



Kosovo* and the Western Balkans Investment Framework

What is the Western Balkans Investment Framework?

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is a financing facility launched in December 2009 by the European Commission, together with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), Bilateral Donors, and Western Balkans countries with the purpose to deliver funding for strategic investment projects in beneficiary countries. Eligible sectors include infrastructure development within the energy, environment, social, transport, private sector development and, since December 2017, digital infrastructure.

The KfW, the World Bank Group and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) subsequently joined the Framework. In December 2018, the AFD became a participating organisation in the WBIF.

The Western Balkans Investment Framework in Kosovo

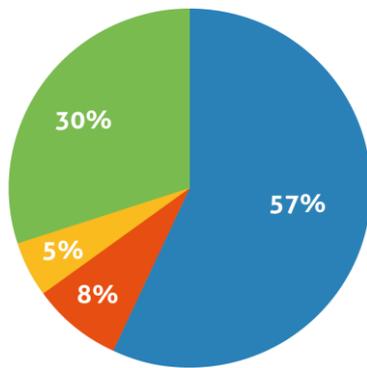
The WBIF has supported **20 projects** with an estimated value of **€940 million** in Kosovo. The country has benefited from **32 grants** for technical assistance and investment works with an overall value of **€111.2 million**, out of which **€100.2 million from the EU and €11.0 million from other donors**. The WBIF financial institutions have extended a further **€232 million in loans signed** on 10 projects.

The investments comprise key infrastructure projects in several sectors, such as:

- Rail and road transport;
- Energy efficiency and district heating;
- Water and wastewater systems;
- Flood protection and water resources conservation;
- Waste management;
- Education and healthcare.

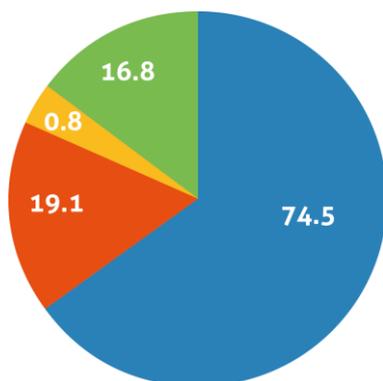
Estimated project value:

- €940 million



WBIF grants:

- €111.2 million



Signed loans:

- €232 million



Hani i Elezit station at the border with North Macedonia, (c) Infracos, one of the 13 railway stations and stops and 64 km of track that will be rehabilitated through the WBIF. The project has benefited from €39.8 million in EU grant support via WBIF, including a €38.5 million investment grant under the Connectivity Agenda in 2015, and a further €3.2 million from the bilateral donors.

* 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.

Achieved results (selection):

- 32 public buildings retrofitted energetically and more than 100 MWh/year in energy savings;
- District heating system rehabilitated in Pristina for 13,500 customers;
- Improved water supply services for 500,000 people.

Expected results (selection):

- 55 km of new highspeed roads;
- 190 km of railway lines rehabilitated;
- 55 buildings retrofitted energetically and more than 780 MWh/year in energy savings;
- Water/wastewater systems for more than 600,000 people;
- More than 120,000 people protected from floods;
- 14 secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities upgraded to state-of-the-art equipment.

Kosovo



Shkabaj Water Treatment Plant, © EU. The WBIF contributed, with an EU grant, to the preparation of the feasibility study for water supply for more than 500,000 in Pristina and adjacent municipalities. The new water supply systems also received a €4.9 million EU grant (National IPA) to partially defray the construction costs. All construction works are completed; taking-over of works took place in March and May 2017, followed by a 12-months defect notification period.

The WBIF has thus been instrumental in effecting key improvements in the everyday lives of the citizens in Kosovo by:

- creating key road and rail transport links with neighbouring countries;
- implementing energy efficiency measures in public buildings throughout the country;
- rehabilitating the district heating system in Pristina;
- ensuring access to efficient water and wastewater services;
- improving flood protection and mitigation measures;
- upgrading healthcare infrastructure.

In addition, Kosovo has benefited from regional projects and multi-country initiatives funded by the WBIF, such as the [Regional Energy Efficiency Programmes for the Western Balkans](#) (REEP and REEP Plus) and the [Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility](#) (WB EDIF).



Kosovo Education Improvement Project. A €0.5 million grant was provided by the WBIF from the bilateral donors' contributions to the Joint Fund to assist the ministry in charge address immediate needs in the pre-university education system through a sector-wide assessment of the existing situation.