



MONTENEGRO

on its European path

#EUenlargement



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Key milestones

DECEMBER 2008

Application for EU Membership

MAY 2010

Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

DECEMBER 2010

EU candidate country status granted

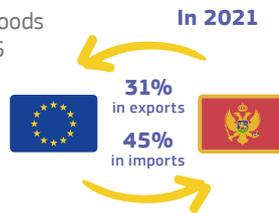
JUNE 2012

EU decides to open accession negotiations



Trade & investment

- The EU is Montenegro's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Montenegro reached €169.4 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €1.5 billion in 2021



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Montenegro
- The EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region, including in Montenegro, 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
- €1 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €219 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €1.8 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:
Environment and climate: Podgorica wastewater treatment plant



Mobility & empowerment

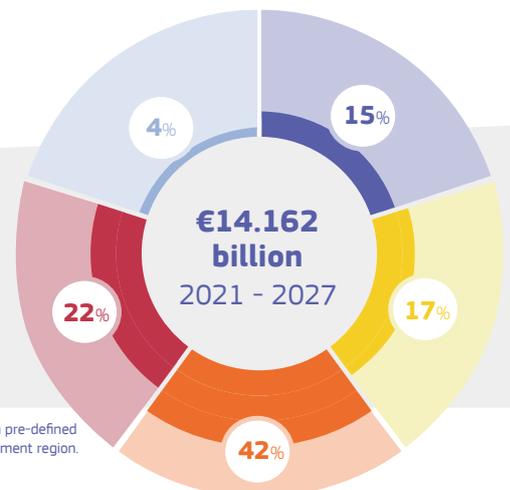
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- Over 4,153 participants from Montenegro in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- Reforms of the social welfare and child-care systems implemented with EU support
- €14.4 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)



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*



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

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



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.

Last updated: 07/2022