



ALBANIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

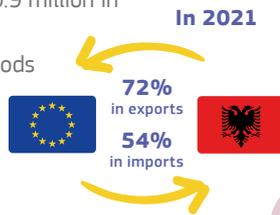


Key milestones

- APRIL 2009**
Application for EU membership
Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- JUNE 2014**
EU candidate country status granted
- APRIL 2018**
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**
The Council decides to open accession negotiations and endorses its decision
- JULY 2020**
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States
- JULY 2022**
Intergovernmental Conference on accession negotiations (IGC)
Inaugural meeting of the screening process
- SEPTEMBER 2022**
First explanatory screening meeting on Cluster 1 – Fundamentals

Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €610.9 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €5.9 billion in 2021



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- The EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region, including in Albania, 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
- €115 million EU grants for rehabilitation and reconstruction after the 2019 earthquake
- €569 million in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €370 million since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, leveraging investments of around €2.96 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: Tirana bypass, Hani i Hotit railway line. Clean energy: Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

Mobility & empowerment

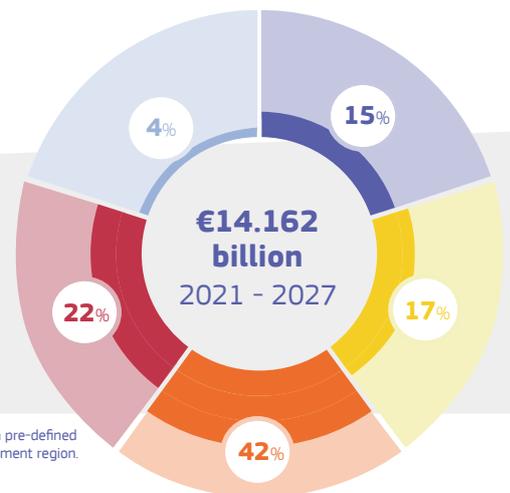
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- 9,835 participants from Albania in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- €25 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

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: 09/2022