KOSOVO on its European path

#EUenlargement

**Key milestones**

**MARCH 2011**
EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade–Pristina started

**APRIL 2013**
‘Brussels Agreement’ between Belgrade and Pristina concluded

**APRIL 2016**
Enter into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

**MAY 2016**
The European Commission proposes visa-free travel for the people of Kosovo

**OCTOBER 2016**
First meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council

**JULY 2018**
Commission confirms that Kosovo has fulfilled all outstanding visa liberalisation benchmarks

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**Trade & investment**

- The EU is Kosovo’s biggest trading partner
- The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment in Kosovo reached €208 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €1.8 billion in 2021

**Mobility & empowerment**

- Over 3,412 participants from Kosovo in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- 364 ‘Young Cells Scheme’ grants have been awarded to public administration scholars
- 4,000+ young and disadvantaged people received employment and entrepreneurship training
- €18.5 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

**EU funding**

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Kosovo
- The EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region, including in Kosovo, with financial and technical assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) since 2007. For 2021-2027, IPA III funding for the whole enlargement region is €14.162 billion
- €300 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €239 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €1.86 billion
- In October 2020, the EU mobilised an up to €30 billion package through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. In 2022 the following projects were endorsed: Sustainable transport: Pristina-Merdare section of the Peace Highway connecting Kosovo to Serbia

**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

**Total IPA support for the whole enlargement region by sector for 2021-2027 period**

- €14.162 billion

- 4% Rule of Law, fundamental rights and democracy
- 15% Competitiveness and inclusive growth
- 22% Good governance and neighbourhood relations
- 17% Territorial and cross-border cooperation
- 42% Green agenda and sustainable connectivity

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**COVID-19 response**

In December 2020, the Commission adopted a €70 million package of grants to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines. To date, the Western Balkans have received more than 8 million doses of vaccines via Team Europe and COVAX. The Commission also has a project of over €7 million jointly with WHO, which has helped to support readiness for vaccination efforts and resilient health systems in the Western Balkans.

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

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* IPA assistance is based on EU thematic priorities rather than pre-defined country allocations, hence the global amount for the enlargement region.