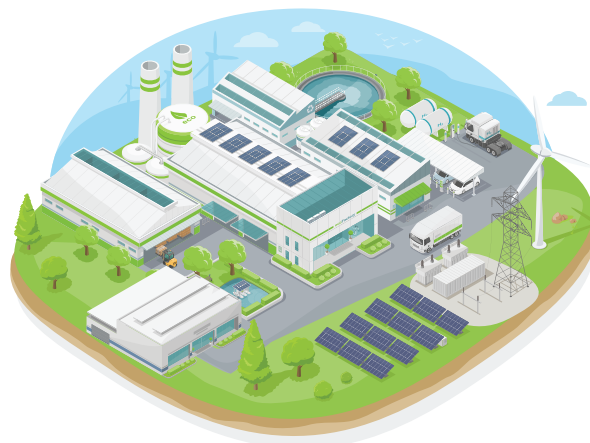
## What Are Eco-Industrial Parks?

Eco-Industrial Parks (EIPs) are industrial zones where businesses collaborate in shared spaces designed to optimize resource use, minimize environmental impact, and foster economic growth. Unlike traditional industrial parks, EIPs prioritize sustainable practices, renewable energy, and innovative technologies to support low-carbon industrial development.



## The need for change

Industries across the Western Balkans face the challenge of transitioning from fossil fuel reliance and inefficient resource use to more sustainable practices. With 60% of the region's exports going to EU markets, aligning with EU sustainability standards is critical for economic growth and competitiveness. EIPs offer a solution by integrating sustainability into industrial development, helping industries adapt to new regulations, enhance their market position, and reduce environmental harm.



## About the pilot projects

As part of the initiative, five pilot projects are planned across the Western Balkans, each with the potential to scale up and serve as regional benchmarks for sustainable industrial transformation. In Serbia, the first two pilot projects will be:

- **Šabac Greenfield EIP:** A newly developed industrial park designed to incorporate sustainability principles from the start.
- **MIND Park Brownfield EIP:** A retrofitting existing industrial park showcasing how traditional zones can adopt sustainable practices.

These pilot projects reflect the Eco-Industrial Park initiative's commitment to positioning the Western Balkans as a leader in sustainable industrial practices.



## Stages

The project is intended to be implemented in three stages:

1. Development of regulatory and policy frameworks, EIP transition guidelines, and communication and visibility plan to support scaling up the concept of EIP in the WB6 region.
2. Enhancing the capacity of traditional IPs, their occupants, and the IP developers to embrace the EIP concept by implementing five (5) EIP pilots.
3. Engaging with the private sector to facilitate private investments in capital intensive climate mitigation technologies and supporting infrastructure in traditional IP and in EIP greenfield projects.

## A collaborative effort

The pilot projects are the result of partnerships between the **European Union**, the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, **local governments**, and the **private sector**.

Aligned with policies such as the European Green Deal, Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, and the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027, the project aims to support industrial decarbonisation and the creation of sustainable and competitive industrial zones. The European Commission through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) has been instrumental in supporting projects like these across the region. See all the EU-supported programs for the private sector at [www.wbif.eu/sectors/private-sector-2024](http://www.wbif.eu/sectors/private-sector-2024)



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