



# KOSOVO\*

on its European path

#EUenlargement

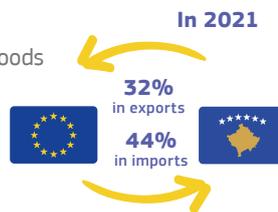


## Key milestones

- MARCH 2011**  
EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade-Pristina started
- APRIL 2013**  
'Brussels Agreement' between Belgrade and Pristina concluded
- APRIL 2016**  
Entry 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

## 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



## 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

- Rule of Law, fundamental rights and democracy
- Good governance and neighbourly relations
- Green agenda and sustainable connectivity
- Competitiveness and inclusive growth
- Territorial and cross-border cooperation

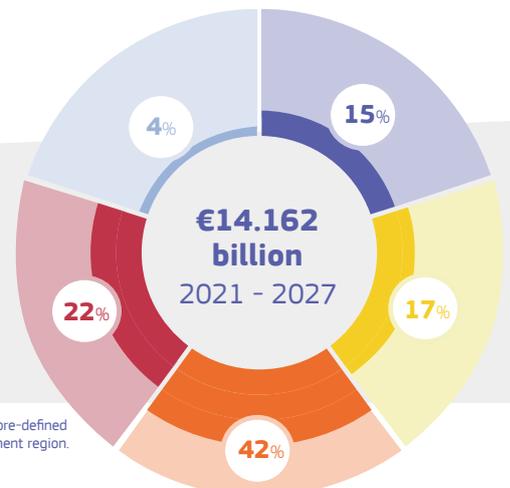
## Mobility & empowerment

- 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)

## 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\*



## 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.

\* 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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