Co-funded by the European Union

Western Balkans Investment Framework WBIF
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER
Global Gateway

2006-2026

November 2026

Private sector

A vibrant private sector is essential for socio-economic development, regional integration, competitiveness, and job creation. The WBIF supports start-ups and micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, fostering innovation and green growth through substantial investment. To unlock the sector's full potential, EU financing is made available through the WBIF Private Sector Blending Operations and EFSD+ Guarantees.

Private sector blending

€742.5 m
WBIF contribution to investments
of which:

€93.8 m
Technical assistance

€163.6 m
Investment grants

€485.1 m
Financial instruments

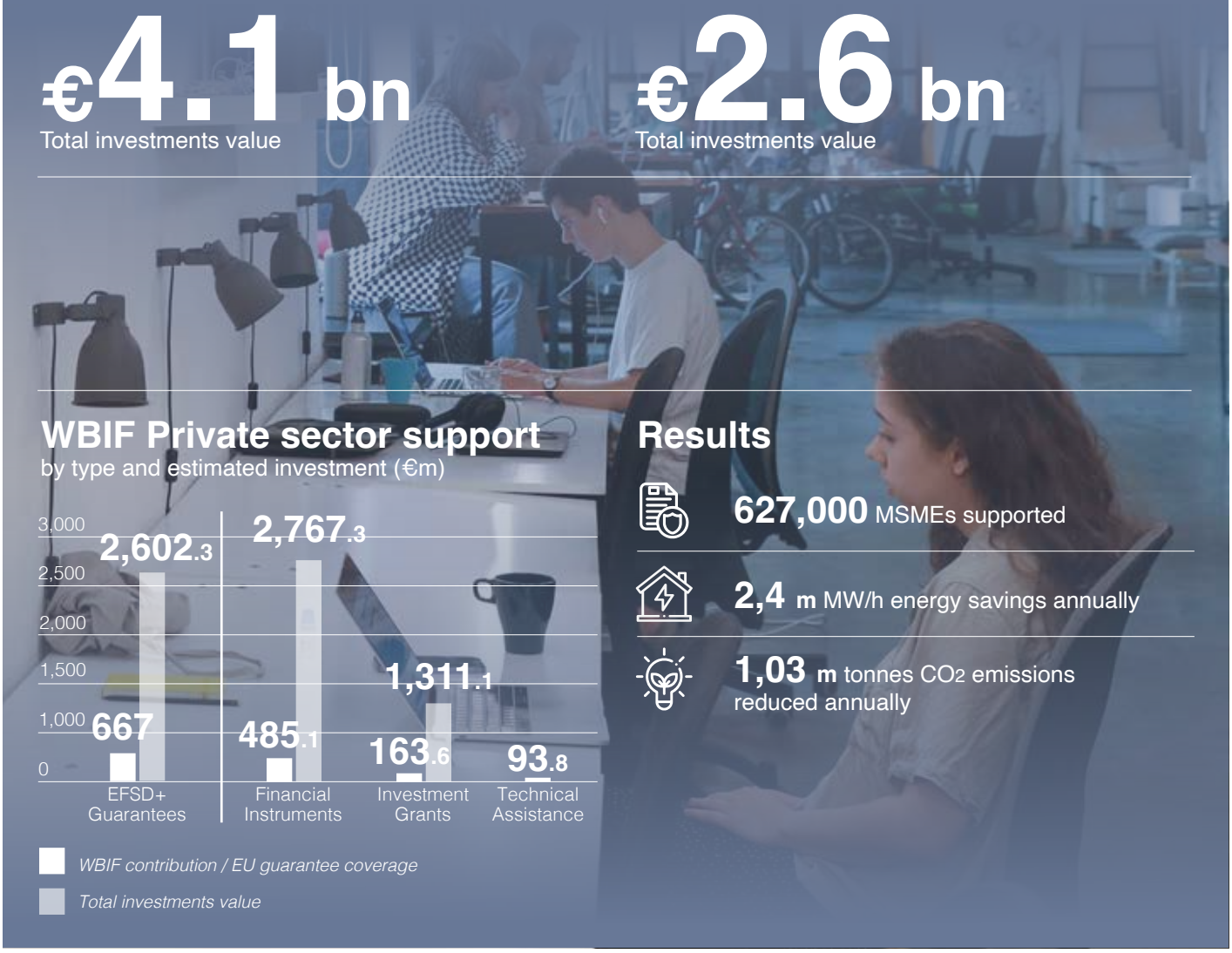
€4.1 bn
Total investments value

EFSD+ Guarantees

Up to **€667 m**
EU guarantee coverage
Accompanied by (up to):

€34.7 m
Technical assistance

€2.6 bn
Total investments value



WBIF Private sector support

by type and estimated investment (€m)

Results

627,000 MSMEs supported

2,4 m MW/h energy savings annually

1,03 m tonnes CO_2 emissions reduced annually

Photo: ICT Hub, Serbia

Highlighted projects



Go Digital in the Western Balkans

WBIF contribution €27.6 m
Total investment value €177.6 m

The Go Digital programme helps small and medium-sized businesses across the Western Balkans to digitalise, automate and become more competitive. At least half of the investments it supports are green, and at least 30% are directed to businesses outside the capital cities, supporting regional and rural development. The EBRD provides loans to businesses through local commercial banks for eligible investments.



Western Balkans Forward Program (WBFP)

WBIF contribution €10.5 m
Total investment value €63 m

The programme helps small and medium-sized businesses in manufacturing, agribusiness, health, life sciences and sustainable tourism to export more advanced products and services to the region and the EU. It combines financial support for new equipment with training and mentoring, helping businesses to invest, meet environmental and social standards, and improve their financial and sustainability reporting.



Green Finance for Inclusion

WBIF contribution €10.1 m
Total investment value €130.1 m

The programme helps underserved small businesses to invest, through local banks, in energy efficiency and measures to cope with climate change. These include reducing energy consumption, promoting renewable energy and improving the energy performance of buildings. The investments respond to the specific needs of each economy, helping the region move to cleaner, more sustainable production.



GGF: Promoting Green Lending in the Western Balkans (II)

WBIF contribution €24 m
Total investment value €231 m

This programme provides additional capital to the Green for Growth Fund, which has been financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by small businesses and households since 2009, through local banks and direct investments. The €20 million capital increase, accompanied by €4 million in technical assistance, will allow the fund to expand green lending across the region.