



Sector summary

Social policy development and social reform are priorities in the region. Efforts focus on education, health and pension systems, poverty reduction, social inclusion, and improvements to the social safety net. Accompanying infrastructure measures include the construction and modernisation of social housing, education, health, and judicial facilities.

Progress in this sector is a vital component of the Western Balkans' efforts to align with the Europe 2020 strategy, particularly through the SEE 2020 strategy. This Strategy reflects the determination of South East European governments to embrace the policies required to attain the levels of socio-economic growth necessary to ensure its citizens' prosperity and facilitate integration with the EU.

Social sector accounts for 17% of the WBIF grants approved to date. These comprise preparatory work, co-financing of investments, and strategic studies for the construction and modernisation of educational, research and cultural establishments, health and judiciary facilities, as well as social housing and municipal and rural infrastructure. The WBIF liaises closely with the Regional Cooperation Council regarding social sector objectives.

Projects: 24

Estimated investments: €3.2bn

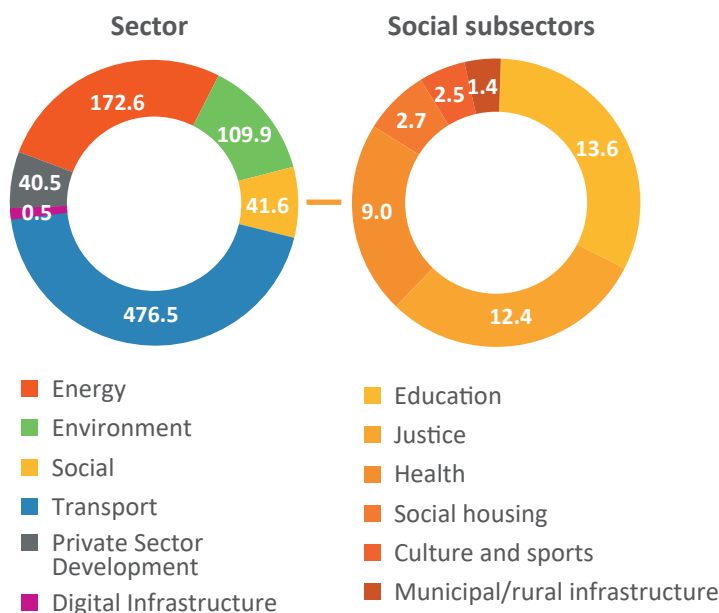
WBIF grants: €41.6m

Projects with loans signed: 18 / €1.2bn

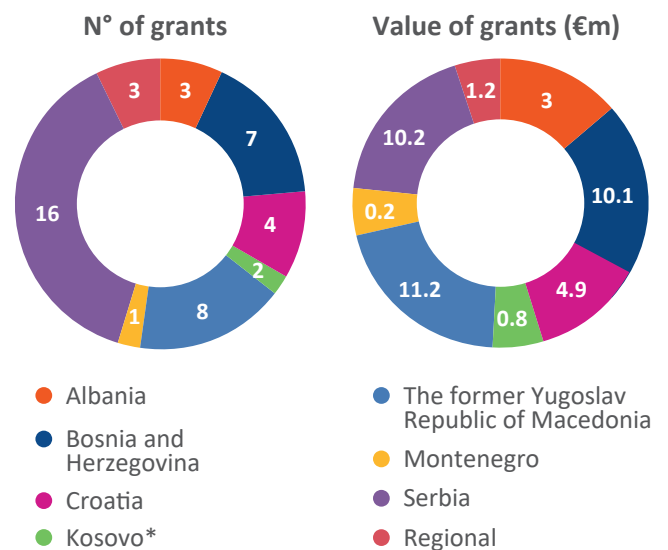
Estimated impact

- 4,600,000 people benefiting from state-of-the-art healthcare services;
- 180 pre-university educational facilities;
- 21 higher education and research facilities;
- 1 cultural and sports centre;
- 2,900 social housing households;
- 4,900 inmates housed in prison facilities compliant with the European Prison Rules.

WBIF GRANTS BY SECTOR (€m)



WBIF GRANTS BY BENEFICIARY (Social sector)



Data as of November 2018

* 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.



PROJECT EXAMPLES

Banja Luka Medical Faculty, Centre for Education and Research, Faculty of Healthcare and Secondary Medical School in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The University Hospital Clinical Centre Paprikovac has been operating since the early 1980s and, notwithstanding limited resources, it has become a well-respected institution in the region. Under this project, the Clinical Centre is extended to a medical campus, which will include a new Medical Faculty, education and research facilities, and training facilities for nurses. It will lead to the development of a competitive medical research centre and is expected to attain regional and international recognition for the Medical Faculty in Banja Luka.

Selected results and benefits

- Medical Campus including Medical Faculty, Centre of Education and Research, Secondary Medical School and Faculty of Healthcare;
- 3,500 students benefiting from new educational facilities;
- Higher quality and safer healthcare services;
- Better working conditions for healthcare professionals and employees.

Estimated total investment:	€286.3m
WBIF grants:	€1.7m
Signed loan (EIB):	€100m
Beneficiary contribution:	€20m
Other sources:	€164.6m



Modernisation of Pančevo and Kragujevac Prison Facilities in Serbia

The Serbian penal system includes 29 prisons holding over 8,500 prisoners and faces many problems after years of underinvestment and outdated legislation. As part of a comprehensive programme aimed at upgrading judiciary facilities, this project concerns the construction and equipping of two new prison facilities. These will be built as per the European Prison Rules and thus provide better accommodation facilities with two inmates per cell and space for socialising, eliminate conditions infringing on prisoners' human rights, and allow prisoners to engage in lucrative activities and vocational training. The project is now in construction stage, with Pančevo having been commissioned in October 2018.

Selected results and benefits

- New facility in Pančevo for 500 adult males (200 pre-trial detainees and 300 convicts);
- New facility in Kragujevac for 400 inmates and a secure protected witness unit for about 20 persons;
- Prison facilities fully compliant with the European Prison Rules.

Estimated total investment:	€65.3m
WBIF grants:	€2.9m
Signed loans (CEB):	€35m
Beneficiary contribution:	€27.4m

