



# EU - Western Balkans relations

December 2023  
#WesternBalkans

The EU enlargement policy is a **geo-strategic investment** in Europe's peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine underlines the **need to accelerate the accession process** of the Western Balkans.

The EU will continue its **strong political, technical, and financial support to all six Western Balkan partners**, to help them advance key political, institutional, social and economic reforms that are necessary to progress on their path toward the EU.

**The EU is the biggest investor and trading partner in the Western Balkans**



**No. 1 INVESTOR**

EU companies are by far the **leading investors**, accounting for **59% of total FDI** in the region in 2022



**No. 1 TRADING PARTNER**

EU accounts for **almost 70%** of the region's **total trade** in 2022

With the ambition to mobilise up to

**€30 billion**

in total public and private investments



including

**€9 billion**

in EU grants

Under the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**, the EU supports the post pandemic socio-economic recovery of the region and helps the region closing the development gap with the EU.

Since its launch, the EU has approved funding of €4.5 billion in grants and is expected to mobilise €16.6 billion in overall investments. This includes funding for **59 flagship projects** under Western Balkans Investment Fund (WBIF).

Enlargement  
Negotiations