



SERBIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

Key milestones

DECEMBER 2009

Application for EU membership

MARCH 2011

EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade-Pristina started

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



Trade & investment

- The EU is Serbia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Serbia reached €1848.2 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €32.3 billion in 2021



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Serbia
- The EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region, including in Serbia, 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
- Over €6.3 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €444 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €7 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:** Removal of WWII German sunken vessels from the Danube, Prahovo sector; Niš railroad bypass; Stalać – Đunis railway section. **Clean Energy:** Trans-Balkan electricity corridor; Advanced system for remote meter reading in Kraljevo, Čačak and Niš. **Digital Future:** Rural broadband rollout. **Human Capital:** University Children's Hospital Tiršova 2 in Belgrade

- 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

* 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.



Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- Around 12,400 participants from Serbia in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult learning and youth under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020) (Serbia is a programme country in Erasmus+ since 2019)
- €33 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*

