



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 members of the European Council endorse the Council's decision to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States
- JULY 2022**
Intergovernmental Conference on accession negotiations (IGC)
Start of the screening process



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 is supporting the socioeconomic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Albania, 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 is based on EU thematic priorities rather than pre-defined country envelopes. This will allow the instrument to reward performance, progress towards key priorities and have increased flexibility to respond to evolving needs
- The Annual Action Plan 2021 for Albania allocates a budget of **€64.9 million** supporting actions in judiciary, property rights, circular economy & green growth, innovation and nature.

- 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.



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
- 9,800+ participants from Albania in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- €25 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

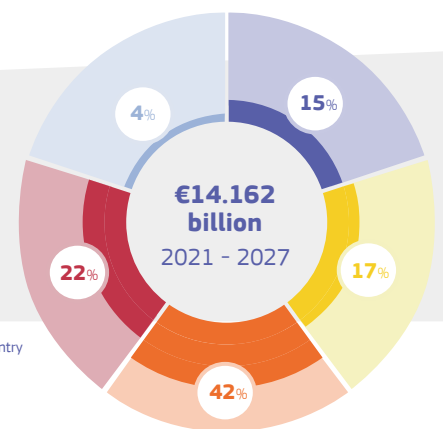


Economic & Investment Plan

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 Albania were endorsed in 2022:

- **Sustainable transport:** Tirana bypass, Hani i Hotit railway line
- **Clean energy:** Vau i Dejës Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

- The Annual Action Plan 2022 for Albania for an amount of **€82.6 million** focuses on continuation of support to the re-evaluation of magistrates, democracy, law enforcement, EU integration, water and youth.
- In the Framework of the Energy Support Package of **€1 billion** adopted for the Western Balkans (500 million in grants and 500 million in soft loans & guarantees), the Annual Action Plan for 2023 for Albania is €80 million.
- **€569 million** in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- For 2014 - 2020, IPA II funding allocated for Albania amounted to **€758 million**
- **€115 million** EU grants for rehabilitation and reconstruction after the 2019 earthquake



Last updated: 03/2023