



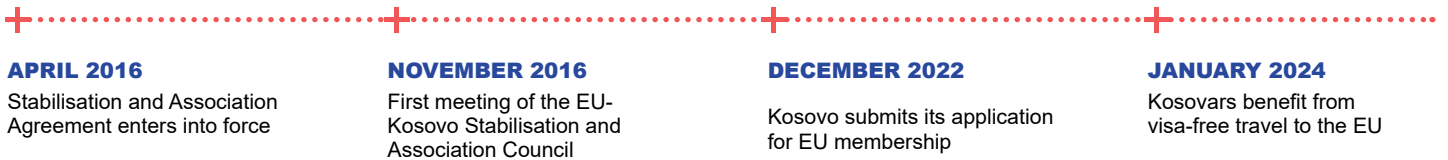
THE EU AND KOSOVO

#WesternBalkans
#EUEnlargement

October 2024



Kosovo is a **potential candidate**.



APRIL 2016

Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force

NOVEMBER 2016

First meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council

DECEMBER 2022

Kosovo submits its application for EU membership

JANUARY 2024

Kosovars benefit from visa-free travel to the EU

Growth Plan for the Western Balkans

In 2023, the EU announced a landmark **Growth Plan** to accelerate Western Balkans partners' socio-economic development and EU integration.

The Plan aims to boost **socio-economic convergence** through enhanced economic integration with the **EU's single market**, regional integration within the **Common Regional Market**, accelerating fundamental reforms.

As part of this Growth Plan, Kosovo was invited to prepare a **Reform Agenda** focusing on reforms to **unlock national and regional growth potential** and related to the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including **the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms**.

A €6 billion **Reform and Growth Facility** for the Western Balkans will support implementation of the Growth Plan. The Commission approved the Reform Agenda of Kosovo in October 2024. **€882 million in non-repayable grants and favourable loans** will be available to Kosovo **when** it meets the conditions it has committed to in its own Reform Agenda.

A specific pre-condition applies to Kosovo and Serbia who must engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations.



The EU is Kosovo's

✓ largest trade partner

✓ largest investor

✓ largest provider of financial assistance



Ongoing EU support for Kosovo

The EU is the **largest provider of financial assistance** to Kosovo. It offers a variety of programmes and instruments to support Kosovo's development and alignment with EU *acquis* and norms.

Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)

Between **2021-2024** the EU has allocated **over €245.8 million in non-repayable grants** to Kosovo under IPA III. These funds support fundamental reforms, socio-economic development and meeting the EU standards and norms.

This includes:

- **€75 million Energy Support Package** in 2023, which has supported private sector and vulnerable families in Kosovo against rising energy prices and enhanced the energy security and green transition.
- **€21.3 million EU approximation facility** to support Kosovo's accession perspective, including for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue.
- **€53 million** EU for Environment programme focused on improving the wastewater and **solid waste management systems**.

Economic & Investment Plan (EIP)

The EU's **EIP for the Western Balkans** identifies 10 flagship investment priorities for the region to spur long-term growth, accelerate green & digital transitions, and foster regional cooperation.

For projects in **Kosovo**, since 2020, the EU has already mobilised **€893 million in investments thanks to €303 million in EU grants**. Funds are raised through tools such as the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF). This includes:

- EU contribution of **€55 million** for installing a **photovoltaic plant of up to 100 MW** and introducing solar energy in the district heating network of Pristina.
- Construction of a wastewater treatment facility in Mitrovica and **rehabilitation of the sewerage network serving 123 000 people**.



What we are achieving together



27 km of motorway built



165 km of railway lines rehabilitated



130 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed



Improved water and sanitation services for **1.3 million people**



Close trade & investment links

The EU is Kosovo's main trading partner. In 2023, the EU accounted for 41.1% of Kosovo's total trade in goods (31.7% of total exports and 42.5% of total imports). Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €388.9 million in 2022*.

Progressive trade liberalisation and mutual duty-free access for most goods has been taking place since 2006 and is currently based on the **EU – Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)**.

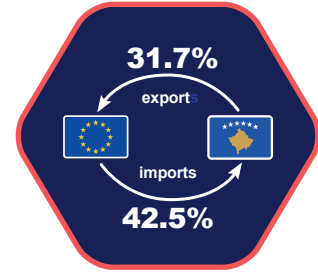


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Foreign & security policy cooperation

- Kosovo continues to **condemn Russia's unjustified and unprovoked military aggression** against Ukraine and to implement restrictive measures against Russia and Belarus.
- The government allocated €100 000 in humanitarian aid and dedicated funds to shelter 20 journalists from Ukraine. Recently, **Kosovo announced its first military aid packages for Ukraine**.
- Since 2008, the **European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX)** has been assisting Kosovo authorities in setting up sustainable and independent institutions.



People to people contacts

- Since 1 January 2024, Kosovars benefit from **visa-free travel** to the EU.
- The EU has funded over **11 500 exchanges** between EU and Kosovo citizens in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).

* Source: DG Trade

ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement
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