



# Economic & Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

#WesternBalkans #EUandYOU #EIP

14

## New flagship investments endorsed

JUNE 2023

Total of **54** EIP flagship investments in

-  SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
-  CLEAN ENERGY
-  ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
-  DIGITAL FUTURE
-  HUMAN CAPITAL
-  PRIVATE SECTOR

€ **8** billion  
estimated total investment

Including

€ **2.3** billion  
EU grants and other donors

## Projects



WBIF EU grant	€141.4m
Estimated investment	€354.3m
Expected completion	2026



### Road Corridor Vc: Ozimice - Poprikuše Motorway Subsection (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

This investment project will construct 11.9 km of motorway on Corridor Vc, from Ozimice to Poprikuše, including 5 tunnels and 9 bridges.



WBIF EU grant	€155.9m
Estimated investment	€383m
Expected completion	2026



### Road Corridor Vc: Mostar North – Mostar South Motorway Section (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

This investment project will construct of 14.2 km of motorway on Corridor Vc, starting before the Mostar North interchange and ending after the Mostar South interchange.



WBIF EU grant	€14m
Estimated investment	€36.7m
Expected completion	2024

**Corridor VIII: Cut-Slopes Stabilisation on Express Road A2, Kriva Palanka – Stracin Section**  
(North Macedonia)

This investment project will construct a 23 km express road from Kriva Palanka to Stracin (last section of Corridor VIII). The new express road will significantly decrease travel time between Skopje and Sofia, strengthen mobility, trade and improve road safety.



WBIF EU grant	€80m
Estimated investment	€494.8m

**Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP)**  
(WB6)

The programme aims to enhance transport safety and sustainability in the Western Balkans, aligned with the EU's Green Agenda. It supports initiatives like road safety improvements, alternative fuel infrastructure, and intelligent transport systems.



WBIF bilateral donor grant	€2.6m
Estimated investment	€32.2m
Expected completion	2025

**Sarajevo Water Project**  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

This project seeks to reduce water losses by replacing or rehabilitating ageing pipelines, pumping stations and wells, adding or improving about 4,000 new household connections. It aims to improve the overall efficiency of water supply in the wider Sarajevo canton.



WBIF EU grant	€32.1m
Estimated investment	€111.3m
Expected completion	2029

**Green Transport Tirana**  
(Albania)

The project will create Tirana's first electric bus rapid transport system (e-BRT) to combat high levels of air pollution and traffic congestion. The e-BRT system will rely on electric-battery buses with a smart charging strategy.



WBIF EU grant	€8m
Estimated investment	€34.7m
Expected completion	2027

**Strengthening the Transmission Network in the Southeast Region**  
(North Macedonia)

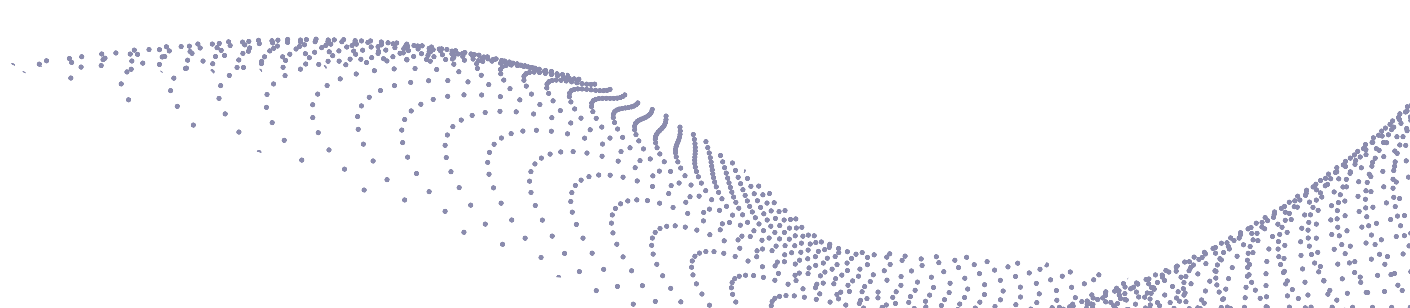
North Macedonia's transmission network is being strengthened to integrate renewable energy sources. The project includes the construction of a substation, new connections, reconstructing overhead lines, and installing transmission lines and transformers. It aims to increase security of supply and reduce CO2 emissions.



WBIF EU grant	€3.1m
Estimated investment	€18.9m
Expected completion	2026


**Rehabilitation of Čapljina Pump Storage Hydropower Plant**  
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Rehabilitating PSHPP Čapljina is essential for increasing the share of renewable energy sources and reducing carbon emissions. The project will rehabilitate PSHPP Čapljina's equipment, ensuring generation and pumping potential for another 15 years of operation.





WBIF EU grant	<b>€7.7m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€40.9m</b>
Expected completion	<b>2028</b>



### Rehabilitation of Bistrica Hydropower Plant (Serbia)

The hydroelectric power plant HPP Bistrica, operational since 1960, will be rehabilitated. The project aims to modernise the plant and increase its efficiency, boosting its annual power generation to 350 GWh. It will enhance energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



WBIF EU grant	<b>€2.2m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€27.5m</b>
Expected completion	<b>2025</b>



### Public Sector Energy Efficiency Project (North Macedonia)

The project addresses the country's reliance on inefficient coal-fired generation and high energy consumption. It focuses on energy efficiency in public buildings, aiming to achieve savings, reduce CO2 emissions, and establish an Energy Efficiency Fund. Sub-loans and grants are provided to municipalities for cost-effective renovations.



WBIF EU grant	<b>€21.5m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€169.6m</b>
Expected completion	<b>2027</b>




### Improving Energy Efficiency and Integrated Energy Management of the Technical Faculties Campus in Belgrade (Serbia)

The University of Belgrade is creating an energy-efficient campus for its electrical engineering and technical faculties. This investment will ensure the construction of a new 30,000 m2 university centre and the renovation of existing buildings spanning 93,000 m2. It will benefit approximately 15,000 students and 1,750 staff members.



WBIF EU grant	<b>€24m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€231m</b>



### GGF: Promoting Green Lending in the Western Balkans (II) (WB6)

The programme replenishes the already established and operating scheme - the Green for Growth Fund ("GGF"). The proceeds of the capital increase will expand the supply of financing for renewable and efficient energy measures in the region, and contribute to the reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions among end-borrowers.



WBIF EU grant	<b>€10.4m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€40.4m</b>



### Sustainable Access to Finance for Entrepreneurship – SAFE (WB6)

The programme encourages and supports the growth of local micro-enterprises (LMEs) - with a specific focus on social enterprises - by promoting their access to finance through local micro-financial institutions (LMFIs).



WBIF EU grant	<b>€27.6m</b>
Estimated investment	<b>€177.7m</b>



### Go Digital in the Western Balkans (WB6)

The programme will provide a combination of specialised financing and know-how for digitalisation, automation and competitiveness for micro and small businesses (MSMEs) across the Western Balkans. The EU grant financing will be used for investment incentives and capacity building to promote proactive investments in high-performing technologies and mitigate upfront costs.

## EU and the Western Balkans: Building the European future together

© European Union, 2023

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Cover image © Shutterstock, other images © European Union