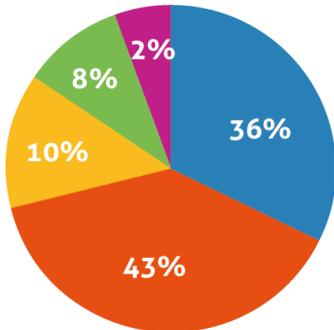




# North Macedonia and the Western Balkans Investment Framework

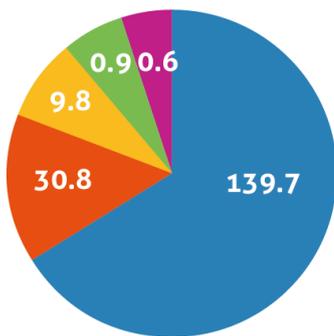
## Estimated project value:

- €2.1 billion



## WBIF grants:

- €181.8 million (€153.7m investment grants, €28.1m technical assistance)



- Transport
- Energy
- Environment
- Social
- Digital Infrastructure

## Signed loans:

- €580 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 beneficiaries with the purpose to deliver funding for strategic investment projects. The KfW and the World Bank Group subsequently joined the Framework. In December 2018, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) became a participating organisation in the WBIF.

The WBIF blends grants, loans and beneficiary contributions for infrastructure development in the energy, environment, social, transport and digital sectors as well as for private sector development.

## The Western Balkans Investment Framework in North Macedonia

The WBIF has supported **23 projects** with an estimated value of **€2.1 billion** in North Macedonia. The country has benefited from **37 grants** for technical assistance and investment works with an overall value of **€181.8 million**, out of which **€163.2 million from the EU** and **€18.6 million from other donors**. The WBIF financial institutions have extended a further **€580 million in loans signed** on 11 projects.

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

- Rail and road transport;
- Power generation for renewables;
- Electricity and gas transmission;
- Water and wastewater systems;
- Schools, healthcare and prison facilities;
- Broadband infrastructure.



Bogdanci Windpark. The WBIF funded the feasibility study and the impact assessment for the park from a €400,000 EU grant. The first phase of the project is already in operation, 16 turbines of 36.8 MW, while the capacity of the windfarm is currently being increased to 50 MW.

North Macedonia

### **Achieved results (selection):**

- 36.8 MW renewable power generation capacity, enough to meet the needs of over 60,000 people;
- 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 motorways;
- 191 km of railway lines rehabilitated, and one joint border railway station constructed;
- 238 km of transmission lines upgraded and secure power supply;
- 483 MW renewable power generation capacity;
- 84 km of gas pipelines;
- Improved water / wastewater systems for more than 600,000 people;
- Better schools for 90,000 students;
- Healthcare research and treatment facilities for 200,000 people;
- 47,200 people with access to ultra-fast internet in “white” and “grey zones”;
- New prison facilities in line with European standards for 2,100 detainees.



'25th May School' in Skopje refurbished with WBIF support. The WBIF bilateral donors provided €3 million in grants 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 Rail Interconnection, Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka Section. 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 track, bridges, tunnels and stations along the route.