



Sustainable transport



February 2023

Fast and efficient transport links with the EU



The Western Balkans transport network remains fragmented and a considerable part of the region's roads, railways and waterways still require construction, rehabilitation and upgrading. The Western Balkans economies have set interconnectivity with the Trans-European Transport Network (EU TEN-T Core Network), implementation of EU technical standards and reforms, as well as the promotion of multimodal transport solutions as priorities for their transport sector. Investments in sustainable transport modes are considered crucial for stimulating regional trade and delivering sustainable economic growth.

2009 - 2023

WBIF grant

€2bn

Estimated investment

€13.4bn

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027

- Flagship 1 - Connecting East to West
- Flagship 2 - Connecting North to South
- Flagship 3 - Connecting the coastal regions



Trans-European Transport Network

TEN-T addresses the development of a Europe-wide network of railways, roads, waterways, maritime routes, ports and airports. Extending the core network corridors to the Western Balkans ensures closer integration with the EU as well as the basis for leveraging investment in infrastructure.

Achieved results (2009 - 2022)



843 km of local and regional roads upgraded



167 km of motorways and 2 cross-border bridges with border crossing facilities built



163 km of railway lines rehabilitated

Expected results (2023 - 2030)



500 km of motorways built

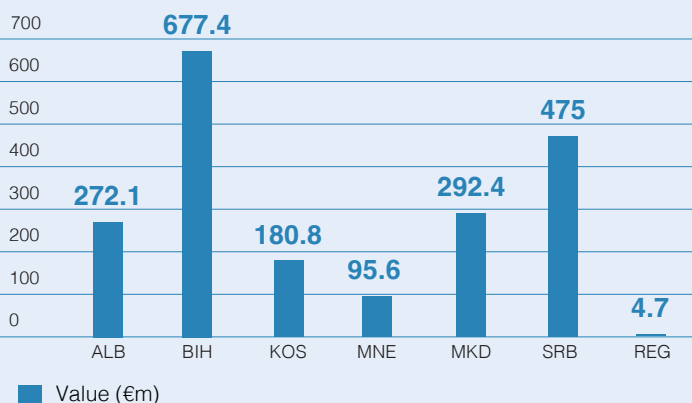


1,457 km of railway lines rehabilitated

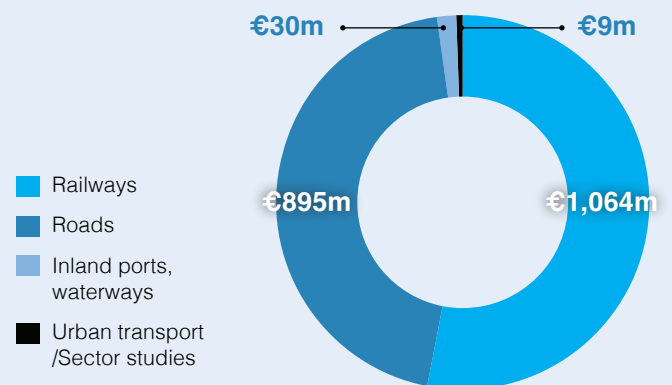


2 inland ports and 45 km of waterways upgraded

WBIF grants approved by beneficiary



WBIF grants approved by subsector





Flagship investments examples

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Flagship 1 Connecting East to West

Serbia Rhine-Danube Corridor: Removal of Sunken WWII German Vessels from the Danube



The Danube is navigable throughout Serbia (588 km). Still, at the Djerdap gorge, downstream from the Port of Prahovo, the fairway narrows significantly due to the presence of shipwrecks sunk at the end of World War II. Through this project, **21 shipwrecks will be removed from the Danube, eliminating the current 5 km-long traffic bottleneck.** This investment will facilitate the shift from road to waterway transport, support economic growth, enhance connectivity both in the region and with the EU, and strengthen regional cooperation.

WBIF EU grant	€16.4m
EIB loan	€13.3m
Estimated investment	€29.7m
Expected completion	2028

Flagship 2 Connecting North to South

Bosnia and Herzegovina Corridor Vc: Svilaj – Odžak Motorway Section and Svilaj Bridge



Corridor Vc is part of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Core Network to the Western Balkans and connects Bosnia and Herzegovina to Hungary, Croatia and the Adriatic Sea. The longest section of the corridor lies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the country has embarked on a multi-billion motorway construction programme. This investment project **built the northernmost 10.7 km-long motorway section from Odžak to Svilaj, a cross-border bridge over the Sava into Croatia, and state-of-the-art border crossing facilities.**

WBIF EU grant	€22.9m
EIB loan	€11.3m
EBRD loan	€10.3m
Beneficiary contribution	€48.3m
Estimated investment	€92.8m
Completion	2021

Flagship 3 Connecting the coastal regions

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



This investment project will **rehabilitate 120 km of railway line and 12 stations for traffic speed of up to 120 km/h, including new signaling systems and safety improvements, from Vorë to the border with Montenegro.** This railway line is part of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Core Network to the Western Balkans. It is Albania's international railway link to regional and EU railway networks. The new line will improve market access and substantially increase freight and passenger traffic towards ports, terminals, cities and airports by rail.

WBIF EU grant	€142.5m
EBRD loan (est.)	€62.9m
EIB loan (est.)	€62.9m
Beneficiary contribution	€3.3m
Estimated investment	€271.6m
Expected completion	2028