

November 2025



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MIS

Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP)

## NEW REEP WEBPAGE LAUNCHED

“ The Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) has launched its brand-new website, offering a central hub for the latest news, project updates, and resources on advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy across the Western Balkans. The new online platform will play a key role in sharing achievements, highlighting best practices, and connecting stakeholders across the region.

As REEP marks over a decade of success - with more than €1.1 billion in investments, 1,220 GWh of annual energy savings, and 730,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided - visitors can now explore ongoing and completed projects, success stories from municipalities, student dormitories, and public buildings, as well as insights on emerging trends like near - zero energy buildings and renewable district heating systems.

Click [here](#) to learn more about REEP



The **About Us** section presents the programme's mission, activities, instruments, and a step-by-step guide on how to apply

An interactive **Investments** section showcases funded projects, key results, and partnerships across the region



The **Newsroom** keeps visitors informed with the latest updates, success stories, and project highlights from across the Western Balkans

The **Library** serves as a digital hub for reports, publications, and policy documents available for download



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## €5.5 Million Boost for Energy-Efficient Student Dormitories

North Macedonia is stepping up its commitment to sustainable development with a new €5.5 million EU grant for the energy-efficient renovation of state student dormitories. The KfW-led project will enhance living and learning environments for thousands of students while reducing energy consumption by up to 50%.

Read the whole news [here](#).



€5.5 million  
for the second  
phase of this  
renovation project

Three state student dormitories will undergo deep energy-efficient renovation, targeting **30 – 50% energy savings** and improved living conditions for students.

## Energy Efficiency Upgrades of Hospitals and Schools in Montenegro

As Montenegro is preparing to launch first bids for a large - scale energy efficiency overhaul of 24 educational buildings and three major hospitals, we invite you to watch the video highlighting the project scope and its benefits. These investments will be financed with two EBRD loans totalling €32 million and a €6 million investment grant from the European Union channelled through REEP. Watch the video [here](#)



## EU Delegation Visits Reconstructed Student City Dormitory in Tirana

On 17 September 2025, a high-level EU delegation visited Student City I in Tirana to see first-hand the results of the recently completed reconstruction of the first five dormitories, financed through a KfW loan and an EU grant under the REEP. Guided by Mr. Ardian Islami, Director of the Project Implementation Unit, the delegation toured both an existing dormitory to observe conditions prior to renovation and a newly rehabilitated building, including its improved outdoor landscape.

The 30-member delegation included Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Court of Auditors and the European Council, as well as advisors, staff, and translators.

Participants also included representatives from the EU Delegation to Albania, KfW Office Albania, and the German Embassy in Tirana, highlighting the strong cooperation between European and German partners in supporting Albania's sustainable development. This visit underscored the tangible benefits of EU and KfW support, improving living conditions for students while promoting energy efficiency and modern infrastructure in Albania.



High-level EU delegation visited Student City I in Tirana to witness the impact of EU and KfW support in improving student living conditions and promoting energy efficiency



## €4.8 Million for Energy - Efficient School Upgrades in Northern Montenegro

Montenegro is investing in the future of its students with the start of energy-efficient reconstruction of primary schools in Berane and Bijelo Polje. Backed by EU grants and KfW financing, the €4.8 million project will modernize school facilities with new insulation, LED lighting, eco - friendly heating, and fully renovated bathrooms - creating safer, greener, and more comfortable learning spaces. Read the whole news [here](#).

Three Schools to Be  
Renovated Within Five  
Months



€4.8m

Million to Boost Energy  
Efficiency in Elementary  
Schools



Upgrades will include new  
roofs, insulation, modern  
LED lighting, renovated  
bathrooms, and a switch  
from oil - based heating to  
environmentally friendly  
pellet systems



From Concept to Reality:  
Montenegro and the  
Region Step Toward a  
Greener Future

## Building a Greener Future: Podgorica Hosts Regional NZEB Workshop

Montenegro took a major step toward a sustainable energy future as Podgorica hosted a regional workshop on Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standards. Government officials, EU partners, and experts from KfW and Fraunhofer IBP gathered to share innovative projects and best practices that will shape the next generation of energy-efficient buildings across the Western Balkans. From pilot dormitories to zero - emission designs, the event showcased how smart building solutions can cut costs, reduce emissions, and improve quality of life.

[Read more about it here.](#)



"With the support of our  
European partners, we are  
actively working to establish a  
national standard for nearly zero  
energy buildings"

**Admir Šahmanović, Minister of Energy  
and Mining of Montenegro**



Montenegro's First NZEB  
Pilot Project Begins in  
Cetinje



Supported under the Regional  
Energy Efficiency Programme  
(REEP), financed through the  
Western Balkans Investment  
Framework (WBIF)



## Policy Dialogue

The REEP Policy Dialogue Window provides targeted support for policy reforms across the Western Balkans, helping beneficiaries to overcome market barriers, foster long - term sustainable growth and achieve decarbonisation targets.

Activities are carried out in close cooperation with beneficiaries, the EU, and the Energy Community Secretariat, and aligned with priorities like Reform Agendas under the EU Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

### Montenegro launches Energy Performance Certificate scheme and robust independent Quality Control System

Montenegro has launched a new Energy Performance Certification (EPC) system for buildings, creating a structured framework for assessing and reporting building energy performance in line with European standards. Supported by the EBRD under the REEP Policy Dialogue window, the country has established an independent three-level quality control process: automated checks of all EPCs, technical reviews of samples of certificates, and on-site inspections for an additional sample, comparing reported data with actual building conditions. The system ensures EPCs are accurate, transparent, and reliable. By early 2026, Montenegro aims for a fully operational EPC framework, supporting better policy decisions, reducing energy costs for households, and helping the country meet its climate targets.



**Investment:  
€25 billion  
decarbonisation  
plan**

**Buildings:  
580,000+  
zero-emission  
buildings  
targeted**

**Jobs:  
30,000+  
new jobs  
to be created**



### Albania sets ambitious path to decarbonize buildings by 2050

Albania has unveiled an ambitious plan to fully decarbonize its buildings sector by 2050, aligning with European climate directives. Supported by the EBRD through a REEP funded technical assistance project between September 2024 and July 2025, the country developed a new Long Term Building Renovation Plan, which sets out a clear roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and modernize residential, public, and commercial buildings. The Plan targets energy - inefficient buildings, particularly those constructed before 1990, with measures such as deep energy efficiency upgrades and zero-emission solutions. The estimated €25 billion investment initiative aims to renovate or build over 580,000 zero - emission buildings, reduce the nation's energy use and imports, create more than 30,000 jobs, and deliver improved comfort and lower energy bills for residents. The Albanian government aims to formally adopt the Plan by the end of 2025, with implementation actions set to begin in early 2026.





## Success stories

### Pioneering Structural Strengthening at Kuzman Student Dormitory

The Energy Efficient Rehabilitation of Student Dormitories Project in the Republic of North Macedonia marks a major advancement in public infrastructure, with the Kuzman Student Dormitory.

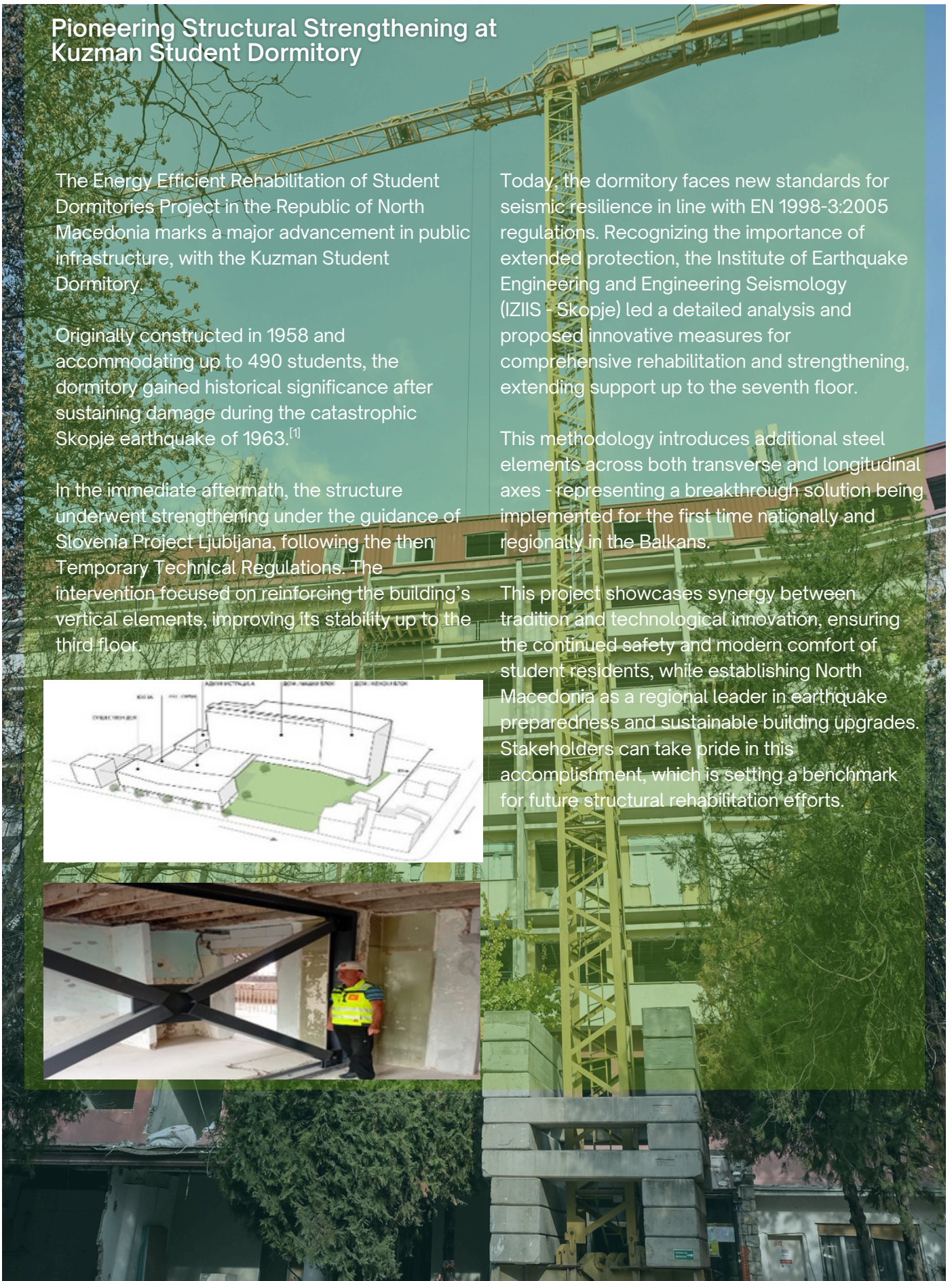
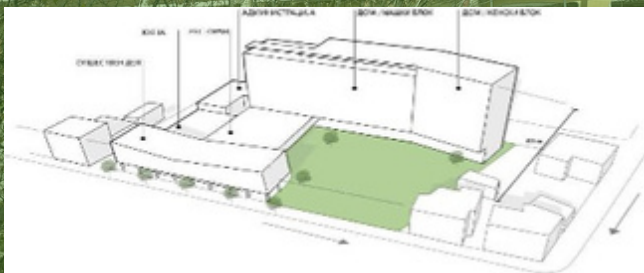
Originally constructed in 1958 and accommodating up to 490 students, the dormitory gained historical significance after sustaining damage during the catastrophic Skopje earthquake of 1963.<sup>[1]</sup>

In the immediate aftermath, the structure underwent strengthening under the guidance of Slovenia Project Ljubljana, following the then Temporary Technical Regulations. The intervention focused on reinforcing the building's vertical elements, improving its stability up to the third floor.

Today, the dormitory faces new standards for seismic resilience in line with EN 1998-3:2005 regulations. Recognizing the importance of extended protection, the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS - Skopje) led a detailed analysis and proposed innovative measures for comprehensive rehabilitation and strengthening, extending support up to the seventh floor.

This methodology introduces additional steel elements across both transverse and longitudinal axes - representing a breakthrough solution being implemented for the first time nationally and regionally in the Balkans.

This project showcases synergy between tradition and technological innovation, ensuring the continued safety and modern comfort of student residents, while establishing North Macedonia as a regional leader in earthquake preparedness and sustainable building upgrades. Stakeholders can take pride in this accomplishment, which is setting a benchmark for future structural rehabilitation efforts.





## Zenica hospital to undergo major energy - efficiency upgrade

The long-anticipated refurbishment of Zenica Cantonal Hospital is set to begin, following the signing of a works contract between Unioninvest d.d. Sarajevo and the hospital. The project will replace outdated coal - fired heating systems with modern gas boilers, significantly reducing air pollution in Zenica, one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's most affected urban areas.

The €11 million investment, supported by a €10 million EBRD loan and a €1 million EU grant under the REEP, will cut energy use by over 60% and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 80%. Built in 1959, the hospital has never undergone major refurbishment. The works will include insulation, new windows and doors, efficient heating and cooling systems, and a new 2,800 m<sup>2</sup> extension.

€11 Million Investment to Modernise Zenica Cantonal Hospital with EU and EBRD Support

Zenica Cantonal Hospital to Cut Energy Use by Over 60% and CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by Up to 80%

## EBRD and EU support energy - efficiency improvements in Tuzla

Following the success of the refurbishment of public buildings in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina's largest canton Tuzla is joining the renovation wave as well. The investment, which includes an €8 million EBRD loan and a €2 million investment grant from the EU/REEP, will finance refurbishment and energy-efficiency measures for up to 173 buildings, including schools, health centres, administrative buildings and sports halls. Thanks to the project, the energy and maintenance costs of these buildings will be lowered, leading to significant energy savings. By reducing demand for fossil fuels as an energy source and replacing heavily polluting sources (such as coal) where possible with more sustainable energy sources (such as biomass), the project will also lead to a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Read more about it [here](#).





## Interview section



**Matteo Colangeli**

Regional Director for  
Western Balkans at the  
European Bank for  
Reconstruction and  
Development (EBRD)

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With sustained reforms, strong partnerships, and the effective use of instruments such as REEP, the region is well positioned to advance towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

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## Interview with Matteo Colangeli for REEP newsletter Scaling Green Investments in the Western Balkans

**How would you describe the EBRD's overall strategy for green investments in the Western Balkans?**

“The economies of the Western Balkans are highly energy intensive and face a substantial infrastructure gap relative to EU standards, particularly environmental ones. Our strategy is three -fold. Firstly, we help countries create enabling regulations for green investments and renewable projects by working closely with governments and providing technical assistance to implement the reforms needed to scale up investments. For example, we are providing comprehensive support to Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia to design and conduct auctions which mobilise private investments in solar and wind projects and deliver competitively priced green power for their economies. Secondly, we finance landmark green infrastructure, including through PPPs like the Vinca waste to energy project in Serbia. We often work through multi - city programmes to tackle nationwide the renovation of the building stock, as well as the greening of district heating systems, and the upgrade of waste management facilities. Finally, we engage with the private sector to green the real economy, by financing corporates committed to raising the resource efficiency of their operations, and especially by partnering with local banks to strengthen access to finance for SMEs and households and enable them to invest in the green transition. Partnering with donors, and the EU in particular, is crucial for the success of all aspects of our strategy.”

**How does EBRD collaborate with local institutions to implement REEP?**

“We have close partnerships across all countries of the region, both at national and local level. This is enabled primarily by our long established, substantial and growing presence in the region, with over 160 staff based in our network of offices, which makes it possible for us to engage in a broad spectrum of activities and, crucially, provide hands on preparation and implementation support to our partners. The area of buildings is certainly one where nurturing local partnerships enables us to deliver results under REEP, both with public sector counterparts and with the local banks through which we are implementing the Green Economy Financing Facility, a credit line supported by EU grants targeted primarily to households.”

**Looking ahead, what are EBRD's priorities for green investment in the Western Balkans?**

“Our focus is on accelerating the implementation of ongoing projects while scaling up and replicating successful models across the region. Renewable energy auctions and financing the projects that are awarded capacities under these competitive processes is certainly a core priority. We believe private capital should be mobilised for scaling up wind and solar generation, while the public sector should focus on strengthening grids and optimising the large hydro potential of the region. Another area of focus for us will remain energy efficiency, both in buildings and production processes. And, finally, we will continue to invest substantially in the environmental infrastructure which is not only important to sustainable economic development, particularly in countries where tourism is a major contributor to GDP, but also makes a difference for living standards. The economies of the Western Balkans have built strong momentum in their green transition. With sustained reforms, strong partnerships, and the effective use of instruments such as REEP, the region is well positioned to advance towards a more sustainable and resilient future.”



**The REEP Update** is a bi-annual newsletter covering the latest news and developments in relation to the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) in the Western Balkans. The newsletter is distributed to programme stakeholders, including donors, IFIs and implementing partners.

#### About REEP

Launched in 2013, the REEP was designed to assist the Western Balkan countries in decarbonizing their economies by promoting investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures across residential, public and private sectors. The programme combines a comprehensive package of financing from the EBRD, KfW, European Union and other donors.