



SUCCESS STORIES

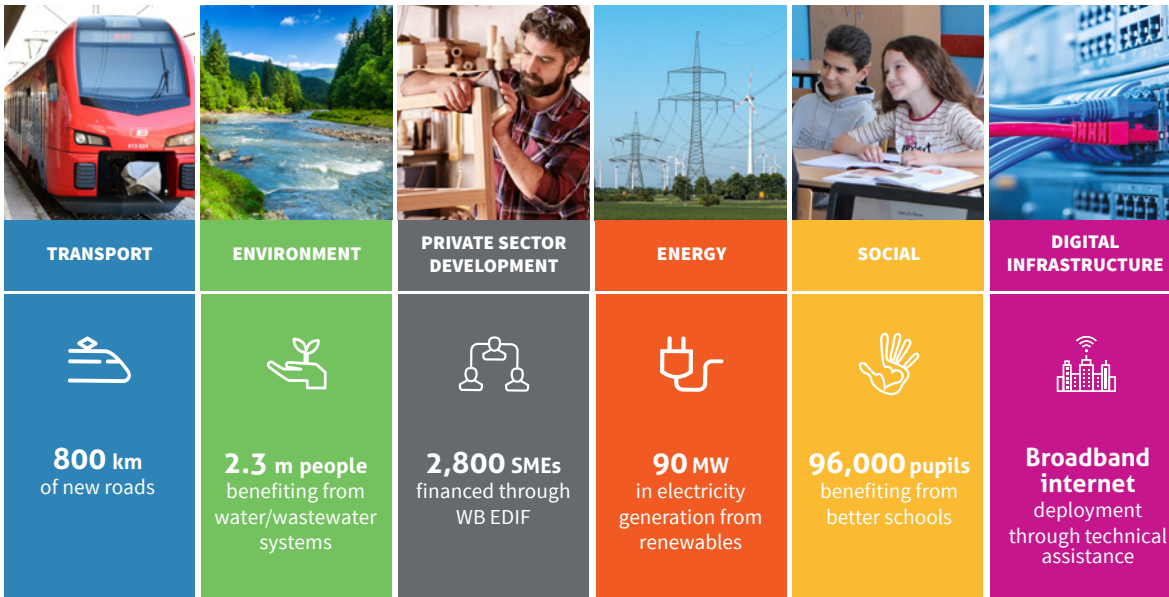






The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is a cooperation platform uniting beneficiaries, donors and lenders with the objective to provide financing and technical assistance to strategic infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans.

ACHIEVED RESULTS 2008 – 2018



WBIF PORTFOLIO*

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

172

ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE

€18 bn

WBIF GRANTS AWARDED

€1 bn

LOANS LEVERAGED

€5.5 bn

*Data as of April 2019



Improving the Quality of Life and Protecting Natural Resources

Building on efforts for environmental protection of Lake Ohrid and its coastal towns, the WBIF has financed the extension of the sewerage system in Pogradec. More than 80% of the population of the town and surrounding villages is now connected to wastewater services.



Safer Roads Towards Development

The WBIF has supported the upgrade of 800 km of rural roads in Albania as part of an ambitious multi-donor programme for the rehabilitation of secondary and rural roads throughout the country. The new roads facilitate access to basic services and markets and bring new opportunities for economic development in rural areas through better transport links.



New Maritime Connectivity in Albania

This investment project will enhance the maritime transport of goods by rehabilitating Quays 1 and 2 on the Western Terminal of the Port of Durrës – one of the four terminals of the largest seaport in Albania. Once complete, the Port is expected to nearly double its cargo capacity and triple its annual traffic.





A Cleaner Environment for the Residents of Bijeljina

Bijeljina, a city home to more than 100,000 people, has implemented a comprehensive water and wastewater rehabilitation programme. The WBIF has supported the second phase of the programme, which enabled the construction of a modern wastewater treatment plant as well as further expand the sewerage and water supply network in the city.





Social Housing and Integration of Internally Displaced Persons

The WBIF will ensure adequate housing for more than 7,200 internally displaced persons still living in collective centres throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. 63 families have already moved in new flats while the remainder will successively relocate by December 2022, including, as needed, in rehabilitated assisted living units for the elderly.



A New Bridge Towards the EU

The new cross-border bridge over the River Sava into Croatia will connect the two neighbours as well as Hungary and Central Europe with the Adriatic via the Mediterranean Corridor. The bridge is part of a larger WBIF investment package, which also includes the newly built motorway section Svilaj - Odžak leading up to the bridge and modern and efficient border crossing facilities.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 
 TRANSPORT SECTOR

MEDITERRANEAN CORRIDOR:
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - CROATIA CVC ROAD INTERCONNECTION,
SVILAJ - ODŽAK MOTORWAY SECTION AND SVILAJ BRIDGE

WBIF Grant	€25.1 m
EIB Loan	€45 m
EBRD Loan	€22 m





Connecting the Region with the EU

Mahovljani Interchange connects the north-west region of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the interregional motorway Zagreb - Belgrade. It has substantially reduced congestion and increased traffic safety on this motorway section.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 

 TRANSPORT SECTOR

CORE NETWORK (ROAD R2): CONSTRUCTION OF MAHOVLJANI INTERCHANGE

WBIF Grant €0.3 m

EBRD Loan €21 m





Efficient District Heating Services in Pristina

The rehabilitation of the district heating system in Pristina has upgraded the city's heating from heavy oil fuel to cogeneration. It has enabled the provision of reliable heating services with lower operational costs and environmental impact.



Increased Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings

This project will reduce energy consumption and fossil fuel use in public buildings in Kosovo through (i) energy efficiency and renewable energy investments and (ii) enhancement of the policy and regulatory environment. To date, 32 buildings have been rehabilitated, 25 are under renovation, and works are ready to start on another 30.





Sustainable Drinking Water for Pristina

The new water treatment plant and supply network have secured a cost-efficient and continuous water supply for more than 500,000 people living in Pristina and surrounding municipalities.



Green Energy for a Sustainable Future

North Macedonia is a step closer towards achieving a sustainable energy future. The WBIF has successfully piloted the first renewables scheme in the country – a 36.8 MW windfarm in Bogdanci. The wind park is in operation since 2015, and works are already underway to increase its capacity to 50 MW by the end of 2021.



The Power of Balkan Connectivity

This grid section in North Macedonia is part of the East-West electricity transmission corridor between several Balkan countries and Italy. The investments, already underway, include a 400 kV transmission system from Bitola to Ohrid and the border with Albania, which will complete the electricity ring between the two neighbours and Greece.

NORTH MACEDONIA 

 ENERGY SECTOR

ALBANIA – NORTH MACEDONIA POWER INTERCONNECTION:
GRID SECTION IN NORTH MACEDONIA

WBIF Grant €12.2 m

EBRD Loan €37 m





Modern Schools in North Macedonia

Pupils of North Macedonia are better prepared and connected to wider Europe, thanks to the WBIF. The '25 May' School - home for 1,500 pupils in Skopje - is just an example of a large school rehabilitation programme. More than 11,000 children and 700 teachers are currently benefiting from modern education facilities made possible with WBIF support.



Better Healthcare in North Macedonia

A €3 million WBIF grant has helped rehabilitate the Kozle Institute for Children Respiratory Diseases in Skopje as well as define the investment needs and solutions for some other nineteen hospitals and clinics throughout the country.



Safer and Modern Railway Travel in Montenegro

The railway section Bar - Vrbnica carries about 20% of all passengers and 60% of freight in Montenegro. Under the 2015 connectivity package, the EU finances around half of the costs associated with the installation of modern signalling and telecommunication systems in Podgorica, as well as the rehabilitation of 29 concrete bridges and 39 tunnels.



Better Municipal Services in Northern Serbia

The realisation of this investment project will bring about environmental and social benefits through sustainable wastewater treatment and sludge disposal. The measures increase the coverage of municipal services by connecting 60% of the population and mitigate the pollution into Palić Lake, one of the main tourist destinations in Serbia.



Improving Rule of Law Through Better Infrastructure

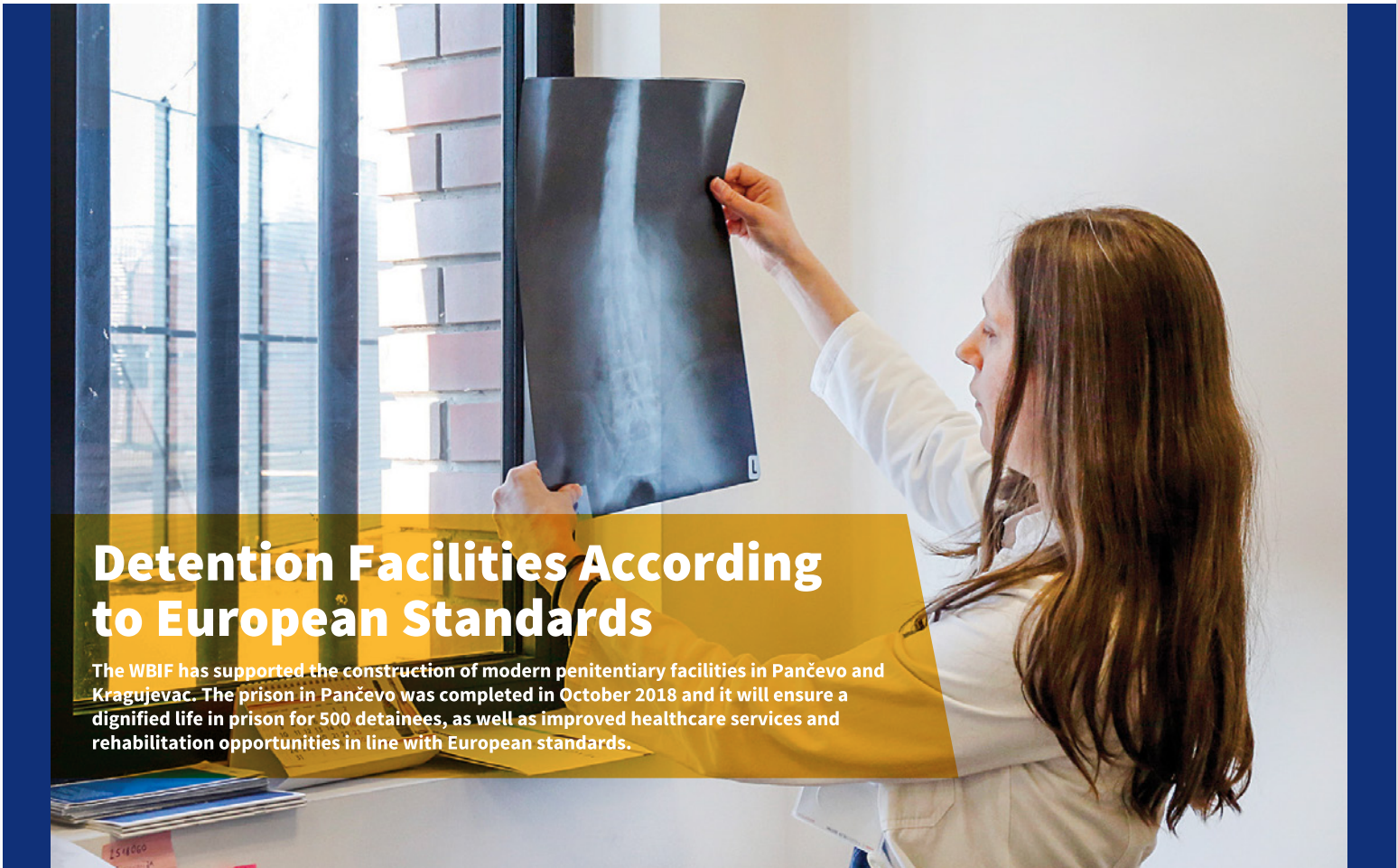
Serbia is implementing a comprehensive investment programme as part of the National Judicial Reform Strategy. The WBIF supports the programme through the refurbishment/construction of three judicial buildings in Belgrade. Two of the buildings are now complete, the Belgrade District Court and the Prosecutor's Office, while the Special Court at the Palace of Justice will be finalised by the end of 2019.



New Opportunities for Young People in Innovation and Technology

The Project concerns a series of investments aimed at revitalising public R&D institutions in Serbia. These investments will upgrade research facilities and infrastructure, offering a new science centre open to the public to promote science literacy, new construction to accommodate students and young scientists, and improved infrastructure in the field of medical science. Zvezdara Science & Technology Park is one of the first facilities completed.





Detention Facilities According to European Standards

The WBIF has supported the construction of modern penitentiary facilities in Pančevo and Kragujevac. The prison in Pančevo was completed in October 2018 and it will ensure a dignified life in prison for 500 detainees, as well as improved healthcare services and rehabilitation opportunities in line with European standards.



Enhanced Urban Mobility in Belgrade

This complex infrastructure project has improved the urban transport system in Belgrade. Phase I, which ran between 2004 and 2012 and was financed by the EIB, focused on the main transport arteries in the city, which were rehabilitated into modern streets with revitalised tramway networks. Phase II, currently underway and financed by the EBRD, further improves road and tram infrastructure, traffic management, and the City's ability to manage and protect the street assets.



Windows of Opportunity

A native of Kosovo, Ejup Shumolli, learned most of what he knows about his trade in Switzerland but returned to Kosovo to start a factory that produces high-quality vinyl windows and doors. His company is using a loan of €100,000 supported by the WB EDIF and disbursed by ProCredit Bank, to purchase high-end machinery to streamline and increase productivity and efficiency.

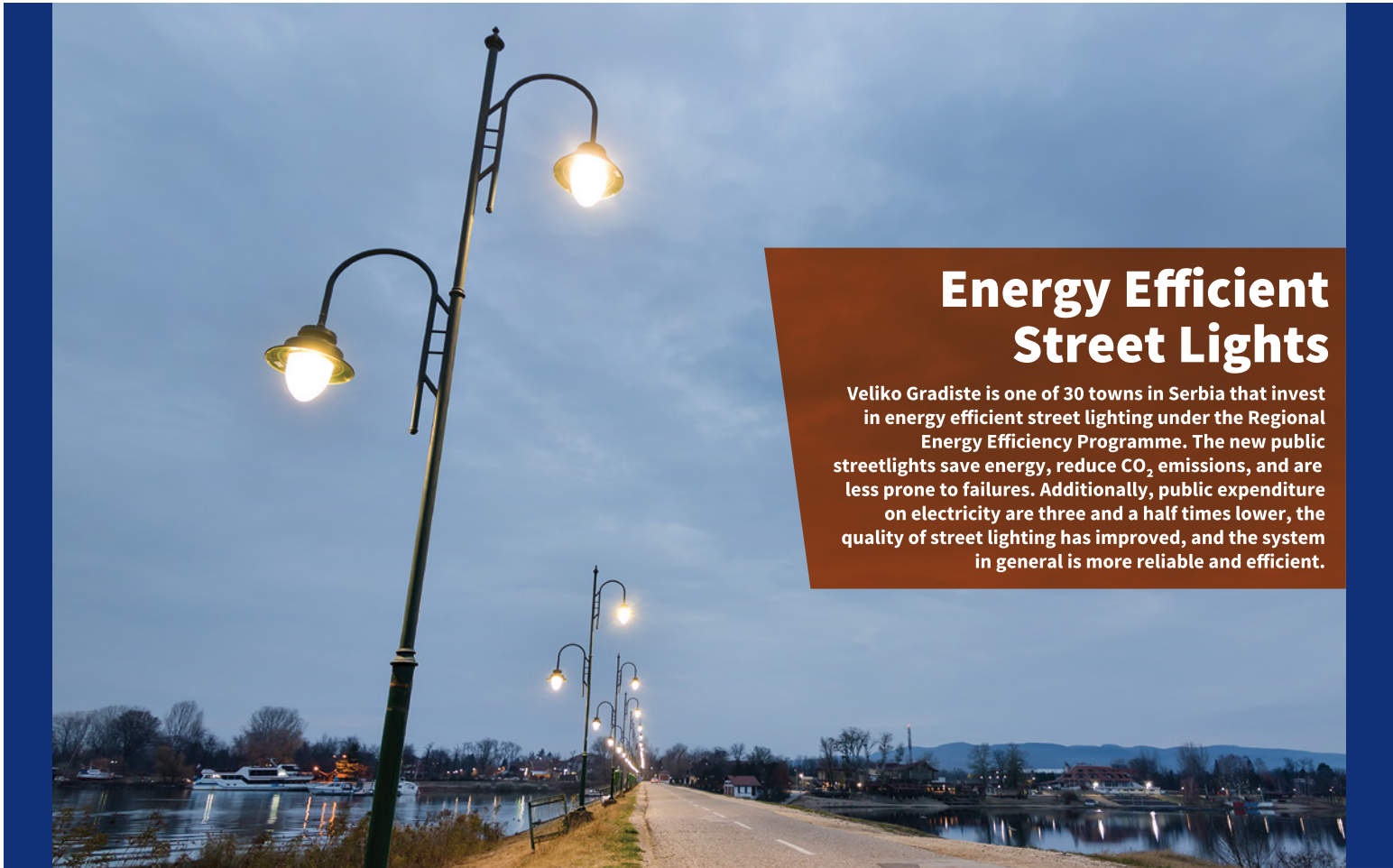
WB EDIF

 PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

THE WESTERN BALKANS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FACILITY

WB EDIF Guarantee for **€100,000** Loan





Energy Efficient Street Lights

Veliko Gradiste is one of 30 towns in Serbia that invest in energy efficient street lighting under the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme. The new public streetlights save energy, reduce CO₂ emissions, and are less prone to failures. Additionally, public expenditure on electricity are three and a half times lower, the quality of street lighting has improved, and the system in general is more reliable and efficient.



BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER

In 2019, the WBIF celebrates its 10th anniversary. During the past decade, over €1 billion in grants were allocated to strategic infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans. The successful implementation of these investments shows many tangible gains, such as significantly reduced travel times and increased transport safety, more energy from renewable sources, improved educational levels, as well as increased competitiveness.

Together with the Western Balkan beneficiaries, the WBIF forms a unique partnership, which defines priorities and support packages needed for strategic investments and institutional reform in the region. WBIF contributes to the European perspective of the region by financing investment projects improving competitiveness and growth, which in turn is complemented by policy measures fostering regional cooperation and connectivity.

Annually, around €200 million in technical assistance and investment grants are allocated to the Western Balkan beneficiaries for the implementation of the Connectivity Agenda and other strategically important infrastructure projects. The grants channelled through the WBIF by the EU and Bilateral Donors support investment projects with an estimated total investment cost of €18 billion. These investments will reduce existing barriers making the horizon of European accession visible and obtainable.





A JOINT PARTNERSHIP OF:



IN COOPERATION WITH:



BILATERAL DONORS:



BENEFICIARIES:

