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Western Balkans
Investment Framework
WBIF
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER

Global
Gateway

WBIF Newsletter

May 2025



25/04/2025

7th WBIF Strategic and Operational Board meetings

The governing bodies of the WBIF met in Brussels on 24-25 April 2025 to discuss the priorities of the Growth Plan in the Western Balkans and regional energy efficiency programme.

[Read more >>](#)



WBIF 15 years anniversary video

[Watch here >>](#)



New Regional Energy Efficiency Programme webpage

[Click here >>](#)



14/04/2025

WBIF Open4Business Regional Flagship Event

More than 300 representatives of small and medium-sized businesses, international financial institutions and the European Commission were present in Belgrade for a day of information, networking and matchmaking. A further 200 participants followed online, benefitting from the virtual networking opportunities on the dedicated event platform.

[Read more >>](#)



Open4Business event video

[Watch here >>](#)



Open4Business visibility material

[Click here >>](#)

Public investments



16/04/2025

New building of the “Vladimir Nazor” primary school opened with EU support

A new building of the “Vladimir Nazor” primary school was ceremoniously opened on 15 April in Podgorica, valued at €7.2 million. The new school facility was financed through the Education Infrastructure Improvement project supported by the Western Balkans Investment Framework. It has capacity for 1,200 students.

[Read more >>](#)



09/04/2025

Modern waste management centre starts operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A new solid waste management centre in ivinice, Bosnia and Herzegovina, officially began operating on 7 April 2025, following several years of construction. The facility is the first sanitary, EU-compliant solid waste landfill and recycling centre in Tuzla canton. It will serve the 100,000 inhabitants of ivinice, Banovii and Kladanj municipalities.

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28/03/2025

North Macedonia - Serbia rail crossing receives €2.8 million EU contribution

An agreement securing €2.8 million contribution from the European Union (EU) to develop a joint border railway station between North Macedonia and Serbia was signed on 5 March 2025 in Skopje by the First Deputy President of the Government and Minister of Transport, Mr Nikoloski and EBRD Head of North Macedonia, Mr Türkmenolu.

[Read more >>](#)



18/03/2025

Montenegro receives a €23 million contribution to enhance sustainable water use and climate resilience

A €23.5 million grant agreement was signed on 10 March 2025 in Podgorica between the European Investment Bank (EIB Global) and Montenegro's Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Northern Region Development. The EU funds will help develop sustainable water supply and wastewater systems in the municipalities of Kolašin, Roaje, and Mojkovac.

[Read more >>](#)



06/02/2025

Montenegro's ambitious €9 bn transport infrastructure programme

The European Union, through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), funds the development of transport infrastructure in all Western Balkan countries and in Montenegro, in cooperation with the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

[Read more >>](#)



29/01/2025

New section of railway in North Macedonia towards the Bulgarian border is now operational

The reconstruction of the 31 km railway route between Kumanovo and Beljakovce, in the north-eastern part of North Macedonia, has been completed and is now open to travellers. Trains will run at 100 km/h and stop at three new stations on the line. These investments are part of the wider upgrade on the Western Balkans – Eastern Mediterranean European Corridor.

[Read more >>](#)



24/01/2025

Kosovo secures funding for energy efficiency in public buildings

A project for energy efficiency in public buildings in Kosovo was scaled up this month through a loan of up to €50 million provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The project is part of the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) supported and financed by the EU across the Western Balkans.

[Read more >>](#)



13/01/2025

New expressway boosts North Macedonia's connectivity

The much-anticipated Kriva Palanka - Dlabochica - Stracin expressway has officially opened in North Macedonia on 4 January 2025, marking a major milestone in regional infrastructure development. The €36.7 million project has been co-financed by the EU and the World Bank Group.

[Read more >>](#)

Private sector



04/04/2025

Eco-industrial park's first brownfield site in Kragujevac, Serbia

The agreement to establish the first brownfield Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) pilot in the Western Balkans was officially signed on 18 March 2025. This initiative aims to elevate MIND Park in Kragujevac, Serbia, into a fully integrated eco-industrial zone, promoting sustainable industrial development and aligning with EU environmental standards.

[Read more >>](#)



31/03/2025

Go Digital programme supports small businesses in North Macedonia

The first loan has been made available in North Macedonia under the Go Digital programme targeting small and medium-sized businesses in the Western Balkans. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing €4 million credit line to Sparkasse Bank Skopje to on-lend to SMEs for investments in digital and automation technology.

[Read more >>](#)



14/02/2025

First greenfield Eco-Industrial Park in the Western Balkans

A landmark agreement has been signed to establish the first Eco-Industrial Park pilot in the Western Balkans, located in Šabac, Serbia. This pioneering initiative is expected to accelerate sustainable industrial development in the region, supporting the transition to a sustainable economy.

[Read more >>](#)



22/01/2025

A big boost for small businesses in Albania and Serbia

The European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are supporting small and medium-sized businesses through a number of dedicated programmes. The Go Digital programme supports automation, digitalisation and green technology investments while the SME Go Green programme is fully dedicated to green economy.

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WBIF videos



[REEP Annual Steering Committee video](#)
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[Open4Business promo video](#)
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[Eco-industrial parks Serbia](#)
[Watch here >>](#)



[Vlasina Hydropower plant Serbia](#)
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