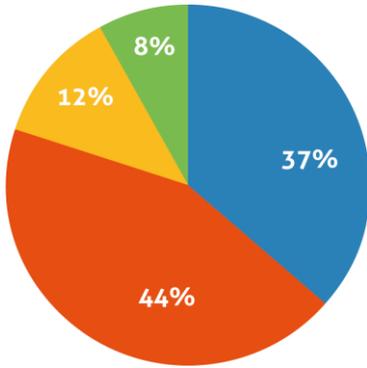




# North Macedonia and the Western Balkans Investment Framework

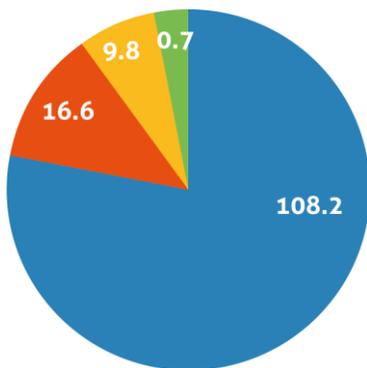
## Estimated project value:

- €1.9 billion



## WBIF grants:

- €135.3 million



- Transport
- Energy
- Environment
- Social

## Signed loans:

- €459 million

## 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 North Macedonia

The WBIF has supported **18 projects** with an estimated value of **€1.9 billion** in North Macedonia. The county has benefited from **31 grants** for technical assistance and investment works with an overall value of **€135.3 million**, out of which **€117.3 million from the EU and €18 million from other donors**. The WBIF financial institutions have extended a further **€459 million in loans signed** on 9 projects.

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

- Rail and road transport;
- Electricity transmission and renewables;
- Water and wastewater systems;
- Schools, healthcare and prison facilities.



Bogdanci Windpark, © ELEM. The WBIF has provided a €400,000 EU grant for feasibility study and impact assessment. The first phase of the project is already in operation, 16 turbines of 36.8 MW, while the total capacity of the windfarm will be increased to 50 MW by the end of 2019.

North Macedonia

### Achieved results (selection):

- More than 36 MW in electricity generation capacity from renewables;
- Healthcare research and treatment facilities for 1.8 million people;
- Better schools for more than 78,000 pupils;
- New prison facilities in line with European standards for 750 detainees.

### Expected results (selection):

- 56 km of new highspeed roads;
- 80 km of railway lines rehabilitated;
- 165 km of transmission lines upgraded and secure power supply;
- More than 24 MW in electricity generation capacity from renewables;
- Water/wastewater systems for more than 600,000 people;
- Better schools for 90,000 pupils;
- New prison facilities in line with European standards for 2,100 detainees.



'25th May School' in Skopje rehabilitated with WBIF support, © EU. The WBIF has contributed €3 million in grants from the bilateral donors' contributions to the Joint Fund for the rehabilitation of ten primary and six secondary schools for more than 11,000 children and 700 teachers.

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

- piloting the first renewables scheme in the country;
- ensuring continuous and competitive energy supply for the people and businesses;
- creating key road and rail transport links with neighbouring countries;
- securing access to efficient water and wastewater services;
- providing better schools and healthcare facilities;
- upgrading the prison system.

In addition, North Macedonia 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).



Orient/East-Med Corridor: North Macedonia – Bulgaria CVIII Rail Interconnection, Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka, © EU. The project has benefited from €75.7 million in grants from the WBIF, including a €70 million EU investment grant under the Connectivity Agenda in 2017 for the rehabilitation of 34 km of railway line, bridges, tunnels and stations along the route.