



Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

The **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans** (EIP) is the long-term recovery plan of the region. It accelerates the twin green and digital transition, and fosters regional cooperation and convergence with the EU. The EIP identifies 10 investment flagships to support sustainable transport, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, human capital and private sector.

In the next six years the European Commission will mobilise close to **€30 billion**, one-third of the current GDP of the Western Balkans. **€9 billion** will come in the form of EU grants from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and this is expected to leverage more than **€20 billion** additional investments through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

The EIP is the main vehicle to implement the **Global Gateway** in the Western Balkans.

The **Western Balkans Investment Framework** (WBIF) is the main financial tool to implement the EIP's investment flagships. The EIP is also implemented via IPA bilateral funding to support national high priority projects.

The WBIF was established in 2009 as a joint financial platform of the European Commission, international financial institutions, EU Member States and Norway, and hence fully in line with the **Team Europe** approach. WBIF aims at enhancing cooperation in public and private sector investment for the socio-economic development of the region, accelerating the European perspective for the Western Balkans.

#TeamEurope

Achieved results 2009 – 2022

- 10 km of railway lines rehabilitated
- Improved water and sanitation services for 70,000 people
- Efficient solid waste services for 186,000 people
- Flood forecasting and warning system for 192,000 people in the Sava River Basin

Expected results 2023 – 2030

- 183 km of railway lines rehabilitated
- 230 km of electricity transmission lines upgraded
- Improved water and sanitation services for 400,000 people
- 71,900 people with broadband access in rural areas

Public sector

€219.4m
WBIF grant

€1.9bn
estimated investment

€529m
regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects

€605.1m
IPA bilateral funding

All figures since inception

Private sector

€301m
estimated financing for SMEs
(incl. EDIF, EFSE, GGF, REEP)

€408m
regional guarantee coverage to support access to finance for SMEs

All figures since inception



"As a financial blending instrument and the main driver for implementing the European Investment Plan, the WBIF is offering favourable conditions when it comes to implementing the European Green Deal and the Connectivity Agenda in order to link Montenegro to TEN-T and TEN-E corridors."

Ambassador Oana-Cristina Popa
Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro

Implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

Flagship 2
Connecting North to South
The Rail Route 4 will be fully rehabilitated. The Sarajevo to Podgorica connection will be enhanced.

Flagship 3
Connecting the coastal region
The Rail Route 2 will be enhanced. Steps will be taken to complete the Blue Highway down to Greece.

Flagship 4
Renewable energy
The Piva Hydro Power System will be expanded with the start of the construction of the Komarnica Hydro Power Plant.

Flagship 7
Waste and waste water management
Integrated regional waste management systems will be established, and water supply and waste water facilities built.

Flagship 8
Digital infrastructure
The roll-out of national broadband infrastructure will continue – with the completion of first projects by 2024.

Flagship 9
Competitiveness of the private sector
Increase of grant amount and guarantee capacity for the private sector, and assistance for rural development.

WBIF project examples



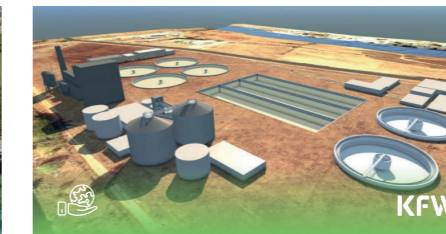
Flagship 2
Connecting North to South

Montenegro – Serbia Rail Interconnection: Bar – Vrbnica Section

€20.5m
WBIF EU grant

€41.1m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2025**



Flagship 7
Waste and waste water management

Podgorica Waste Water Treatment Plant

€33.8m
WBIF EU and Bilateral Donors grant

€76.6m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2025**



Human capital development

Education Infrastructure Improvement

€11.4m
WBIF Bilateral Donors and EU grant

€64.3m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2026**

€1 billion Energy Support Package

The package addresses immediate, short- and medium-term needs in the Western Balkans to accelerate decarbonisation, and improve the energy security of the region.

The European Commission will provide up to **€500m** in immediate budget support to mitigate the impact of high energy prices for small and medium-sized enterprises, keep energy prices affordable for vulnerable households and support policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

An additional €500m is channelled through the WBIF for the priority infrastructure projects, the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme and guarantees to crowd-in private investments in clean energy.

€30m
in budget support to Montenegro