



# SERBIA

on its European path

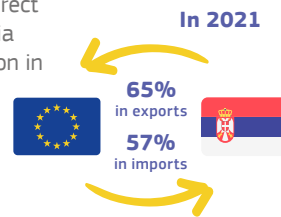
#EUenlargement

## 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
- JUNE 2021**  
Political Intergovernmental Conference under the revised enlargement methodology provides political steer to the accession process
- DECEMBER 2021**  
Opening of cluster 4 on Green agenda and sustainable connectivity, bringing the number of opened chapters to 22 out of 35, two of which are provisionally closed

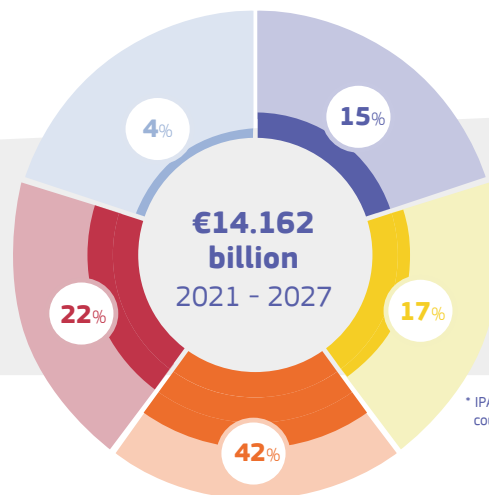
## Trade & investment

- The EU is Serbia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Serbia reached €1.85 billion 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 is supporting the socioeconomic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Serbia, with financial and technical assistance through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**
- For 2021-2027, IPA III funding for the whole enlargement region is **€14.162 billion\***. It responds to thematic priorities



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

## Economic & Investment Plan

Over the next seven years, the EU will mobilise up to **€30 billion** in cooperation with international financial institutions through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans launched in 2020. The following EIP projects for Serbia were endorsed in 2022:

- Sustainable transport:** Removal of WWII German sunken vessels from the Danube, Prahovo sector; Niš railroad bypass; Stalač – 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

- The Annual Action Plan 2021 for Serbia adopted a budget of **€122.14 million** supporting actions in the areas of EU integration; connectivity and green agenda; sustainable economy, agriculture and rural development; enabling a more responsive healthcare system
- For 2014 - 2020, IPA II funding allocated for Serbia amounted to **€1.404 billion**
- Over €6.3 billion provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999

## Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education and innovation and is helping the Western Balkans implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment
- 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)

Last updated: 12/2022