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# Western Balkans Investment Framework
## 2009-2025 Booklet

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**European Commission**

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# Foreword

**Since 2009, the Western Balkans Investment Framework has been supporting economic and social development in the Western Balkans by bringing the partners ever closer to EU membership.**

**Marta Kos**
European
Commissioner
for Enlargement

The goal is clear: investing in our common European future. Reflecting on the achievements of 2024 – and indeed, of the past 15 years – it is clear that the WBIF helped lay a solid foundation for the final steps toward EU enlargement.

**What has been achieved in the past 15 years?** I would emphasise the impact on everyday life in the Western Balkans, as clearly presented in this publication. More than 1,000 kilometres of roads were built or upgraded, 187 MW of renewable energy capacity were installed, 2.4 million people gained access to improved sanitation facilities, and up to 100,000 students benefited from better education conditions. Strong support to MSMEs sustained or helped create more than 1 million jobs. Meanwhile, the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans was implemented.

We have mobilised over **€4.4 billion in grants, which triggered over €36.1 billion of investments to vital public infrastructure projects** in the region. Our support has also been extended to developing a robust private sector through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility, worth over €800 million, that is channelled through local financial institutions.

These investments contribute directly to the implementation of the Global Gateway, the EU's initiative to narrow the global investment gap.

Our commitment to the region does not stop here. Following the adoption of the **Growth Plan for the Western Balkans** in 2023 and the entry into force of its financing instrument, the **Reform and Growth Facility**, in 2024, we have new tools to deliver on our shared enlargement ambitions. The Facility will make available an additional €3 billion to support, through the WBIF, key investments in transport, energy, digital and human capital development projects. This will bring tangible benefits to citizens and businesses even ahead of EU accession.

We are confident that the Growth Plan, combining structural reforms, faster and deeper market integration, and stronger financial incentives, will respond to our common objective of achieving socio-economic convergence of the Western Balkan partners with the EU and, in parallel, contributing to make progress on their EU accession. The WBIF will be central to achieving these goals.

European
Commission

# About the Western Balkans Investment Framework

**The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is a financial platform that coordinates investments for socio-economic development in the region.**

Since its official launch in 2009, the WBIF has been addressing the region's investment needs and supporting the Western Balkan partners in their EU accession process.

Due to its collaborative nature and approach, the WBIF is the main financial vehicle for implementing the EU's ambitious policy priorities and investments in the region.

The WBIF finances public sector infrastructure investments and employs a mix of financial instruments to increase the availability of affordable and diversified financing for small businesses.

## Public Sector

The WBIF has allocated €4.4 billion in developing and delivering key infrastructure projects, with the total investment value estimated at over €36 billion. It contributes to the Global Gateway through the EIP (IPA funds) and the Growth Plan (RGF funds).

**€36.1 bn**
Total investments (est.)

**€4.4 bn**
WBIF contribution

## Private Sector

The EU has allocated a total of €628 million to mobilise over €7.3 billion in financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Western Balkans.

**€7.3 bn**
Total investments (est.)

**€628 m**
WBIF contribution

## Delivering the EU's Policy Objectives

Throughout the years, the WBIF has supported the delivery of the EU's major strategic plans, which directly contribute to the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy:

**Connectivity Agenda** (2015-2020), improving transport, energy and digital connectivity within the region and with the EU.

**Economic and Investment Plan** (2021-2027), identified 10 investment flagships to spur the long-term recovery, accelerate a green and digital transition, and foster regional cooperation and convergence with the EU.

**Energy Support Package** (2022), tackling the energy crisis and promoting energy transition in the Western Balkans.

**Growth Plan for the Western Balkans** (2024-2027), integrating the six beneficiaries partners into the EU's single market, advancing regional economic cooperation, deepening EU-related reforms, and establishing the Reform and Growth Facility with an additional €3 bn to support priority investments in sustainable transport, clean energy, digital future, and human capital development.

In addition, the **Green and Digital Agendas** for the Western Balkans support the transition of the region into a green and digital economy and bring their benefits, such as faster economic growth, more jobs, and better services.

## Support in Key Sectors

The WBIF supports investments in key railway, road and waterway interconnections, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power interconnectors, waste and water management, new health and education facilities, digital infrastructures, and private sector development. These investments, alongside relevant socio-economic reforms, unlock the region's growth potential, boost the region's socio-economic convergence with the EU and accelerate the path to EU accession.

## Blending Funding Sources

By blending EU contributions with those from bilateral donors, loans from international financial institutions and national contributions from the Western Balkans Beneficiaries, the WBIF supports strategic public and private sector investments in the region.

### Public Sector Investments

The WBIF provides financing for high-priority infrastructure investments, such as rail, road, and waterborne transport, clean energy, water supply and wastewater treatment, education facilities, and digital connectivity, as well as financing for the private sector.

### Private Sector Blending

Designed to meet the specific needs of businesses, the WBIF support includes non-repayable investment grants, repayable financial instruments, such as interest-rate subsidies, risk-sharing mechanisms and structural funds, as well as technical assistance and advisory services to complement financing and support growth.

### Technical Assistance

The WBIF provides technical expertise to prepare sound infrastructure projects, such as feasibility and impact assessments, designs, procurement planning and tender dossiers. Non-financial support, such as advisory services, business planning and capacity building, is also provided to the private sector. This technical support ensures the more efficient use of public and private funds for successful investments.

## Team Europe

Through a 'Team Europe' approach, the WBIF brings together the EU, its Member States and their financial and development institutions, as well as Western Balkans beneficiaries to mobilise the private sector and leverage investments for transformational impact.

2009-2025

2009-2025

# WBIF Timeline

8 December 2009

**WBIF launched**

16 December 2015

## Connectivity Agenda

**€1 bn**
EU contribution to major transport and energy projects (2015-2020)

16-17 December 2019

**Private sector support reintegrated into WBIF**

6 October 2020

## Economic and Investment Plan

**€3 bn**
WBIF contribution mobilised for investments in infrastructure projects
(2021-2024)

16-17 December 2021

**First Economic and Investment Plan flagship projects endorsed**

6 December 2022

## Energy Support Package

**€1 bn**
in WBIF contribution to investments in energy efficiency, renewables, and energy connectivity infrastructure

2023

**Energy Support Package rolled out in 2023**

8 November 2023

## EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans

Additional
**€3 bn**
to support key investments
(2024-2027)

July 2025

**First projects under Reform and Growth Facility endorsed**



# Achieved Results

2009-2025

## Sustainable transport

**1,060 km**
of new roads

## Clean energy

**187 MW**
renewable energy installed

## Environment & climate

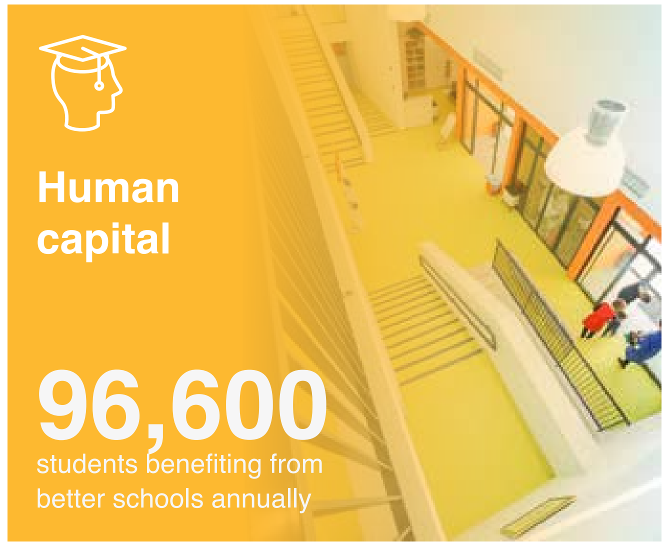
**2.4 m**
people with access to improved drinking water

## Digital future

**Implementation**
of Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans

## Private sector

**396,398**
MSMEs supported

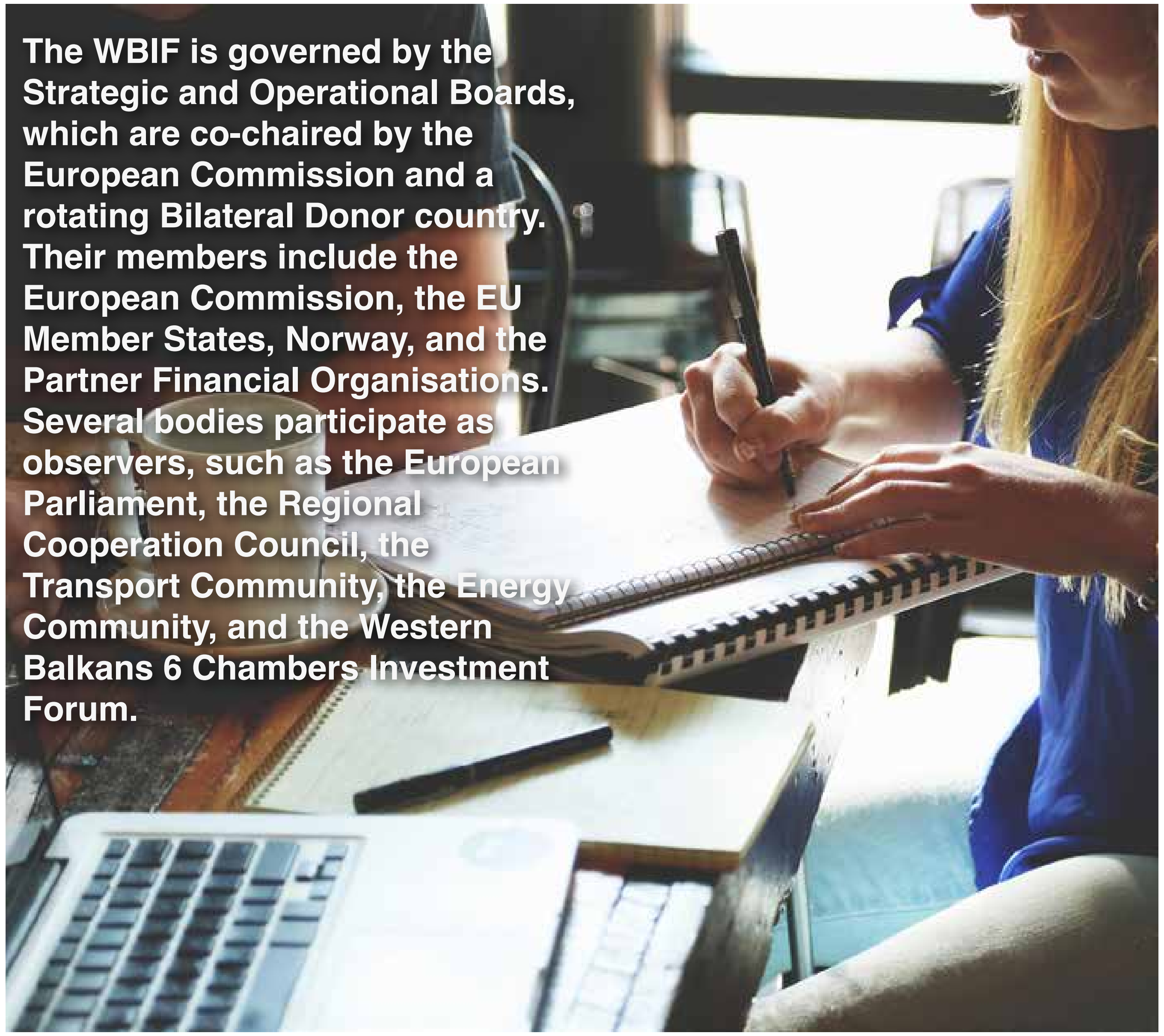


## Human capital

**96,600**
students benefiting from better schools annually

# WBIF Governance

European Commission



**The WBIF is governed by the Strategic and Operational Boards, which are co-chaired by the European Commission and a rotating Bilateral Donor country. Their members include the European Commission, the EU Member States, Norway, and the Partner Financial Organisations. Several bodies participate as observers, such as the European Parliament, the Regional Cooperation Council, the Transport Community, the Energy Community, and the Western Balkans 6 Chambers Investment Forum.**

## European Commission

The European Commission is the largest investor and trading partner in the Western Balkans. Through the WBIF, it provides funding for investments and technical assistance, co-chairs the Strategic and Operational Boards, and coordinates the financial platform's activities. As the main driving force, the Commission ensures that the WBIF financing is aligned with EU policies and enlargement priorities.

## Partner Financial Organisations

Partner Financial Organisations play a major role in the WBIF. Their involvement is key to the design, financing, and implementation of infrastructure and development projects in the Western Balkans. They co-finance projects alongside EU and national contributions. This blended finance model increases the viability and scope of investments.

## Bilateral Donors

The WBIF Bilateral Donors contribute directly to the European Western Balkans Joint Fund. The Bilateral Donors are actively involved in the WBIF governance and operations to ensure concerted and coordinated efforts. They support small-scale yet high-impact projects.

## Western Balkans Beneficiaries

The six Western Balkan economies on the path to EU accession (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) prioritise projects for investment in line with national and EU strategies. Both public investment and private sector development needs are taken into account.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

2009-2025

# Partner Financial Organisations

The Partner Financial Organisations are key stakeholders in the WBIF. The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have been part of the platform since its inception. The KfW Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Government, the World Bank (WB) and the French Agence Française de Développement (AFD) subsequently joined.

Most recent partners include the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, and the European Investment Fund (EIF), a specialist provider of risk finance to benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.

| | WBIF contribution as Lead IFI | Signed loans |
|---|---|---|
| European Investment Bank \| Global | €2.2 bn | €4.7 bn |
| European Bank for Reconstruction and Development | €1.6 bn | €4.3 bn |
| CEB Council of Europe Development Bank | €104.3 m | €637 m |
| KfW | €641.6 m | €1.3 bn |
| The World Bank IBRD · IDA \| World Bank Group | €138.1 m | €639 m |
| AFD Agence Française de Développement | €3.1 m | — |
| European Investment Fund | €182.8 m | — |
| IFC International Finance Corporation World Bank Group | €20.8 m | — |



# WBIF Bilateral Donors

Active Bilateral Donors contribute to the **European Western Balkans Joint Fund** to support selected projects through the WBIF. One Bilateral Donor country co-chairs the Strategic Board, on rotation.

**23** Projects co-financed by WBIF Bilateral Donors

**6** Clean energy projects

**13** Environment & climate projects

**4** Human capital projects

**Co-chair 2024-2025:**
**Croatia**

**Irena Alajbeg**
**Director-General**
Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

"The WBIF remains a trusted and effective platform for driving investments, supporting reforms, and promoting sustainable development across the region. In a shifting geopolitical landscape, our support to beneficiaries remains strong and reliable. Bilateral Donors, as committed partners, stand with the Western Balkans on their European path – united by values, vision and partnership."

### Active Bilateral Donors

| | |
|---|---|
| Austria | €22.95 m |
| Croatia | €3.00 m |
| France | €6.60 m |
| Germany | €22.57 m |
| Hungary | €0.75 m |
| Italy | €10.32 m |
| Luxembourg | €2.00 m |
| Netherlands | €0.50 m |
| Norway | €32.95 m |
| Poland | €2.01 m |
| Slovenia | €1.00 m |
| Spain | €0.50 m |
| Sweden | €23.35 m |

### Former Bilateral Donors

| | |
|---|---|
| Czech Republic | €2.00 m |
| Finland | €0.50 m |
| Greece | €0.50 m |
| United Kingdom | €5.27 m |
| Transfer from EBRD Fund | €5.17 m |

**€141.94 m**
Total contributions (as at 31 December 2024)

2009-2025

# Western Balkans Beneficiaries

Co-funded by the European Union

Western Balkans Investment Framework WBIF
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER
Global Gateway

2009-2025

Figures for the public sector.

## Albania

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to build the first hybrid floating solar and hydropower plant in the region at Vau i Dejës, upgrade the Fierza hydropower plant, and invest in electricity transmission. Ongoing priorities include rail and road investments, clean urban transport in Tirana, and equipping schools with smart labs throughout the country.

**€5 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€510.2 m**
WBIF contribution

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to develop rail and road connections on Corridor Vc – part of the Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Transport Corridor, remove unexploded ordinances from the right bank of the Sava River, upgrade the Čapljina hydropower plant, install two new wind farms, and improve water supply.

**€7.6 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€1.1 bn**
WBIF contribution

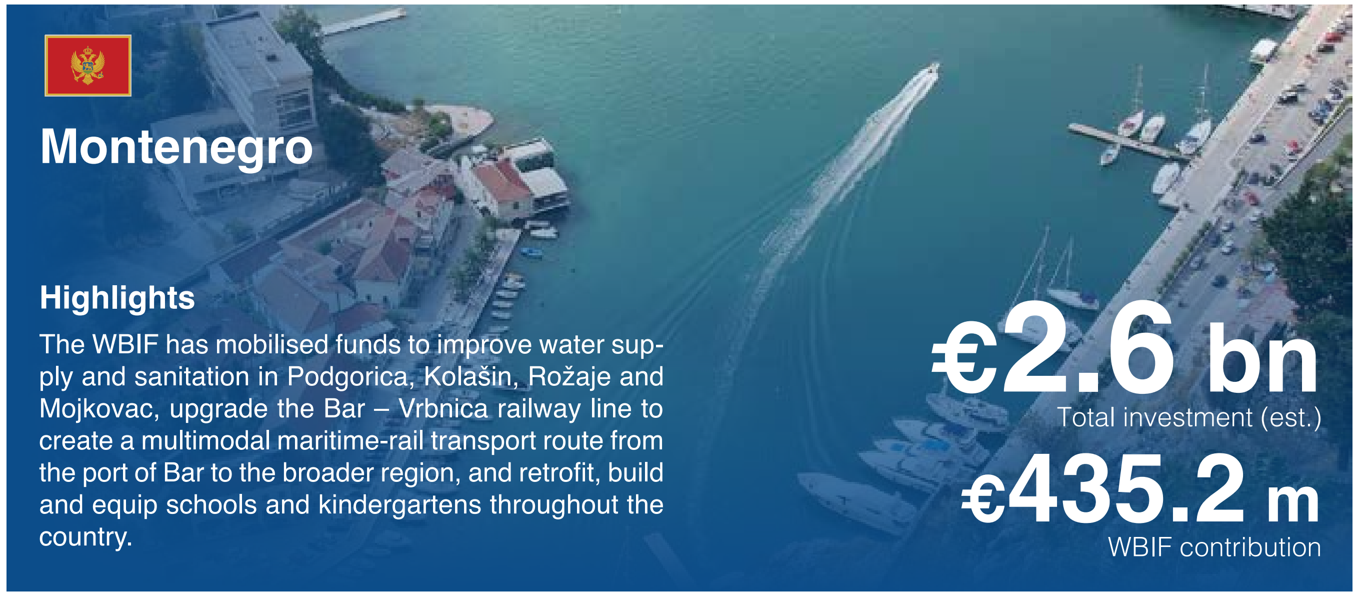
## Kosovo

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to introduce solar district heating in Pristina, install a new 100 MW solar photovoltaic power plant, build new wastewater treatment plants and collection systems, upgrade railways and construct 27 km of motorway from Pristina to the administrative border with Serbia.

**€2 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€298.9 m**
WBIF contribution



## Montenegro

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to improve water supply and sanitation in Podgorica, Kolašin, Rožaje and Mojkovac, upgrade the Bar – Vrbnica railway line to create a multimodal maritime-rail transport route from the port of Bar to the broader region, and retrofit, build and equip schools and kindergartens throughout the country.

**€2.6 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€435.2 m**
WBIF contribution

## North Macedonia

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to build solar power plants and rehabilitate hydropower plants, strengthen the transmission network to facilitate the development of renewable energy sources, retrofit healthcare facilities to reduce electricity consumption in the public sector, implement regional waste management systems, and construct rail and road interconnections with the EU.

**€4 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€504 m**
WBIF contribution

## Serbia

### Highlights

The WBIF has mobilised funds to upgrade the Belgrade – Niš railway line to high speed, eliminate a 5 km-long nautical bottleneck from the Danube, install wind and hydropower plants, upgrade the last section of the Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor in Serbia, and construct wastewater treatment and collection systems.

**€11.1 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€1.1 bn**
WBIF contribution

2009-2025

# Sector Overview



2009-2025

## Sustainable transport

**€19.4 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€2.9 bn**
WBIF contribution

## Clean energy

**€8.1 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€836 m**
WBIF contribution

## Environment & climate

**€4.5 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€448.1 m**
WBIF contribution

## Digital future

**€585.5 m**
Total investment (est.)

**€53.5 m**
WBIF contribution

## Human capital

**€3.4 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€127.3 m**
WBIF contribution

## Private sector

**€7.3 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€628 m**
WBIF contribution

2009-2025

# Investment Projects Approved in 2024-2025

**Seventeen new investments in clean energy, sustainable transport, environment and private sector development were endorsed from January 2024 to July 2025. The first projects financed by the Reform and Growth Facility under the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans were approved in 2025.**

**17**
projects supported

**€2.2 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€547.1 m**
WBIF contribution





2024-2025

Serbia

## Corridor X: Velika Plana – Paraćin Railway Section

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€448.4 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €156.4 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This investment project upgrades 63 km of the railway line linking Belgrade and Niš, enabling trains to travel at speeds of up to 200 km/h. It facilitates efficient movement of goods and people, which boost trade, support local businesses, and creates employment opportunities.

Serbia

## Corridor X: Belgrade Centre – Velika Plana Railway Section

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€684.6 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €186 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This investment project upgrades the existing line and adds a new, 86-km track along the Belgrade Centre - Velika Plana section of the Belgrade - Niš route. This shift from road to rail transport attracts further investment and stimulates the local economy. It also reduces traffic congestion in cities along the route, thereby enhancing the residents' quality of life.


Albania

## Digitalisation of Energy Transmission System

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€64.2 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €13.6 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2030 |

This investment project modernises 40 high-voltage substations across Albania with state-of-the-art digital technology. These upgrades are essential for integrating renewable energy sources into the grid, enhance grid stability and security, and reduce energy losses. They improve energy access and availability, which benefit rural and underserved areas, helping bridge the energy divide.

Albania

## Fierza Hydropower Plant

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€95.3 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €10.5 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2030 |

This investment is the second phase of upgrades to the Fierza hydropower plant, the country's second-largest facility. This project will extend the plant's operational lifespan by at least 30 years and increase its output by 10%. With an installed capacity of 500 MW and average annual production of 1,328 GWh, these enhancements create jobs, stimulate local businesses, and provide residents with stable, reliable electricity.

Albania

## Tirana – Rrashbull Overhead Transmission Line and Tirana Ring

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€61.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €8 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2025 |

This project reinforces the transmission network in the Tirana - Durrës region. Upgrading the system is essential for meeting the capital's rising electricity demand and enhancing the reliability and quality of supply. Stable power supports the effective operation of schools, hospitals, water systems, and other vital social infrastructure. Construction of the projects started in 2018.

Montenegro

## Herceg Novi – Vilusi Overhead Transmission Line

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€19.3 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €3.2 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project builds a 38 km, 110 kV overhead transmission line between Vilusi and Herceg Novi, together with associated substations. By strengthening the network, it lays the groundwork for integrating renewable energy sources and improving grid reliability. The enhanced infrastructure will reduce vulnerability to outages, supporting greater community resilience.



Montenegro

## SCADA Introduction in the Montenegrin Distribution System

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€26.5 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €5.2 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project introduces advanced management systems and deploys new smart meters throughout Montenegro's distribution network. It is expected to lower utility costs, decrease distribution losses, and reduce grid outages. It will also enable rapid intervention, minimising service disruptions and improving reliability for communities.

Montenegro

## Brezna Substation Phase 2

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€35.6 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €6.5 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project will upgrade the Brezna substation to 400/110/35 kV, significantly strengthening the national grid. As part of the broader Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor, this investment will enhance regional market integration and connectivity. The upgrade is expected to reduce the risk of outages, ensure a more stable and reliable electricity supply for consumers, and attract private investment in renewable energy—supporting the country's transition to clean energy.

Serbia

## Potpeć Hydropower Plant

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€72.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €15.8 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2030 |

This project upgrades existing units and adds a new generation unit at the Potpeć hydropower plant, increasing its total capacity to 75 MW. The improvements will deliver more stable and sustainable electricity, promote economic growth, generate local employment, and support environmental protection through enhanced water management. Additionally, better water flow control will help reduce flood risks, safeguarding local communities.

2024-2025

Serbia

## Novi Sad Solar Thermal Project

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€114.3 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €25 m |
| Approval year | 2025 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project integrates solar energy and heat pumps into Novi Sad's district heating system, supporting the city's transition to cleaner energy sources. This investment improves air quality, contributes to public health, and makes heating more affordable and reliable for residents. The project also sets a positive example for climate action and can stimulate local innovation and job creation in the green energy sector.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Water and Sanitation Programme II in Republika Srpska Entity

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€43.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €17.3 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This investment upgrades water supply and wastewater systems for 177,000 residents across 15 municipalities. These measures improve public health and enhance the quality of life. They also protect the local environment, support economic development, and create job opportunities during both construction and operation.

Montenegro

## Ulcinj Wastewater Treatment Plant

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€61.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €31 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project constructs a 60,000 population-equivalent wastewater treatment plant and upgrades the water supply network in Ulcinj. The new facility will put an end to the discharge of untreated effluents into the Adriatic Sea, improving water quality and protecting coastal ecosystems, while also strengthening local water services and public health.

Montenegro

## Boka Bay Water Supply and Wastewater Collection

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€34 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €4 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project upgrades water supply and wastewater networks in four medieval towns within the Kotor Municipality, strengthening environmental protection, public health, and the area's appeal to tourists. This WBIF contribution complements earlier WBIF funding for these investments.



2024-2025

Montenegro

## Tivat Water Supply and Sanitation

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€24.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €9.8 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project upgrades water supply systems and installs new sewage and stormwater networks in Tivat's coastal area. These investments provide reliable sanitation services for residents along the Bay of Tivat, enhance water quality, protect the coastal environment, and contribute to the region's long-term economic vitality.

Montenegro

## Cetinje Water Supply System

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€21.7 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €13 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This project upgrades the water supply system in Cetinje and installs a 4 MW solar power plant. These investments ensure safe and reliable drinking water for 13,500 residents connected to the town's network, promoting economic development and contributing to greater community resilience and sustainability. The integration of solar energy reduces the system's carbon footprint and lowers the utility energy costs.

Montenegro

## Nikšić and Pljevlja Wastewater Collection Systems

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€32.2 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €18.1 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This project expands the sewerage and stormwater networks for 12,200 residents in the Nikšić and Pljevlja municipalities. Connecting the new infrastructure to existing wastewater treatment plants ensures more efficient and reliable operation. The upgrades improve sanitation services, protect the local environment and contribute to public health and quality of life in these communities.

Montenegro

## Innovation and Green Transformation Facility

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€363.7 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €23.7 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

The facility supports SMEs and Mid-Caps in the region, with 70% of funds dedicated to innovation-driven products, processes, and RDI, and 30% to green investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially in agriculture. Financing is channelled through local banks via EIB credit lines, complemented by EU-funded cash-back incentives.

# Sustainable transport

The Western Balkans economies have prioritised connectivity with the Trans-European Transport Network, alignment with EU reforms and technical standards, and the promotion of multimodal transport solutions in their transport sector development. Investments in sustainable transport modes drive national and regional economic growth, strengthen competitiveness, improve mobility, and deliver greater user benefits while fostering regional cooperation and integration with the EU.

**€19.4 bn**
Total investment (est.)

**€2.9 bn**
WBIF contribution

## Expected results

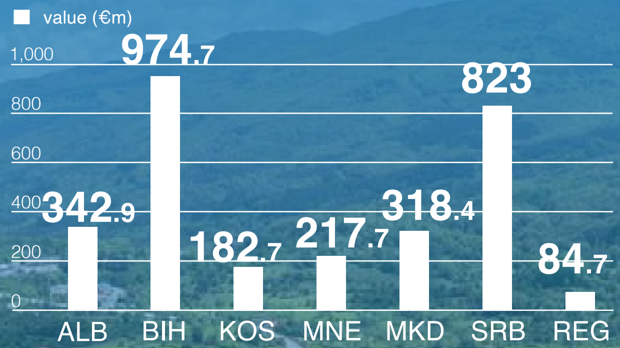
215 km of motorways built

896 km of railway lines rehabilitated

45 km of waterways upgraded

## WBIF contribution

per beneficiary




Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Rhine/Danube Corridor: Brčko Port

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€11.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €3.1 m |
| Approval year | 2019 |
| Expected completion | 2025 |

This project is the first phase of a comprehensive rehabilitation programme for Brčko Port on the Sava River. It includes the construction of 2.5 km of new harbour track, the refurbishment of 4.5 km of industrial railway track connecting to the Brčko Novo station, renovation of the port plateau, rehabilitation of the access road, and installation of a new 16-ton capacity port crane.

Kosovo

### Route 10: Fushë Kosovë/ Kosovo Polje – Border with North Macedonia Railway Section (Phase 1)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€105.4 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €43.1 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2008 |
| Expected completion | 2025 |

Rail Route 10 is Kosovo's primary rail connection to Serbia and North Macedonia. This project upgrades the section between Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and the North Macedonian border, enhancing safety along the route, supporting economic growth, facilitating cross-border trade, promoting regional integration, and encouraging the shift from road to rail transport.

North Macedonia

### Kriva Palanka - Stracin Express Road Section

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€36.7 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €14 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Completed | 2025 |

A key route for North Macedonia's connectivity with the region and the EU, the 23 km express road from Kriva Palanka to Stracin is the final link to the Bulgarian border. The road cuts travel time between Skopje and Sofia, improves safety, and supports regional trade and development.

Albania

### Durrës - Rrogozhinë Railway Section

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€125.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €65.0 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2015 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

The Durrës - Rrogozhinë railway project rehabilitates, modernises, and electrifies a 33.5 km section in Albania, linking the port of Durrës with Rrogozhinë. It is part of the Western Balkans - East Mediterranean Corridor, connecting the country to Bulgaria's Black Sea ports.

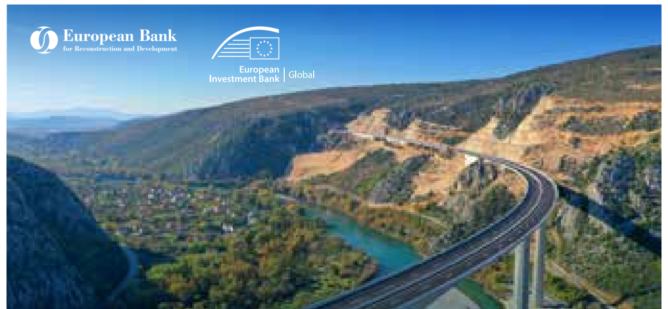
[1)] It is the year the first WBIF contribution to the project was approved; further funding was provided subsequently.

Project Selection 2009-2025

# Transport Corridors

The WBIF supports the Western Balkans aligning their core transport network with EU standards. The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) links Central European EU Member States with Adriatic and East Mediterranean ports through the region.

The WBIF investments in rail, road, and waterways prioritise sustainable mobility and green multimodal solutions, building a future-ready transport infrastructure that strengthens connectivity with the EU.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Road Corridor Vc

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€4.7 bn** |
| WBIF contribution | €868.2 m |
| WBIF-supported length | 212 km |

Road Corridor Vc is a major north–south transit route running from Hungary through Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia and the Adriatic Sea. A multi-billion-euro motorway programme is under way to improve safety, cut travel times, and boost trade.

The WBIF has provided technical assistance and co-financing, while the corridor enables travel speeds of up to 130 km/h and enhances mobility for more than 1.5 million people.

North Macedonia, Albania

## Rail Corridor VIII

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€1.9 bn** |
| WBIF contribution | €304.8 m |
| WBIF-supported length | 416 km |

Rail Corridor VIII provides the east–west link between the Black and Ionian Seas, running through Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Albania. With WBIF support for project preparation and co-financing, North Macedonia and Albania are upgrading existing lines and building missing links to remove bottlenecks, shorten travel distances, improve connectivity, and shift more passengers and freight to sustainable transport modes.

Serbia, North Macedonia

## Rail Corridor X

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€3.9 bn** |
| WBIF contribution | €732 m |
| WBIF-supported length | 825 km |

Corridor X is a key east–west transport route, linking Belgrade, Niš and Skopje with the EU, via Croatia, Bulgaria, and Greece. Its modernisation is creating an international high-speed rail link and improving passenger and freight services. The WBIF supports construction and renovation works that strengthen regional connectivity, integration, and the competitiveness of rail transport.





# Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP)

**The Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP) is a flagship investment endorsed for WBIF financing under the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans in 2023.**

The programme provides financial assistance to transport projects that contribute to enhancing safety and sustainability, mostly in the road and railway sectors, in line with the objectives of the **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.** Funded by the EU and the World Bank, SSTP supports initiatives like road safety improvements, alternative fuel infrastructure, and intelligent transport systems.

Financed projects are linked to action plans and policy reform measures developed by the **Transport Community Permanent Secretariat.**

## Benefits

- Reduce travel times
- Enhance safety
- Lower pollution
- Increase trade
- Job creation
- Socio-economic convergence with the EU

The Programme facilitates the region's long-term recovery, the greening of transport, economic integration, and improved quality of life for Western Balkans residents. With the SSTP, the Western Balkans benefit from technical assistance and knowledge, moving forward with the green and digital transition in transport. The Programme contributes to the **2015 Berlin process commitment** to connect the region with a view to advance on the economic convergence of the region, including through trade facilitation the green and digital transition in transport.

**€80 m**
WBIF contribution

**€492 m**
Total investment (est.)

**2028**
Expected completion

Financier:

THE WORLD BANK

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# Progress of Investment Projects on Rail and Waterway


## Albania

1. Durrës – Tirana Railway Line and New Railway Link to Tirana Airport (41.9 km)
2. Albania – Montenegro Rail Interconnection: Vorë – Hani i Hotit Line (120.2 km)
3. Corridor VIII: Durrës – Rrogozhinë Railway Section (33.5 km)

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

4. Rhine-Danube Corridor: Brčko River Port Phase 1
5. Rhine-Danube Corridor: Demining the Righ Bank of the Sava River (40 km)
6. Corridor Vc: Šamac – Doboj – Rječica Railway Section (98 km)[2]

## Kosovo

7. Route 10: Fushë Kosova/ Kosovo Polje – Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica Railway Section (34 km)
8. Route 10: Fushë Kosova/ Kosovo Polje – Border with North Macedonia Railway Section (67 km)
9. Route 10: Mitrovicë/Mitrovica – Border with North Macedonia Railway Sections Signalling & Telecoms (101 km)

## Montenegro

10. Bar – Vrbnica Railway Line: Rehabilitation of 10 Steel Bridges and 8 Tunnels (5.1 km)
11. Bar – Vrbnica Railway Line: Rehabilitation of 8 Tunnels (2.8 km)
12. Bar – Vrbnica Railway Line: Rehabilitation of 24 Concrete Bridges (2.9 km), 6 Slopes Impacted by Landslides (3 km), New Signalling Systems at Podgorica Railway Junction
13. Bar – Vrbnica Railway Line: Rehabilitation of Lutovo – Bioče Section and 3 Steel Bridges (20.2 km)
14. Bar – Vrbnica Railway Line: Bar – Golubovci Section (39.6 km)

## North Macedonia

15. Corridor VIII: Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka Railway Section (34 km)
16. Corridor VIII: Kriva Palanka – Border with Bulgaria Railway Section (23.4 km)
17. Corridor X: Tabanovce Joint Border Railway Station

## Serbia

18. Corridor X: Belgrade Centre – Velika Plana Railway Section (86 km)
19. Corridor X: Velika Plana – Paraćin Railway Section (63 km)
20. Corridor X: Paraćin – Međurovo Railway Section (66 km)
21. Corridor X: Stalać – Đunis Railway Section (17.7 km)
22. Corridor Xc: Niš Rail Bypass (22.4 km)
23. Corridor Xc: Sićevo - Dimitrovgrad Railway Section (80 km)
24. Corridor Xc: Niš – Dimitrovgrad – Border with Bulgaria Railway Section, Electrification and Signalling (86 km)
25. Rhine-Danube Corridor: Removal of Sunken WWII German Vessels from the Danube, Prahovo Sector (5 km)

## Regional Programme

26. Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP)

[2] EU funding suspended. The European Commission will sign the contribution agreement for this investment located in the entity of Republika Srpska after the political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina is solved.

2015-2025

# Progress of Investment Projects on Road and Urban Transport




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## Albania

1 Tirana Bypass (21.5 km)

2 Green Transport Tirana

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

3 Gradiška Cross-Border Bridge and Border Crossing Facilities

4 Corridor Vc: Svilaj - Odžak Motorway Section, Svilaj Cross-Border Bridge (11.4 km)

5 Corridor Vc: Johovac - Vukosavlje Motorway Section (36 km)[2)]

6 Corridor Vc: Johovac - Rudanka Motorway Section (6 km)

7 Corridor Vc: Rudanka - Putnikovo Brdo Motorway Subsection (5.2 km)

8 Corridor Vc: Putnikovo Brdo - Medakovo Motorway Subsection (8.5 km)

9 Corridor Vc: Medakovo - Ozimice Motorway Subsection (21.7 km)

10 Corridor Vc: Ozimice - Poprikuše Motorway Subsection (12.8 km)

11 Corridor Vc: Poprikuše - Nemila Motorway Subsection (5.5 km)

12 Corridor Vc: Ponirak - Vraca Motorway Subsection (3.9 km)

13 Corridor Vc: Tunnel Zenica - Donja Gračanica Motorway Subsection (2.7 km)

14 Corridor Vc: Tarčin - Ivan Motorway Subsections I & II (7.1 km)

15 Corridor Vc: Mostar North – Mostar South Motorway Section (14.2 km)

16 Corridor Vc: Mostar South – Kvanj Tunnel Motorway Subsection (8.6 km)

17 Corridor Vc: Kvanj Tunnel – Buna Motorway Subsection (5.1 km)

18 Corridor Vc: Buna – Pocitelj Motorway Subsection (7.2 km)

## Kosovo

19 Pristina – Merdare Highway Section (27 km)

## North Macedonia

20 Blace – Skopje (Stenkovec Interchange) Motorway (12.5 km)

21 Corridor VIII: Kriva Palanka – Stracin Express Road (23 km)

22 Corridor VIII: Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair Road Section (13.2 km)

23 Corridor VIII: Bukojčani – Kičevo Motorway Section (10.2 km)

## Serbia

24 Niš – Merdare Highway: Merošina – Merošina 1 Subsection (5.2 km)

25 Niš – Merdare Highway: Merošina – Pločnik Subsections (27 km)

## Regional Programme

26 Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP)

# Clean energy

The WBIF portfolio in the energy sector is focused on energy transition in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Strong emphasis is placed on energy market integration, decarbonisation, clean energy, just transition, increased digitalisation of the system and smart grids, energy efficiency, and energy security. Clean energy also features prominently in the new Growth Plan and Reform Agendas of the beneficiary economies. Integration and decarbonisation of energy markets is the main priority.

**€8.1 bn**
Total investment (est.)

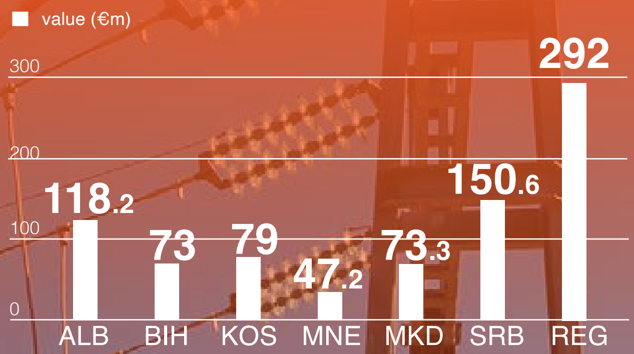
**€836 m**
WBIF contribution

## Expected results

- 2,090 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
- 672 km of transmission lines upgraded
- 68 km of gas interconnection built

## WBIF contribution

per beneficiary





Montenegro

### Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Grid Section in Montenegro

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€129.4 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €27.4 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2008 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

Investments include the construction of a new 165 km long 400 kV transmission line from Lasta to the border with Serbia, as well as upgrading substations. The Lastva substation and the Lastva – Čevo grid section are already in operation, high-voltage substations have been upgraded, and the Čevo – Pljevlja grid section is being constructed.


Serbia

### Reconstruction of Vlasina Hydropower Plants

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€83.2 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €16 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2030 |

The Vlasina hydropower plants in Serbia are undergoing a major reconstruction. The project aims to replace outdated equipment, increase the plants' efficiency, and ensure reliable operation for the next 30 years. The plants are expected to produce 309 GWh annually, equivalent to the energy demand of 93,000 households.


North Macedonia

### Public Sector Energy Efficiency Project

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€27.5 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €2.2 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project renovates public buildings, including healthcare facilities, aiming to reduce energy consumption within the public sector and establish a sustainable financing mechanism for energy efficiency improvements. These upgrades lower operational costs, free up public funds for essential services, and create healthier, more comfortable environments for occupants.


Albania

### Belshi Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€41.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €9.6 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project installs a 50 MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic plant in the Belshi area. Expected to generate 79 GWh annually—equivalent to the consumption of 16,100 households—it will displace over 50,000 tonnes of $CO_2$ each year, strengthen energy security, accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, and support sustainable development.

Project Selection 2009-2025

2009-2025

# Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment:** | **302.7 m** |
| WBIF contribution: | 65.7 m |

The Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor connects the power systems of Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina with Croatia, Hungary, Romania, and Italy, supporting the development of a regional electricity market. This strategic link improves network reliability and efficiency, enables renewable energy integration, and strengthens energy security. By bridging the Apennine Peninsula and the Balkans, it promotes stable electricity supply and fosters cooperation between two key European regions.


| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€29.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €6.8 m |
| Approval year | 2015 |
| Completed | 2022 |

This project involved constructing a new 60 km, 400 kV transmission line between Kraljevo and Kragujevac, along with upgrading the Kraljevo substation to 400 kV. These enhancements increase grid capacity, improve reliability, and support the integration of renewable energy sources into the power system.


| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€89.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €20.7 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2008 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project constructs a new 109 km, 400 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line between Obrenovac and Bajina Bašta, and upgrades the substations at both locations.


| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€53.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €10.9 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2011 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This project constructs an 84 km, 400 kV double-circuit overhead transmission line connecting Bajina Bašta to the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.





2013-2025

# Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP)

**Launched in 2013, REEP is designed to assist the Western Balkan beneficiaries in decarbonising their economies by promoting investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures across residential, public and private sectors.**

## Results and impact

1,220 GWh/y energy saved

730kt $CO_2$/y avoided

## Public sector

90+ buildings refurbished

## Private sector

1,500+ number of SMEs supported

## Residential

20,000+ households invested in energy efficiency

Over **€1.6 bn** has been extended to **energy efficiency upgrades in public buildings**, such as schools and hospitals, as well as in residential sector, individual households and local businesses. The programme also supports the **decarbonisation of local district heating companies**, helping them transition to clean energy sources.

**€276.5 m**
Total WBIF contribution

2025 replenishment
**€90 m**
WBIF contribution

Financiers: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, KFW

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# Progress of Investment Projects


## Albania

1. Albania – North Macedonia Power Interconnection: Grid Section in Albania
2. Rehabilitation of Fierza Hydropower Plant
3. Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant
4. Belshi Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant
5. Digitalisation of Energy Transmission System
6. Tirana - Rrashbull Overhead Transmission Line and Tirana Ring

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

7. Vlašić Wind Power Plant
8. Poklečani Wind Farm
9. Rehabilitation of Čapljina Pump Storage Hydropower Plant

## Kosovo

10. Solar4Kosovo: Photovoltaic Power Plant
11. Solar4Kosovo II: Solar District Heating for Pristina

## Montenegro

12. Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Grid Section in Montenegro
13. Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Brezna Substation Phase 2
14. Herceg Novi – Vilusi Overhead Transmission Line
15. SCADA Introduction in Montenegrin Distribution System Operator

## North Macedonia

16. North Macedonia – Albania Power Interconnection: Grid Section in North Macedonia
17. North Macedonia – Greece Gas Interconnector
18. Oslomej 1 Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant
19. Oslomej 2 and Bitola Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants
20. Rehabilitation of Six Hydropower Plants Phase 3
21. Bogdanci Wind Park Phase 2
22. Strengthening the Transmission Network in the Southeast Region
23. Energy Efficiency Investments in Healthcare Buildings

## Serbia

24. Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Kragujevac – Kraljevo Grid Section
25. Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Obrenovac – Bajina Bašta Grid Section
26. Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Bajina Bašta – Montenegro – BiH Borders Section
27. Advanced System for Remote Meter Reading Phase 1A
28. Kostolac Wind Farm
29. Reconstruction of Potpeć Hydropower Plant
30. Rehabilitation of Bistrica Hydropower Plant
31. Reconstruction of Vlasina Hydropower Plant
32. Novi Sad Solar Thermal Project

## Regional Programme

33. Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans (REEP)

# Environment and climate

Aligned with the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, substantial investments are being channeled into environmental and climate-related projects to support the region's green transition. Priority areas include upgrading water and sanitation systems, improving solid waste management, advancing sustainable urban development, implementing pollution prevention measures, promoting climate-smart technologies, enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience to extreme climate events, and fostering nature-based solutions.

**€4.5 bn**
Total investment (est.)

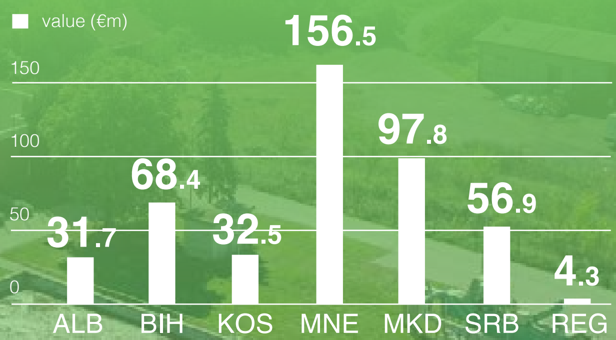
**€448.1 m**
WBIF contribution

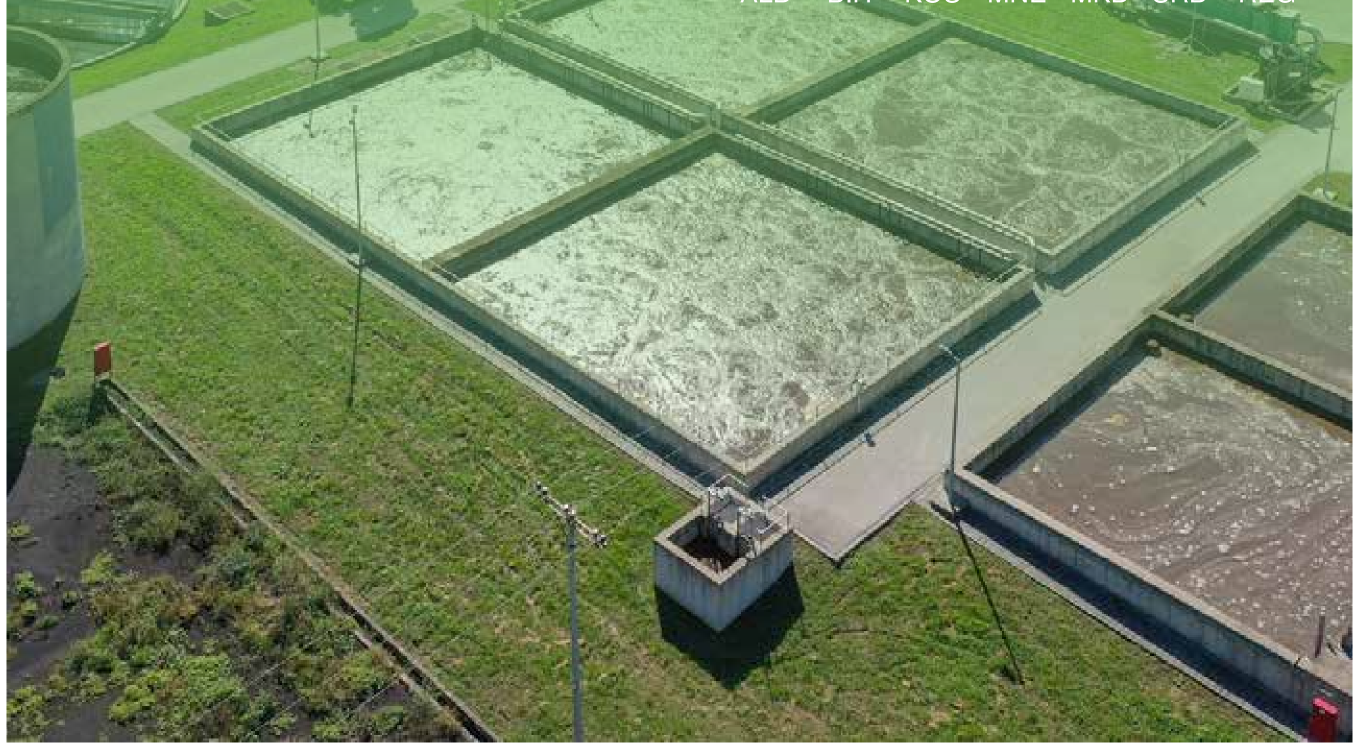
## Expected results

- Improved water supply and sanitation for 2.9 million people
- Efficient urban waste collection and disposal services for 750,000 people
- Additional 672,300 m³/day wastewater treatment capacity

## WBIF contribution

per beneficiary



North Macedonia

### Skopje Wastewater Treatment Plant

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€204.8m** |
| WBIF contribution | €72.7m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2018 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

This investment project aims to design and construct a central wastewater treatment plant in Skopje. Once completed, the facility will serve nine out of the city's ten municipalities. At present, Skopje's wastewater is discharged untreated into the Vardar River, a major transboundary watercourse that continues its flow into Greece.

North Macedonia

### Regional Waste Management System for Polog, Pelagonija, Vardar, Southwest and Southeast Regions

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€60.6m** |
| WBIF contribution | €22.6m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

In North Macedonia, waste management is still largely limited to collection and disposal, predominantly in non-engineered dumpsites. Municipal solid waste treatment, along with the source separation of recyclables and biowaste, is virtually absent. This investment project is the first nationwide initiative in the sector and marks a significant step toward establishing integrated solid waste management services.

Serbia

### Sewerage System for Palilula, Belgrade

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€84.8m** |
| WBIF contribution | €36.8m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2030 |

Situated in northern Belgrade on the left bank of the Danube River, the Municipality of Palilula upgrades its sewerage network and constructs a new wastewater treatment plant through this project. This essential infrastructure enhances sanitation services, improves living conditions, and helps protect public health. Additionally, it reduces pollution in both groundwater and the Danube River.


Kosovo

### Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage Network for Gjilan

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€24m** |
| WBIF contribution | €3.5m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2009 |
| Expected completion | 2026 |

This project in Gjilan delivers a new wastewater treatment plant benefiting 76,300 residents. It also upgrades and expands the sewerage network. These investments provide better sanitation services for the local population, reduce untreated wastewater discharged into the Morava and Mirusha rivers, and lower the risk of groundwater contamination.

Project Selection 2009-2025

# Progress of Investment Projects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## Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Sarajevo Water Project: Water Supply Network Reconstruction
2. Water and Sanitation Republika Srpska II
3. Gradacac Water Supply Project
4. WATSAN FBiH: Water Supply and Water Loss Reduction in Jajce Municipality
5. WATSAN Republika Srpska: Lokanj-Pilica Water Supply Phase 1 and Wastewater Treatment Plant for Tabanci in Zvornik Municipality
6. Visoko Water Supply Project: Mostre Subsystem and Water Network Phase 3

## Kosovo

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage Network Extension and Rehabilitation in Gjilan
8. Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage Network for Mitrovica

## Montenegro

9. Podgorica Wastewater Treatment Plant
10. Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply for Kolašin, Rožaje and Mojkovac
11. Boka Bay Water Supply and Wastewater Collection
12. Nikšić and Pljevlja Wastewater Collection Systems
13. Ulcinj Wastewater Treatment Plant and Related Infrastructure
14. Tivat Water Supply and Sanitation
15. Cetinje Water Supply Improvement
16. Bijelo Polje Wastewater Treatment Plant

## North Macedonia

17. Skopje Wastewater Treatment Plant
18. Regional Waste Management System for Polog, Pelagonija, Vardar, Southwest and Southeast Regions

## Serbia

19. Sewerage System for Palilula, Belgrade
20. Upgrade of Makis Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Belgrade

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# Human capital

Investments in human capital are essential for long-term growth and social cohesion. They strengthen education, health, and skills, enabling people to reach their full potential. Robust social policies reduce inequalities and foster inclusion across communities. The WBIF supports these objectives by financing education, health, and research and innovation facilities. Ultimately, investing in people through the WBIF drives sustainable and inclusive development.

**€3.4 bn**
Total investment (est.)

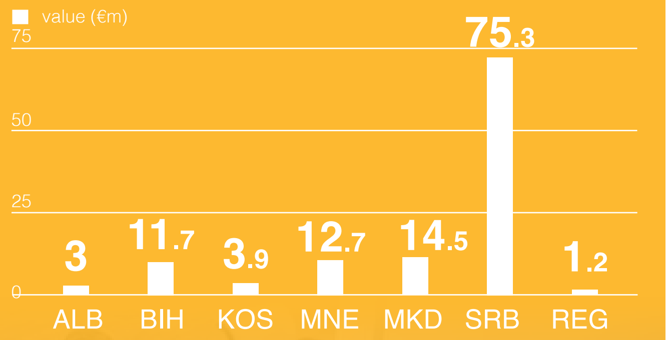
**€127.3 m**
WBIF contributions

## Expected results

- Better schools for 62,300 students/year
- Higher education and research facilities for 15,000 students/year
- Healthcare and treatment facilities for 18,590 patients/year

## WBIF contribution

per beneficiary




North Macedonia

### Physical Education Facilities in Primary and Secondary Schools

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€50.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €5.1 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2011 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project upgrades physical education facilities in 30 schools and provides new equipment to 50 additional schools nationwide, benefiting 52,800 students. These investments will enhance learning environments, support better student health and performance, increase school enrolment, and promote inclusive socio-economic development across communities.

Montenegro

### Education Infrastructure Improvement

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€64.3 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €11.4 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

This project supports the enhancement of Montenegro's pre-university education system through the construction, renovation, and equipping of schools and kindergartens across the country. It will add 2,100 new places and create approximately 530 full-time jobs, primarily for teachers. Around 9,500 students will benefit from modern learning environments, helping to improve educational outcomes and strengthen youth employability.

Serbia

### Energy Efficiency and Integrated Management at the Campus of Technical Faculties in Belgrade

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€169.6 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €22.1 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2020 |
| Expected completion | 2029 |

The University of Belgrade is developing an energy-efficient campus for its electrical engineering and technical faculties to address constraints in space, safety concerns, and outdated infrastructure. The project entails constructing a new university centre and renovating existing facilities, creating a modern, safe, and sustainable learning environment for students and staff.

Serbia

### University Children's Hospital Tiršova 2 in Belgrade

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€190.7 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €36.2 m |
| Approval year | 2022 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

For over 85 years, the University Children's Hospital has delivered high-quality care to more than 14,500 children annually. This project constructs a new building to expand capacity and introduce advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies, ensuring healthcare services meet European standards.

Project Selection 2009-2025

# Digital future

Accelerating digital transformation is a key regional priority, driving progress in the digital transition. Investments are focused on expanding ultra-fast, secure broadband to remote areas and lower-income communities, ensuring universal access to digital services. The WBIF also supports the development of secure, energy-efficient data centres, cloud infrastructure, and high-performance computing, while fostering synergies with other connectivity sectors to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

**€585.5 m**
Total investment (est.)

**€53.5 m**
WBIF contribution

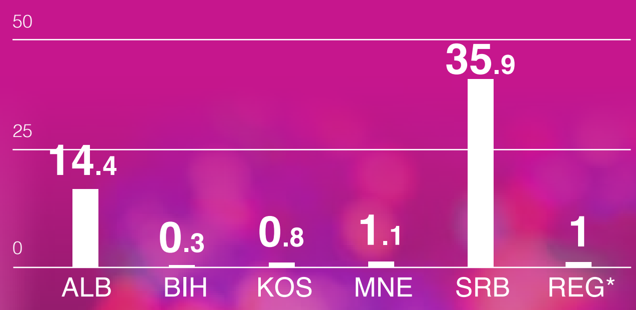
## Expected results

600 schools equipped with smart labs for more than 198,000 students/year

368,000 people with access to Internet in rural areas

## WBIF contribution

per beneficiary





| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€21.8 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €0.3 m |
| Approval year | 2024 |
| Expected completion | 2028 |

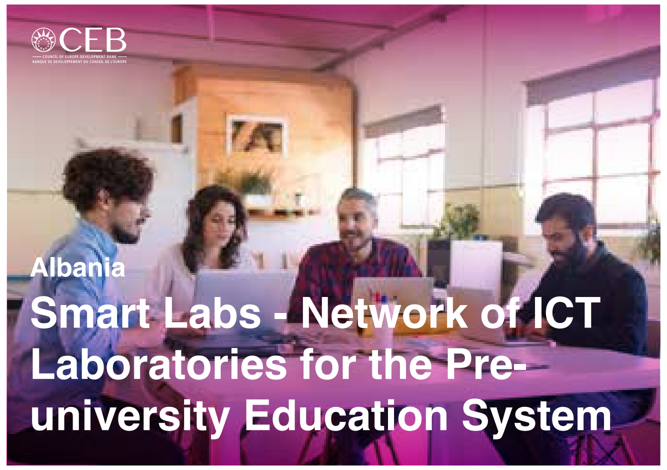
The WBIF funds a pre-feasibility study for broadband infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on developing the network and rolling out ultrafast broadband. The study identifies potential investment models and lays the groundwork for future projects that will expand connectivity and help reduce the digital divide nationwide.


| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€63.9 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €1.1 m |
| Approval year[1)] | 2019 |
| Expected completion | 2031 |

This project deploys fixed broadband in underserved areas of Montenegro, bringing very high-capacity access to rural and suburban communities currently unconnected or inadequately served. Addressing the digital divide, it ensures equitable access to modern digital services, fostering inclusive growth and new opportunities nationwide.


| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€135.6 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €34.1 m |
| Approval year | 2022 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project expands Serbia's fibre backbone to rural areas currently without broadband access. By enhancing connectivity and offering training, the investment creates new economic opportunities and helps build digital skills in less developed regions, contributing to sustainable development and reducing regional disparities.




| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€41.2 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €10.5 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |
| Expected completion | 2027 |

This project establishes smart ICT labs in 600 schools across the country, significantly increasing access to computer facilities for pre-university students and strengthening their programming skills. More than 198,000 students will benefit annually from these modern learning environments, enhancing digital literacy and future career prospects.

Co-funded by the European Union

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# Private sector

A vibrant private sector is essential for socio-economic development, regional integration, competitiveness, and job creation. The WBIF supports start-ups and micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, fostering innovation and green growth through substantial investment. To unlock the sector's full potential, the WBIF provides increased financing by blending grants with loans and offering guarantees through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility, including EFSD+.

**€7.3 bn**
Total investment (est.)

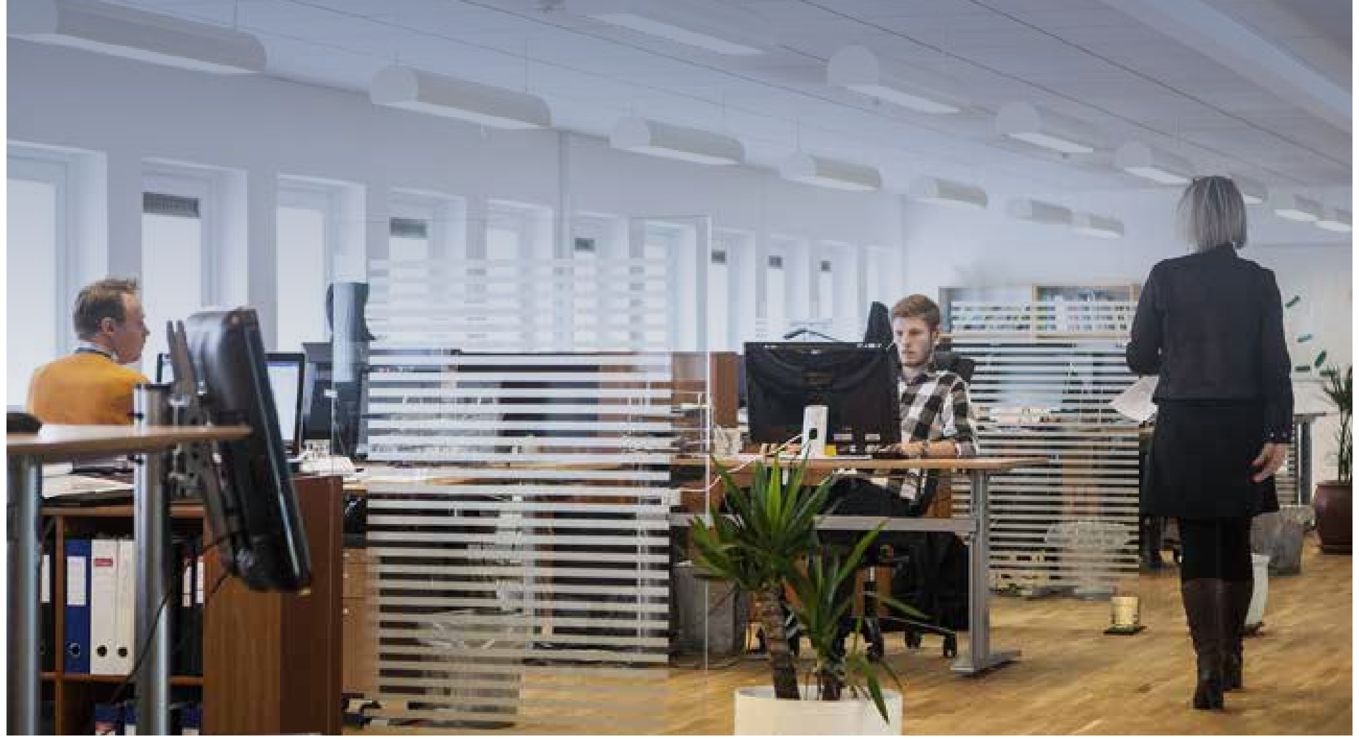
**€628 m**
WBIF contribution

## Key results

- 396,398 MSMEs supported
- 1.7m MWh/p.a. energy savings
- 638,000 $tCO_2$/p.a. emissions reduced

## Total investment (est.)

per beneficiary


### Go Digital in the Western Balkans

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€177.6 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €27.6 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |

The Go Digital programme supports digitalisation, automation and competitiveness of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across the Western Balkans. Emphasising sustainability, a minimum of 50% of the investments are green, and at least 30% are targeted to regions beyond capital cities, thus contributing to regional and rural development. EBRD extends debt financing to SMEs through local commercial banks for qualifying investments.


### Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€41.4 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €21.2 m |
| Approval year | 2013 |

The Enterprise Innovation Fund is a venture capital fund focusing on an investment portfolio consisting of innovative SMEs at various stages of business development, from the seed to expansion phase. By providing equity and quasi-equity financing, ENIF reinforces the financial structure of innovative SMEs resulting in a strong and bankable balance sheet. This programme has supported 29 innovative, early-stage companies across the region.


### Green Finance for Inclusion

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€130.1 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €10.1 m |
| Approval year | 2022 |

The programme encourages and supports underserved MSMEs to invest, through local financial institutions, in innovative energy efficiency and climate resilient measures. These include actions to reduce consumption, promote renewable energy projects, increase energy efficiency of buildings, and climate adaptation initiatives. The investments target the specific needs of the beneficiary economies to bridge the gap towards a sustainable and low-carbon production system.


### GGF: Promoting Green Lending in the Western Balkans (II)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total investment (est.)** | **€231 m** |
| WBIF contribution | €24 m |
| Approval year | 2023 |

The programme replenishes the already established and operating scheme - the Green for Growth Fund ("GGF"). Active since 2009, GGF supports investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy by MSMEs and households through financial intermediaries and direct investments. The proceeds of the €20 million capital increase in the form of C-share equity, accompanied by €4 million in technical assistance, sustainably build up and expand the supply.

Project Selection 2009-2025

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**European Commission**
Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) |
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