



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

843 km of local and regional roads upgraded

11 km of railway lines rehabilitated

Improved water and sanitation services for over 280,000 people

Better schools for 18,500 students/year

Expected results 2023 – 2031

713 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed

185 km of railway lines rehabilitated

Improved water and sanitation services for over 975,000 people

627 schools equipped with smart labs for 198,000 students/year

Public sector

€355.6m
WBIF grant

€3.2bn
estimated investment

€529m
regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects

€1.5bn
IPA bilateral funding
All figures since inception

Private sector

€222m
estimated financing for SMEs
(incl. EDIF, EFSE, GGF, REEP)

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

All figures since inception



"Connecting people and improving their living standards is at the heart of WBIF investments. While Albania goes through its necessary reform process to prepare for EU membership, the WBIF brings immediate and concrete benefits to people and shows that the EU is here."

Ambassador Christine Hohmann
Head of EU Delegation to Albania

Implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

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

Flagship 4
Renewable energy
The Fierza Hydro Power Plant will be rehabilitated and the Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant will be built.

Flagship 5
Transition from coal
As part of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline, the construction of the Fier - Vora gas pipeline will be completed, and the Ionian Adriatic Pipeline will be prioritised.

Flagship 7
Waste and waste water management
Integrated regional waste management systems will be established, and non-compliant landfills will be closed.

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

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



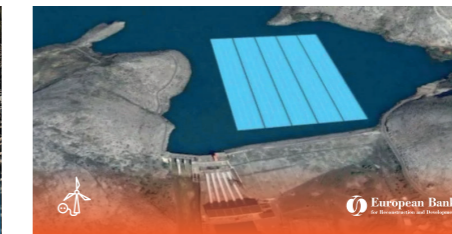
Flagship 3
Connecting the coastal regions

Albania – Montenegro Rail Interconnection: Vorë – Hani i Hotit Section

€142.5m
WBIF EU grant

€271.6m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2028**



Flagship 4
Renewable energy

Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

€2.7m
WBIF Bilateral Donors grant

€12m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2026**



Flagship 8
Digital infrastructure

Smart Labs - Network of ICT Laboratories for the Pre-university Education System

€10.5m
WBIF EU grant

€34m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2025**

€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.

€80m
in budget support to Albania

