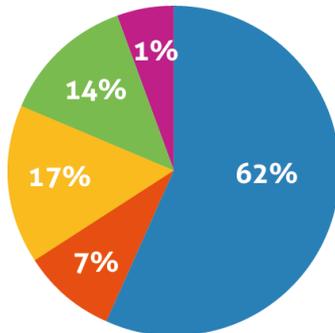




Serbia and the Western Balkans Investment Framework

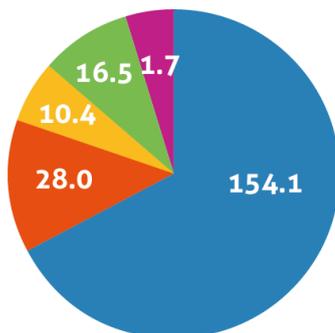
Estimated project value:

- €5.4 billion



WBIF grants:

- €210.7 million (€148.4m investment grants, €62.3m technical assistance)



Signed loans:

- €2.4 billion

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 Serbia

The WBIF has supported **39 projects** with an estimated value of **€5.4 billion** in Serbia. The country has benefited from **61 grants** for technical assistance and investment works with an overall value of **€210.7 million**, out of which **€184.6 million from the EU and €26.1 million from other donors**. The WBIF financial institutions have extended a further **€2.4 billion in loans signed** on 21 projects.

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

- Rail, road and urban transport;
- Electricity and gas transmission, district heating;
- Water and wastewater systems, flood protection;
- Schools, research and healthcare facilities, cultural and heritage centres;
- Social housing, judiciary and prison facilities;
- Broadband infrastructure.



Orient/East-Med Corridor: The last section of Corridor X road interconnection with Bulgaria opened in November 2019, (c) Koridori Srbije. The investments benefited from €4.5 million in grant for technical assistance from bilateral donors, EIB and EBRD through WBIF and a €30 million EU grant for construction works.

Achieved results (selection):

- 90 km of new motorways;
- District heating systems upgraded in 21 cities and towns;
- Improved water / wastewater systems for more than 400,000 people;
- Flood forecasting and warning system for 1.8 million people living in the Sava River Basin;
- 5 new higher education and research facilities;
- Judiciary facilities and new prison for 500 detainees.

Expected results (selection):

- 70 km of new motorways;
- 613 km of railway lines rehabilitated;
- Enhanced urban mobility for 1.3 million people in Belgrade;
- 567 km of electricity transmission lines upgraded;
- 28 public buildings and 30 schools for more than 30,000 students renovated;
- Improved water / wastewater systems for more than 2.6 million people;
- Healthcare treatment facilities for 1.3 million people;
- Broadband connectivity for 1,500 schools and 225,000 households (650,000 people) in rural areas



Belgrade Science and Technology Park. The WBIF has contributed €1.5 million in EU grants for the preparation for €427 million investments in higher education, research and healthcare facilities throughout the country. The EU has provided a further €30.9 million in grant to complement loans from EIB and CEB and the national contribution.

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

- 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, wastewater, district heating and flood protection services;
- providing better schools, healthcare facilities and successfully piloting research and innovation facilities;
- modernising judiciary and prison facilities;
- enhancing urban mobility in Belgrade.

In addition, Serbia 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).



Existing water treatment facilities at Makis 2 Water Treatment Plant, Belgrade. The WBIF bilateral donors have provided a €3 million investment grant for new water treatment, supply and sludge management facilities to ensure continuous water supply for the people living in Belgrade.