

Human capital



March 2024

The Economic and Investment Plan recognises the importance of education and skills, health and social protection to unleash economic growth. Alongside efforts on poverty reduction, social inclusion and strengthening social safety nets, accompanying infrastructure measures include social housing, education, health and judicial facilities. A key area of intervention is digitalisation in the fields of education and health.

2009 - 2023

WBIF grant

€118.4m

Estimated investment

€2.2bn

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027

Flagship 10
Youth guarantee



European Pillar of Social Rights

The European Pillar of Social Rights supports fair and well-functioning labour markets. It promotes equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion.

EIP flagship investments 2020-2023

3 flagships endorsed

€69.1m WBIF EU and bilateral donor grant

€398m estimated investment

Expected results of flagship investments



Better schools for 10,000 students/year in Montenegro



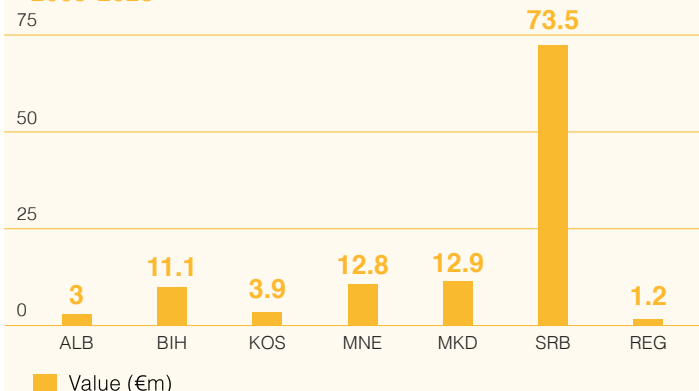
Higher education and research facilities for 15,000 students/year in Serbia



Healthcare and treatment facilities for 18,590 patients/year at the University Children's Hospital in Belgrade

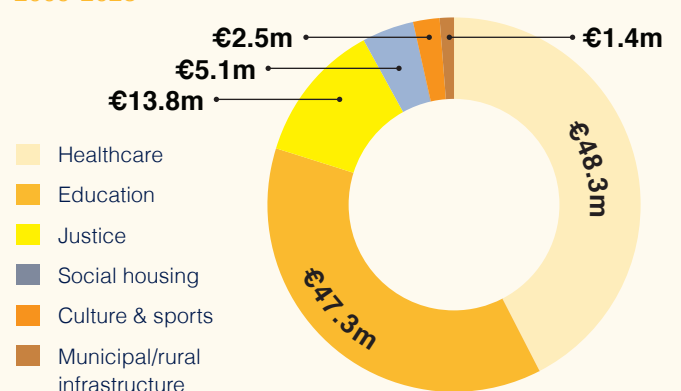
WBIF grants approved by beneficiary

2009-2023



WBIF grants approved by subsector

2009-2023



Flagship investments examples

March 2024

Human capital development

Serbia Improving Energy Efficiency and Integrated Energy Management of the Technical Faculties Campus in Belgrade



The University of Belgrade is creating an energy-efficient campus for its electrical engineering and technical faculties. Currently, the university is faced with limited physical space, safety concerns, and outdated infrastructure. This investment will ensure the construction of a new 30,000m² university centre and the renovation of existing buildings spanning 93,000m². It will benefit approximately 15,000 students and 1,750 staff members. The investment also covers the expansion of public spaces, improved safety standards, and increased energy efficiency, in line with the Economic and Investment Plan.

WBIF EU grant	€22.1m
CEB loan	€95m
Beneficiary contribution	€52.5m
Estimated investment	€169.6m
Expected completion	2027

Serbia University Children's Hospital Tiršova 2



The University Children's Hospital is a leading paediatric health centre in Serbia. For more than 85 years, it has provided top-quality care for over 14,500 children a year. This investment project will construct a new building for the hospital to increase its capacity by 30% and bring new diagnostic and treatment technologies, robotic surgery facilities, more sophisticated patient monitoring and new fields of therapeutic diagnosis. The new hospital will provide healthcare services in line with European standards.

WBIF EU grant	€36.2m
CEB loan/grant	€54m/€0.3m
Beneficiary contribution	€73.6m
Estimated investment	€164.1m
Expected completion	2027

Montenegro Education Infrastructure Improvement



This project contributes to upgrading the pre-university school system in Montenegro by constructing, renovating, and equipping education facilities and kindergartens across the country. The focus is on increasing the country's schooling capacity by creating 2,100 places and around 530 new full-time jobs, mostly for teachers. By 2026, 10,000 students per year will benefit from innovative learning environments due to these investments.

WBIF bilateral donor and EU grant	€11.4m
EIB loan /EIB grant	€18m/€2.5m
Beneficiary contribution	€32.4m
Estimated investment	€64.3m
Expected completion	2027