Clean energy

March 2024

The transition to sustainable and clean energy is key for the region's future. A strong emphasis is placed on integrating energy markets, smart grids and increased digitalisation of the system, energy efficiency, including modernisation of district heating, energy security and ensuring a just transition. Decarbonisation and the increased use of renewable energy sources is a key pillar of the Economic Investment Plan in line with the aims of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

2009 - 2023

€643.2m
WBIF grant

€6.8bn
estimated investment

up to €419m
guarantee coverage

up to €22.2m
EU technical assistance grant for guarantees

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027

Flagship 4 - Renewable energy
Flagship 5 - Transition from coal
Flagship 6 - Renovation wave

Energy Support Package for the Western Balkans

The European Commission, in 2022, put forward a €1 billion EU Energy Support Package for the Western Balkans to address immediate and medium-longer term consequences of the energy crisis in the region.

EIP flagship investments 2020-2023

21 flagships endorsed

€386.7m WBIF EU and bilateral donor grant

€1.8bn estimated investment

Expected results of flagship investments

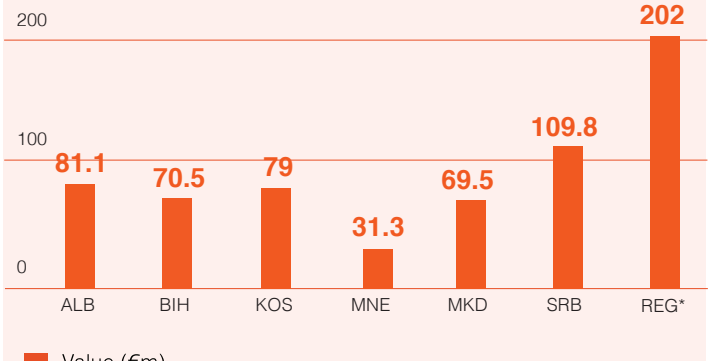
1,937 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed

2,252 GWh/y energy saved

123 km of transmission lines built

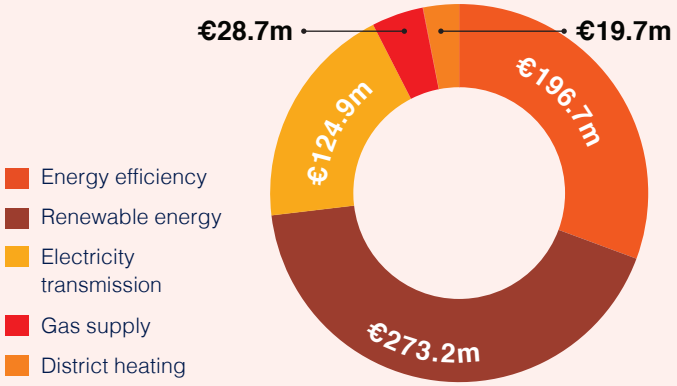
WBIF grants approved by beneficiary

2009-2023



WBIF grants approved by subsector

2009-2023



Co-funded by the European Union

Western Balkans Investment Framework WBIF
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER
BLENDING PUBLIC PRIVATE GUARANTEES

Flagship investments examples

March 2024

Flagship 4

Renewable energy

Kosovo*

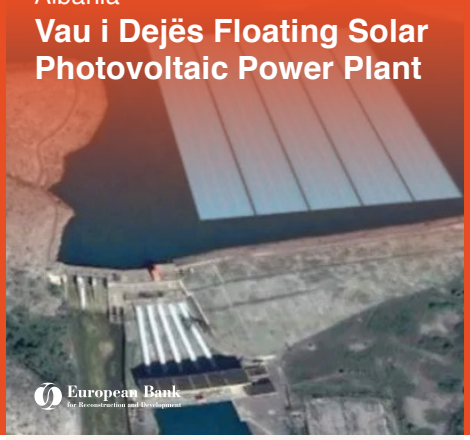
Solar4Kosovo - Photovoltaic Plant

The electricity sector in Kosovo is almost entirely dependent on coal-fired power plants (97%). This investment project will install a solar photovoltaic plant of up to 100 MW capacity on former ash dump fields near 'Kosovo A' thermal power plant. This first large-scale solar photovoltaic plant in Kosovo will increase installed capacities tenfold from 10.1 MW to 110.1 MW. As a result, the share of solar power in the energy mix of Kosovo will increase from 0.2% to 2.3%. The plant is expected to produce around 152 GWh of electricity and save 152,000 tonnes of CO_2 annually.

WBIF EU grant	€32.8m
KfW loan	€29m
EIB loan	€32.7m
Beneficiary contribution	€10m
Estimated investment	€104.5m
Expected completion	2027

Albania

Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

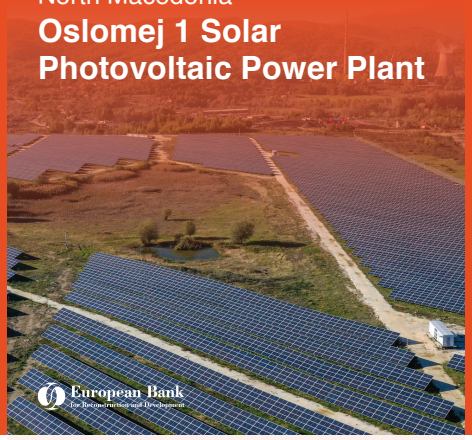


This investment project will install a 12.9 MW floating solar photovoltaic power plant at Vau i Dejës, a reservoir hosting one of Albania's largest hydropower plants. This will be the first medium-sized hybrid floating solar and hydropower plant and the first application of pure-floats technology in the Western Balkans. The investments are expected to have a significant demonstration effect and be easily replicated on other reservoirs in Albania and the wider region. The plant is expected to produce over 18 GWh of electricity and displace 8,700 tonnes of CO_2 annually.

WBIF bilateral donor grant	€2.7m
EBRD loan	€7.5m
Beneficiary contribution	€1.9m
Estimated investment	€12.1m
Expected completion	2025

North Macedonia

Oslomej 1 Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant



The energy sector of North Macedonia relies predominantly on fossil fuels and hydropower and is dependent on electricity imports. This investment project has installed a 10 MW solar power plant on the site of an exhausted coal mine in Oslomej. The plant is expected to produce nearly 15 GWh of electricity, equivalent to the energy demand of 2,800 households, and displace 12,177 tonnes of CO_2 annually. The Oslomej 1 photovoltaic power plant is part of the country's effort to clean up the site, diversify energy sources and support decarbonisation.

WBIF bilateral donor grant	€1.6m
EBRD loan	€5.9m
Beneficiary contribution	€1.4m
Estimated investment	€8.9m
Completed	2022

*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.