



13-12-2023

## New investments approved under the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

The WBIF Operational Board endorsed on 8 December a €680 million investment package to support five flagship investments in rail transport and renewable energy in Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The board also welcomed Hungary as a new Bilateral Donor.

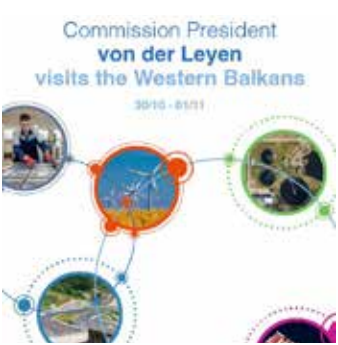
[Read more >>](#)

**Endorsed Flagship Investments 2020-2023 booklet**

[Download here >>](#)

**WBIF Flagship Overview video**

[Watch here >>](#)



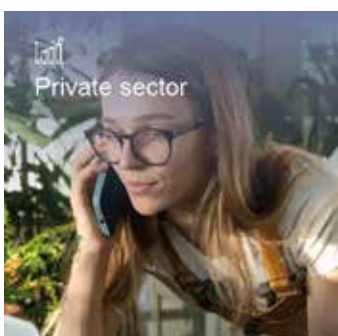
06-11-2023

### European Commission President spells out new Growth plan during visit to Western Balkans

European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, presented the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans during a trip to the region. She reiterated the EU's commitment to having all six Western Balkan partners as part of the European Union, and praised the efforts already made to achieve that.

[Read more >>](#)

## Flagship investments



15-12-2023

### SME Go Green Programme kick-off in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to apply for loans coupled with investment incentives to help them improve their competitiveness and reduce their carbon footprint, thanks to the new SME Go Green programme.

[Read more >>](#)



12-12-2023

### Serbia – Bulgaria gas pipeline opened to diversify energy supplies

A 170 km pipeline connector between Serbia and Bulgaria was inaugurated in a historic ceremony in Nis on 10 December 2023. The project holds strategic importance, as it diversifies Serbia's energy supply and reduces its dependency on Russian gas.

[Read more >>](#)

## Flagship investments



16-10-2023

### A new home for 50 displaced families in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fifty families who, until now, had been living in collective and alternative accommodation, received the keys to their new homes in the City of Goražde at a moving-in ceremony mid-September 2023

[Read more >>](#)

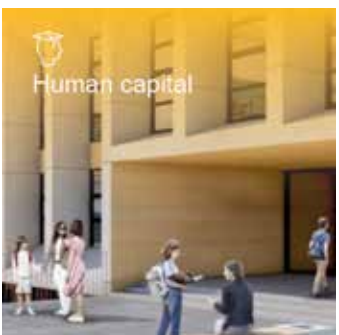


12-10-2023

### Big interest from small businesses for EU support in the Western Balkans

The first Open4Business event took place in Skopje, organised by the European Commission, the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia and Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum. Almost 500 participants learned more about the support offered to MSMEs.

[Read more >>](#)



04-09-2023

### Works start on the first school under WBIF-supported education programme in Montenegro

This comprehensive programme to renovate the pre-university school system involves building, renovating, and equipping educational facilities and kindergartens in Podgorica and nine other municipalities.

[Read more >>](#)



28-07-2023

### First section of the EU-financed Peace Highway in Serbia open

On 26 June 2023, the Ambassador of the European Union to Serbia, Emanuele Giaufret, and the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, inaugurated the first part of the EU-supported Niš-Merdare highway in Southern Serbia.

[Read more >>](#)

## Technical assistance



21-11-2023

### Support project for preparing the gas interconnection between North Macedonia and Serbia launched

A new EU-funded technical assistance project for the gas interconnection pipeline between North Macedonia and Serbia has begun. The pipeline will connect the two countries with the northern and southern gas corridors, contributing to energy diversification, and the economic development of the wider region..

[Read more >>](#)



08-11-2023

### Western Balkans to benefit from increased advisory support through JASPERS

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission announced a new agreement enabling the Bank to triple its advisory assistance for the Western Balkans. Up to €20 million and teams of experts will be made available over six years to support the EU enlargement process.

[Read more >>](#)

## WBIF Related activities



12-12-2023

### Transport Ministers discuss reforms within Western Balkans at Transport Community Summit

Transport ministers from the Western Balkans, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, as well as the European Commission, gathered at the annual Ministerial Council Meeting of the Transport Community in Skopje. They discussed transport network reforms, endorsed the progress in transposing EU acquis, and noted the opportunities provided by the EU Growth Plan.

[Read more >>](#)



03-07-2023

### Important stop on the Balkans Digital Highway

The World Bank Group organised a major event to mark the end of the initial phase of the Balkans Digital Highway Initiative. It gathered transmission system operators from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia on 8-9 November in Pristina.

[Read more >>](#)



03-07-2023

### EU Delegation in Serbia launches platform for SME access to EU funds

The platform 'EU Mogucnosti' informs Serbian citizens, including SMEs, civil society, and academia about available funding and application processes across diverse sectors such as business and innovation, education, sports, culture, media, local development, environmental protection, and agriculture

[Read more >>](#)

## Feature stories



### Montenegro's Green Transition

Besides the direct budget support, the 2023 EU Energy Support Package also includes grants to advance the Western Balkans' energy transition. One of the initiatives is also "Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings – Greening Public Infrastructure in Montenegro".

[Read more >>](#)



### On the fast track to change

WeBalkans dives into the history of railways in Serbia to illustrate the long-standing vision of having seamless rail travel across the country. The largest ever investment package from the EU for the Belgrade-Niš railway line will bring this vision to reality, reducing travel time from six hours to two.

[Read more >>](#)

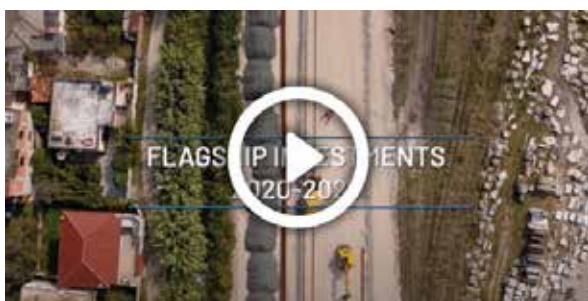


### EBRD and EU support Serbian SME's green transition

Discover the impact of the SME Competitiveness programme through Agrosava, a Serbian agribusiness firm who recently installed a rooftop solar plant financed by EBRD. In addition to the loan, the company also received a 15 per cent cashback incentive, funded by the EU, which also provides funds for technical assistance.

[Read more >>](#)

## Videos



### WBIF Flagship Investments Overview

[Watch here >>](#)



### Road Corridor Vc Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Watch here >>](#)



### Open4Business Event Skopje

[Watch here >>](#)

## Publications



### Endorsed Flagship Investments 2020-2023

[Download here >>](#)



### WBIF Annual Progress Report 2022

[Download here >>](#)



### WBIF Bilateral Donors Investments Overview

[Download here >>](#)



### Blending and Guarantees Private Sector Overview

[Download here >>](#)



### Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor

[Download here >>](#)



### Road Corridor Vc Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Download here >>](#)



### Peace Highway: Niš - Merdare - Pristina

[Download here >>](#)



### Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme

[Download here >>](#)

## Follow @TheWBIF on social media



Facebook



YouTube



X (Twitter)



LinkedIn

## Disclaimer

### Partner financial organisations



### Current donors



### Western Balkans partners

