



Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

The **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans** (EIP) is the long-term recovery plan of the region. It accelerates the twin green and digital transition, and fosters regional cooperation and convergence with the EU. The EIP identifies 10 investment flagships to support sustainable transport, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, human capital and private sector.

In the next six years the European Commission will mobilise close to **€30 billion**, one-third of the current GDP of the Western Balkans. **€9 billion** will come in the form of EU grants from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and this is expected to leverage more than **€20 billion** additional investments through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

The EIP is the main vehicle to implement the **Global Gateway** in the Western Balkans.

The **Western Balkans Investment Framework** (WBIF) is the main financial tool to implement the EIP's investment flagships. The EIP is also implemented via IPA bilateral funding to support national high priority projects.

The WBIF was established in 2009 as a joint financial platform of the European Commission, international financial institutions, EU Member States and Norway, and hence fully in line with the **Team Europe** approach. WBIF aims at enhancing cooperation in public and private sector investment for the socio-economic development of the region, accelerating the European perspective for the Western Balkans.

#TeamEurope

Achieved results 2009 – 2022

- 64 km of motorways and 2 cross-border bridges with related facilities built
- Improved water and sanitation services for 840,000 people
- 660,000 people protected from floods
- 1,026 social housing units built

Expected results 2023 – 2030

- 152 km of motorways built
- 1 inland port and 40 km of waterways rehabilitated
- 182 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
- Improved water and sanitation services for 770,000 people

Public sector

€736m
WBIF grant

€5.3bn
estimated investment

€529m
regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects

€1.4bn
IPA bilateral funding

All figures since inception

Private sector

€875m
estimated financing for SMEs
(incl. EDIF, EFSE, GGF, REEP)

€408m
regional guarantee coverage to support access to finance for SMEs

All figures since inception



"The EU is the largest investor and most loyal partner for BiH. Through strategic support in key infrastructure projects in sectors such as energy, the environment, green growth, social inclusion, transport, digitalisation and innovation, the EU is demonstrating its commitment to BiH and our common European future."

Ambassador Johann Sattler
Head of EU Delegation and EU Special Representative to BiH

Implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

Flagship 1 Connecting East to West
The demining of the Sava river and addressing bottlenecks on the Danube river will be completed.

Flagship 2 Connecting North to South
75% of the Corridor Vc will be completed to motorway standards. The rail connection along the same corridor will also be upgraded.

Flagship 5 Transition from coal
The Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia Gas Interconnector will be completed.

Flagship 8 Digital infrastructure
The development and roll-out of national broadband infrastructure will continue – with the completion of the most advanced investment projects by 2024.

Flagship 9 Competitiveness of the private sector
Increase of grant amount and guarantee capacity for the private sector, and assistance for rural development.

WBIF project examples



Flagship 2 Connecting North to South

Corridor Vc: Medakovo – Ozimice Motorway Subsection

€81.8m
WBIF EU grant

€204.9m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2025**



Flagship 4 Renewable energy

Poklecani Wind Farm

€0.4m
WBIF EU grant

€196.8m
estimated investment

Expected completion: **2026**



Flagship 7 Waste and waste water management

Regional Sanitary Landfill for Živinice, Banovići and Kladanj

€0.4m
WBIF Bilateral Donors grant

€8.1m
estimated investment

Completion: **2022**

€1 billion Energy Support Package

The package addresses immediate, short- and medium-term needs in the Western Balkans to accelerate decarbonisation, and improve the energy security of the region.

The European Commission will provide up to **€500m** in immediate budget support to mitigate the impact of high energy prices for small and medium-sized enterprises, keep energy prices affordable for vulnerable households and support policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

An additional €500m is channelled through the WBIF for the priority infrastructure projects, the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme and guarantees to crowd-in private investments in clean energy.

€70m
in budget support to Bosnia and Herzegovina

