



# MONTENEGRO

on its European path

#EUenlargement



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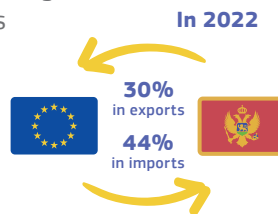
## Key milestones

- DECEMBER 2008**  
Application for EU Membership
- MAY 2010**  
Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force
- DECEMBER 2010**  
European Council grants candidate status
- JUNE 2012**  
European Council decides to open accession negotiations
- DECEMBER 2013**  
'Rule of Law' chapters 23 and 24 opened for negotiations
- JUNE 2020**  
All 33 screened chapters have been opened, three of which are provisionally closed
- JUNE & DECEMBER 2021**  
Accession Conferences under the revised enlargement methodology
- JANUARY 2024**  
15th Accession Conference
- JUNE 2024**  
16th Intergovernmental Conference, Interim benchmarks for Chapters 23 and 24, overall, met

Source: EU Data

## Trade & investment

- The EU is Montenegro's biggest trading partner.
- The EU Foreign Direct Investment in Montenegro reached €500 million in 2021.
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €1.78 billion in 2022.



Source: Eurostat

## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Montenegro.
- The EU is supporting the socio-economic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Montenegro, with financial and technical assistance through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**.
- For 2021-2023, the IPA III funding for national programmes amounts to over **€135 million** for Montenegro. This includes the dedicated **€30 million from the 2023 Energy Support Package**

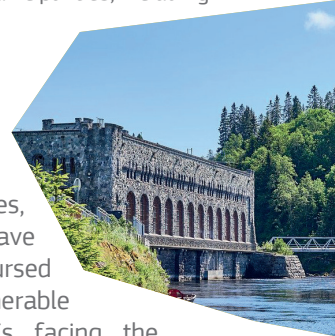
## Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education, and innovation. It helps the Western Balkans in implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment.
- 4,500+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and Montenegro in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).
- The EU has provided €26 million in support to civil society (2014-2023).
- Reforms of the social welfare and child-care systems were implemented with EU support.

## Economic & Investment Plan

Launched in 2020, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans aims to mobilise up to €30 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP for Montenegro, the EU has already mobilised **€1 billion** in investments, out of which €295 million in grants. For instance, the investments help:

- renovate steel bridges and tunnels along the Bar-Vrbnica railway section
- construct new wastewater treatment plants in various municipalities, including in Podgorica.



immediate measures, 90% of which have already been disbursed to support vulnerable families and SMEs facing the rising energy prices. The actions are also aimed at supporting policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

- Since 1999, the EU has provided **€1 billion** in loans to Montenegro through the European Investment Bank.

Last updated: 7/2024