

# EU - Western Balkans relations

December 2022  
#WesternBalkans

The EU enlargement policy is a **geo-strategic investment** in Europe's peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine underlines the **need to accelerate the accession process** of the Western Balkans.

The EU will continue its **strong political, technical, and financial support to all six Western Balkan partners**, to help them advance key political, institutional, social and economic reforms that are necessary to progress on their path toward the EU.

## The EU is the biggest donor, investor and trading partner in the Western Balkans



### No. 1 DONOR

The EU has committed over **€29.5 billion** since 2007



### No. 1 INVESTOR

EU companies are by far the **leading investors**, accounting for **61% of FDI stock** in the region in 2021



### No. 1 TRADING PARTNER

EU accounts for **almost 70%** of the region's **total trade** in 2021



The European Commission and the European Investment Bank **€3.3 billion**

to tackle COVID-19 pandemic and socio-economic recovery in the Western Balkans



Western Balkans is a market of over **17 million consumers**

up to

**€30 billion**

in total public and private investments



Under the **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**, the EU supports the post pandemic socio-economic recovery of the region and helps the region closing the development gap with the EU.

So far the EU approved funding for **40 flagship investments**, worth **€5.7 billion** in total investment