



PRIVATE SECTOR



Boosting the private sector competitiveness



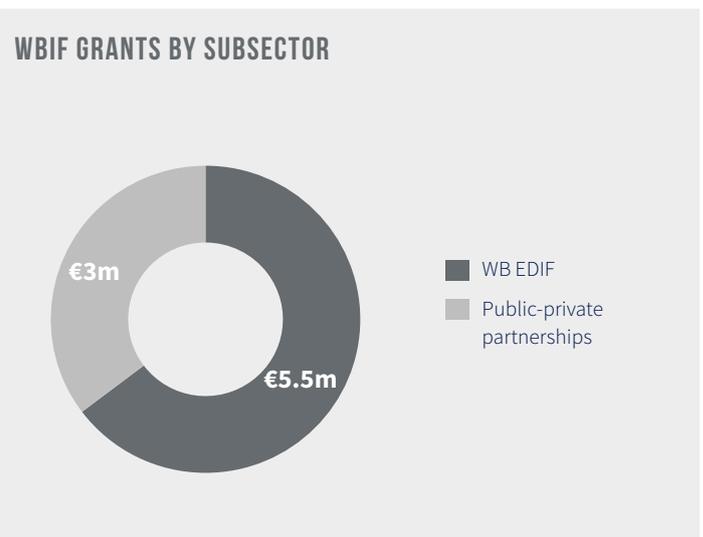
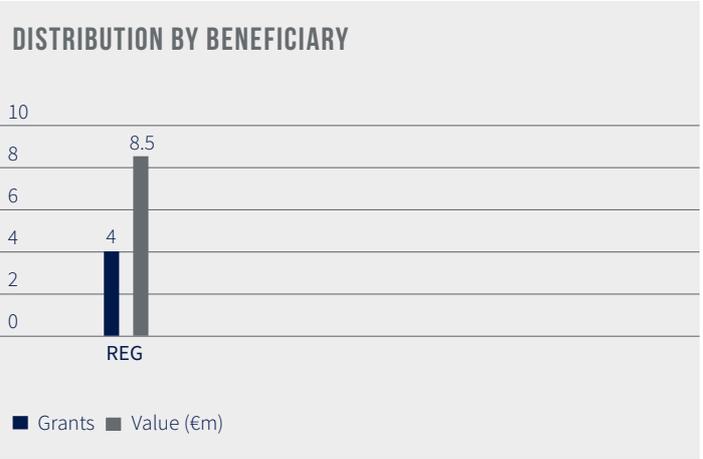
Western Balkans Investment Framework **WBIF** | **BLENDING PUBLIC PRIVATE**
 BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER | **GUARANTEES**

A robust, innovative, and competitive private sector is essential for the socio-economic development and regional integration of the Western Balkans. As in most transition economies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) suffer from low competitiveness, difficult access to financing, lack of skills, and poor integration into global supply chains. The WBIF focuses on improving access to financing and business support to SMEs through the Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) and its four complementary pillars (SME Equity, SME Loan Guarantees, SME Lending, Support Services). The WBIF has also financed the EIB/ European PPP Expertise Centre's (EPEC) initiative that promotes work with public-private partnership (PPP) organisations in the region in order to increase their capacity to identify, prepare and implement PPP projects.

2009-2021	
Projects	3
Estimated project value	€297m
Projects with loans signed	/ signed loans
WBIF grants	€8.5m

The WBIF private sector projects are financed under the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans: FLAGSHIP 9** - Investing in the competitiveness of the private sector

ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 - 2020)	
	€841m in financing available to SMEs
	€531m deployed via financing instruments to SMEs
	5,905 SMEs financed and receiving support services
	133,492 jobs supported



FLAGSHIP PROJECT EXAMPLES

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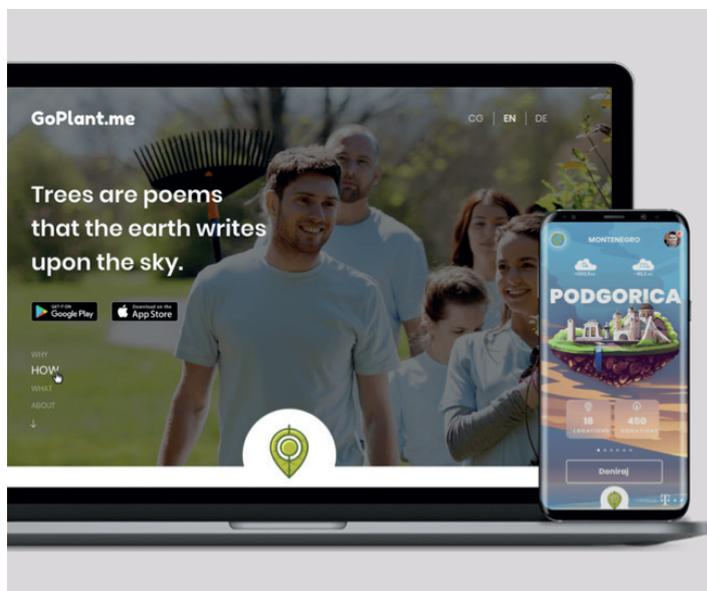
FLAGSHIP 9 - Investing in the competitiveness of the private sector

Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) LabBox in Kosovo*



LabBox markets an innovative curriculum paired with unique electronic kits that empower children to learn the fundamental concepts of technology and engineering. The ENIF is the first institutional investor that financed the initial production and the launch of the product in the market.

Amplitudo in Montenegro



Amplitudo is a leading digital innovator in Montenegro which specialises in software development and marketing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the company and the Ministry of Education developed an online learning platform so that students can continue their lessons from home. Past business advisory projects supported by the EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) through WB EDIF have helped the company tackle everything, from strategy to quality control.



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*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.