# SERBIA

## on its European path

#EUenlargement

## Key milestones

**DECEMBER 2009**

Application for EU membership

**MARCH 2012**

EU Candidate country status granted

**JUNE 2013**

EU decides to open accession negotiations

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

**DECEMBER 2019**

18 chapters out of 35 opened of which 2 provisionally closed
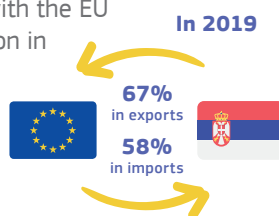
## Trade & investment

- The EU is Serbia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Serbia reached €2 billion in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was over €24 billion in 2019

**In 2019**

**67%** in exports

**58%** in imports

## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- In 2015–2020: over 15,210 participants from Serbia in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- €33 million in support to civil society in 2014-2020
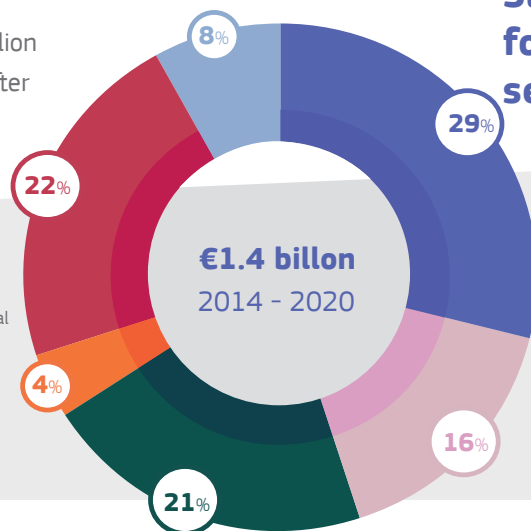
## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Serbia
- €2.79 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- Over €5.5 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €210.2 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €5.4 billion
- €162.2 million in disaster relief after the floods in 2014

## Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

## Support for key sectors

**€1.4 billon**
2014 - 2020

- 29%
- 16%
- 21%
- 4%
- 22%
- 8%

- Democracy and governance
- Rule of law and fundamental rights
- Environment, climate action and energy
- Transport
- Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development
- Education, employment and social policies

## COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €93.4 million in bilateral assistance for Serbia to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region. In December 2020 the Commission adopted a €70 million package to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines.

Source: EU Data

ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement | facebook.com/EUnear | twitter.com/eu_near