

Selected projects in the Western Balkans



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1 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Road Corridor Vc

Two years ago I finished my Master's thesis at the University of Sarajevo, Faculty for Civil Engineering. Last year I successfully applied for an employment programme focusing on women engineers, and started working on Road Corridor Vc. I am thankful that my first professional experience is in such a significant project, working with skilled co-workers, where my theoretical knowledge can be put into practice.

Ena Bilalović
Construction engineer

Project description

Road Corridor Vc is part of the extension of the TEN-T Core Network to the Western Balkans. It connects Bosnia and Herzegovina to Hungary, Croatia and the Adriatic Sea. The longest section of the corridor lies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the country has embarked on a multi-billion motorway construction programme. The motorway network, which is being built following modern transport standards, will improve road safety, increase access to tourism centres and industrial areas in the country and create more opportunities for trade flows within the region and with the EU.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€4.1
billion

- EU grants **€870 million**
- IFI loans **€2.5 billion**
- Other grants **€868 million**
- National contribution **€296 million**

Impact

- ✓ **212 km** of new motorways
- ✓ **5 000 - 7 500 jobs** created
- ✓ Travel speed increased to **130 km/h** along the motorway
- ✓ Border crossing facilities created, including the cross-border bridge to Croatia over the Sava River
- ✓ Journeys and waiting times at the border shortened
- ✓ Trade flows within the wider region improved
- ✓ Mobility improved for more than **1.5 million** people
- ✓ Bosnia and Herzegovina integrated with the TEN-T Core Network



2 SERBIA

Rhine-Danube Corridor: facilitating navigation in the Prahovo sector

At the end of World War II, the German army was trying to get out in the direction of Kladovo. But, when they realised that they could not get through, the order was to sink the ships. Sunken ships probably contain explosives, and we can actually see the barrels with dynamite on some of them. Once the ships are removed, the steering will be much easier on this part of river.

Ivica Škadić
Local fisherman, Prahovo

Project description

The Danube is navigable throughout Serbia for 588 km. However, the fairway narrows significantly at the Đerdap gorge, downstream from the port of Prahovo, due to the presence of shipwrecks sunk at the end of World War II. Through this investment, shipwrecks will be removed from the Danube, eliminating the current 5 km-long traffic bottleneck. This will facilitate the shift from road to waterway transport, support economic growth, enhance connectivity in the region and with the EU, and strengthen regional cooperation.

Funding

Investment
(estimated)

€29.7
million

EU grant
€16.4 million

IFI loan
€13.3 million

Impact

- ✓ **21 shipwrecks** removed
- ✓ **8% increase** in cargo volume transported annually on the Danube
- ✓ **1 567 jobs** created during construction and maintenance periods
- ✓ Decarbonization of transport supported through modal shift from road to inland waterways
- ✓ Regional connectivity enhanced



3 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Reconstruction and modernisation of Brčko river port

Phase I

The completion of the port crane is a historic day for Brčko port, because there has been no serious investment here in the last 50 years. As part of this project, a new railway and a new access road was built, we got a new modern crane and we built a new port platform. Investing in this structure will be the driver of new economic development not only for Brčko District but also for the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Perica Josić
Brčko Port Director

Project description

This project includes the construction and arrangement of the port plateau, the purchase of a new crane, the reconstruction of the access road from the port to Bijeljinska Cesta as well as the industrial railway from the port to Brčko Novo railway station. The new crane triples the capability of the previous one. This improvement is expected to significantly increase the port's efficiency.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€10.1
million

EU grant
€3.1 million

IFI loan
€7 million

Impact

- ✓ Plateau, access road and railway station reconstructed
- ✓ New crane triples carrying capacity to **16 tonnes**
- ✓ Handling capacity of goods increased to **150-200 tonnes per hour**
- ✓ Operational costs for the port of Brčko lowered, and thus more competitive cargo handling fees for the private sector
- ✓ Greenhouse gas emissions reduced by developing a competitive multimodal transport corridor along the Sava River
- ✓ Trade flows with countries in the region improved and, thus, a positive impact on the broader economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina



4 ALBANIA

Rail interconnection: Vorë – Hani i Hotit section

This rail line isn't just a win for Albania; it's a win for the whole neighbourhood, making it easier for people and goods to move around and turbocharging economic growth. With the Tirana – Durrës line already setting the pace, this new Vorë – Hani i Hotit stretch is our government's next big step in rail transport.

Belinda Balluku
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Infrastructure and Energy

Photo ©: Dennis Kraus

Project description

This investment project rehabilitates the railway line and associated railway stations, installs new signalling systems, and improves safety on the rail route. Reform measures accompany these investments to improve the rail sector's competitiveness. The new line will allow higher travel speeds, significantly enhancing market access and boosting international freight and passenger traffic towards ports, capital cities, and airports by rail. This increased traffic is a promising opportunity for potential investors to capitalize on.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€316.9
million

EU grant
€142.6 million

IFI loans
€169 million

IFI grants
€2 million

National contribution
€3.3 million

Impact

- ✓ **120 km** of railway line upgraded
- ✓ **12 railway stations** rehabilitated
- ✓ Travel speed increased from 20-40 km/h to up to **120 km/h**
- ✓ Seamless, safe and sustainable mobility of passengers and goods
- ✓ Modal shift to rail as a low carbon-intensive mode of transport



5  NORTH MACEDONIA

Rail Corridor VIII: Kumanovo – Kriva Palanka

The new railway line will accelerate the country's reforms in the railway sector and facilitate broader regional integration. It will contribute to a more environmentally sustainable transport system in North Macedonia, enabling a gradual shift from road to rail in line with the EU's and the country's climate aspirations.

Kyriacos Kakouris
Vice-President of the European Investment Bank

Project description

The investment project for the section Kumanovo – Kriva Palanka concerns the rehabilitation of the Corridor VIII railway track to modern standards. The planned intervention includes several railway bridges, over and underpasses, 5.5 km-long tunnels, railway stations and stops, and a new signalling and telecommunication system. This project will rehabilitate the central part of this corridor, connecting the Western Balkans from West to East.

Impact

- ✓ **34 km of railway** rehabilitated from Beljakovce to Kriva Palanka
- ✓ Remaining works completed on the section from Kumanovo to Beljakovce
- ✓ Direct access to modern means of transport for more than **350 000 people**
- ✓ **20%** increase in annual freight volume by 2040
- ✓ Travel time between Skopje and Sofia decreased
- ✓ Air and noise pollution levels reduced
- ✓ Operational costs for railway operators reduced

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€282.9
million

- EU grant **€75 million**
- IFI loan **€191.4 million**
- Other donors **€6 million**
- National contribution **€10.5 million**



6  SERBIA

Rail Corridor X

Rail Corridor X links Belgrade, Niš and Skopje, and it connects the region with the EU via Croatia, Bulgaria and Greece. Along with upgrading the railway link from Belgrade to Podgorica and Bar in Montenegro, Corridor X is expected to become a vital interconnection from East to West for freight and passengers. In Serbia, Rail Corridor X runs from the borders with Hungary and Croatia to the borders with Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

Funding

Total investment (estimated) **€3 billion**

EU grant	IFI loans	National contribution
€812.6 million	€1.9 billion	€312 million

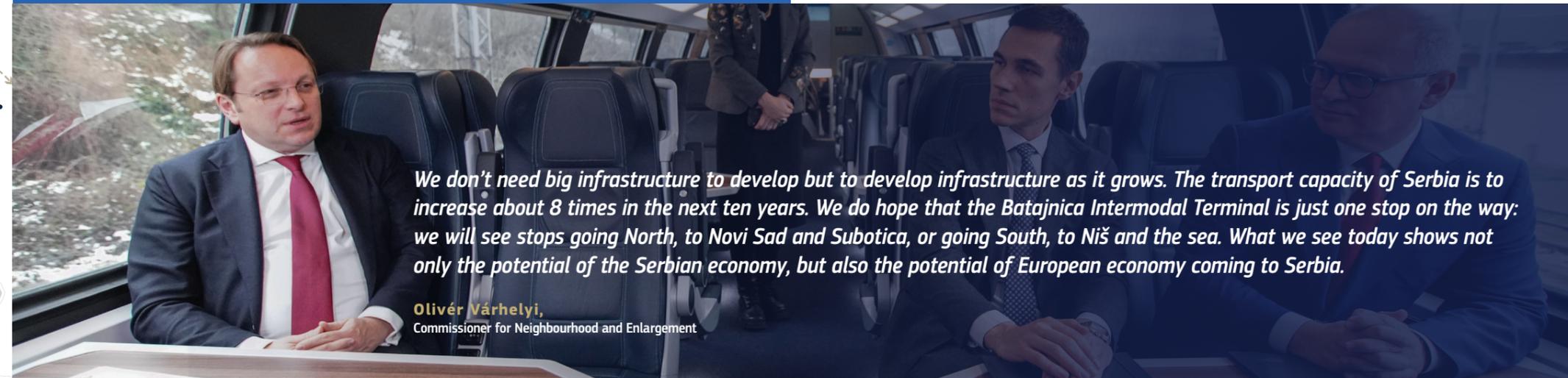


EU-supported sections

- 1 Stara Pazova – Šid (border with Croatia)
length: 90 km
- 2 Intermodal Terminal in Batajnica, Belgrade
- 3 Ostružnica – Batajnica, Belgrade
length: 22.4 km
- 4 Belgrade – Velika Plana
length: 85 km
- 5 Velika Plana – Paraćin
length: 63 km
- 6 Paraćin – Međurovo
length: 66 km
- 7 Stalać – Đunis
length: 17.7 km
- 8 Niš Bypass
length: 22.4 km
- 9 Niš – Dimitrovgrad (border with Bulgaria)
length: 86 km
- 10 Niš – Brestovac
length: 24 km
- 11 Niš – Preševo (border with North Macedonia)
length: 133 km

Impact

- ✓ **609.5 km** of railway lines upgraded
- ✓ Travel speed increased from 50 km/h to up to **200 km/h**
- ✓ Seamless, safe and sustainable mobility of passengers and goods
- ✓ Economic growth and competitiveness increased in the region
- ✓ Serbia integrated with the TEN-T Core Network



We don't need big infrastructure to develop but to develop infrastructure as it grows. The transport capacity of Serbia is to increase about 8 times in the next ten years. We do hope that the Batajnica Intermodal Terminal is just one stop on the way: we will see stops going North, to Novi Sad and Subotica, or going South, to Niš and the sea. What we see today shows not only the potential of the Serbian economy, but also the potential of European economy coming to Serbia.

Oliver Várhelyi,
Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

7 MONTENEGRO

Rail Route 4: Bar-Vrbnica railway line section

The railroad infrastructure investments resulted in an increase in traffic safety and quality of services for freight and passenger transport. Also, the capacities of the port of Bar were increased, thus removing this bottleneck of railroad infrastructure in Montenegro.

Lucija Filipović
Project Implementation Unit at Railway
Infrastructure of Montenegro

Project description

The Bar – Vrbnica railway line is the backbone of the Montenegrin railway system and is part of the extension of the TEN-T Core Network to the Western Balkans. With EU support, Montenegro is upgrading the infrastructure on this line to create a multimodal maritime-rail transport route from the port of Bar to the wider Western Balkans region. This investment will boost business and help Montenegro to have cleaner air and safer transport.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€405
million

EU grant

€191 million

IFI loan

€213 million

National contribution

€1 million

Impact

- ✓ **168 km** of railway line rehabilitated
- ✓ Mobility improved for **1.4 million passengers** each year
- ✓ Freight carrying capacity increased from 1.2 million to **1.5 million tonnes** per year
- ✓ Travel speed increased to up to **120 km/h**
- ✓ Time savings, enhanced safety and reliability of rail transport
- ✓ Multimodal maritime-rail transport route created from the port of Bar to the wider region



8 ALBANIA

Durrës – Tirana railway line

I am very proud to be part of such an important project – the first investment in the sector in so many years. People, including workers, students and tourists, are looking forward to travelling by train again. Everyone will benefit from it.

Bashkim Kasoruho
Director of the Project Implementation Unit at Albanian Railways

Project description

This investment project rehabilitates the Durrës – Tirana railway line, constructs a new railway link to Tirana International Airport and builds new railway stations along the line. The project will install modern signalling and telecommunication systems, while electrification will be implemented at a later stage. It will improve market access and substantially increase international freight and passenger traffic towards ports, capital cities and airports by rail.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)
€107.9
million

EU grants
€36.6 million

Other grants
€1.2 million

IFI loans
€50.7 million

IFI grant
€0.1 million

National contribution
€19.3 million

Impact

- ✓ **34.5 km** of railway line rehabilitated
- ✓ **7.4 km** of new railway track built between Tirana and Tirana's (Rinas) International Airport
- ✓ **41.9 km** of railway line equipped with modern signalling and telecommunication systems
- ✓ **8** new railway stations built along the line
- ✓ Passenger and freight travel speed increased from 60 km/h to **100-120 km/h**
- ✓ Direct access to modern means of transport for more than **1 million people** living along the Tirana – Durrës railway route



9 NORTH MACEDONIA

Bogdanci wind park

Phase II

This plant has enormous significance because it is the first of its type in our country. It can cover peaks to place energy in the network quickly.

Dragana Krstevska
Student of electrical engineering and information technologies

Project description

North Macedonia aims to decarbonise the energy sector by gradually phasing out fossil fuels and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix. Phase I of this pilot project, with a 36.8 MW installed capacity, was successfully developed with EU technical assistance and produced 103 GWh or 1.95% of the country's total electricity generation in 2021. Phase II will increase the capacity of the wind park by up to 15 MW, which is expected to produce 46 GWh of electricity annually, equivalent to the energy demand of around 6 000 households.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€30.3
million

EU grant

€9.2 million

IFI grant

€0.2 million

IFI loan

€18 million

National contribution

€2.9 million

Impact

- ✓ **15 MW** of additional renewable energy generation capacity installed
- ✓ **149 GWh** of renewable energy produced each year
- ✓ **22 000 households** supplied with clean energy
- ✓ **153 600 tonnes of CO₂** emissions avoided each year
- ✓ **41 jobs** created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods
- ✓ North Macedonia's energy sources diversified



10  SERBIA

Kostolac wind farm

This is the first project of its kind in the Public Company Elektroprivreda Srbije (EPS). We're about to have our first wind farm in four locations – Drmno, Petka, Čirikovac and Klenovnik.

Predrag Đorđević
Project Manager at Elektroprivreda Srbije

Project description

This project will install a 66 MW wind farm in Kostolac, on the site of depleted open-cast mines. The plant is expected to produce 187 GWh of electricity each year, equivalent to the energy demand of 45 000 households. This investment is part of the country's effort to diversify the energy mix, increase renewable electricity generation, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, support decarbonisation, and clean up and reuse the site of the exhausted coal mine.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€145.1
million

EU grant

€31 million

IFI loan

€81.8 million

National contribution

€32.3 million

Impact

- ✓ **66 MW** of renewable energy generation capacity installed
- ✓ **184 GWh** produced each year
- ✓ **174 000 tonnes** of CO₂ emissions avoided each year
- ✓ Power produced from a cost-effective domestic resource
- ✓ Reduced reliance on fossil fuels and overall carbon emissions in the energy sector
- ✓ New streams of revenue for local communities opened
- ✓ Exhausted open-cast mining sites in the Kostolac Coal Basin cleaned-up and repurposed
- ✓ Sustainable development and protection of the environment promoted



11 NORTH MACEDONIA

Oslomej 1 solar photovoltaic power plant

There is a perspective for green energy. We see the positive side that it should provide permanent, secure employment since the energy capacities last for 30 years. A person can comfortably make it to retirement with a career in green energy.

Čedomir Arsovski
Head of Development and Investment at Energy & Mining Company Oslomej

Project description

The Oslomej 1 solar photovoltaic power plant harnesses the sun's energy through panels installed atop the old and depleted coal mine. It marks the beginning of a series of solar power plants that aim to replace the thermal power plant's installed capacity, setting a precedent for similar projects in the region. This plant shows North Macedonia's commitment to the environment, as it diversifies the country's energy sources, significantly contributing to decarbonisation efforts.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€8.9
million

EU grant
(WBIF Bilateral Donors)

€1.6 million

IFI loan

€5.9 million

National contribution

€1.4 million

Impact

- ✓ **10 MW** of renewable energy generation capacity installed
- ✓ **15 GWh** of renewable energy produced each year, equivalent to the energy demand of **2 800 households**
- ✓ **12 177 tonnes of CO₂** displaced annually
- ✓ **60 jobs** created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods



12 WESTERN BALKANS Regional

SERBIA / MONTENEGRO / BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Trans-Balkan electricity corridor

The EU supports the Western Balkan partners in decreasing their dependence on fossil fuels, accelerating decarbonisation and market integration, and improving the region's energy security. Performant electricity transmission lines are a key enabler for the energy transition. With EU financial assistance, Serbia and Montenegro are establishing a Trans-Balkan Power Corridor to connect the electricity transmission systems of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Italy through either 400 kV overhead lines or a submarine cable. These much-needed investments will replace the outdated 220 kV network, which is prone to system failures and carries high operational and maintenance costs.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)	€290 million			
EU grant	IFI loans	IFI grant	National contribution Serbia	National contribution Montenegro
€65.7 million	€192.3 million	€0.3 million	€14.7 million	€17 million



SERBIA

In Serbia, the EU supports:

- 1 The construction of a new 400 kV section Kragujevac-Kraljevo
- 2 Upgrading the section from Obrenovac to Bajina Bašta
- 3 Upgrading the section from Bajina Bašta to Višegrad (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 4 Upgrading the section to the border with Montenegro

MONTENEGRO

In Montenegro, the EU, EBRD and KfW support:

- 5 The construction of a new 400 kV transmission line from Lastva to Pljevlja, including the construction of a new substation in Lastva
- 6 Connecting the Lastva substation to the existing 400 kV Podgorica – Trebinje line
- 7 Upgrading the 400/220/110 kV substation in Pljevlja. The project includes dismantling the existing 220 kV overhead lines between the substation in Pljevlja and the Montenegro/Serbia border

Impact

- ✓ **488 km** of **400 kV** overhead transmission lines installed
- ✓ New substations built and existing substations upgraded
- ✓ Transmission losses reduced and less expensive energy supplied to residents and businesses
- ✓ Power supply secured by eliminating overloads and reducing outages in the system
- ✓ Regional cross-border electricity transmission capacity increased by **1 000 MW**
- ✓ Over **550 jobs** created for construction, operation and maintenance
- ✓ Balanced power markets and efficient management of reserve and emergency capacities in the region
- ✓ Contribution to the creation of a regional electricity market



The construction of the Trans-Balkan Corridor is a milestone towards increasing energy stability and the security of supply for citizens and companies in Serbia.

Dubravka Đedović
Minister of Mining and Energy of Serbia

13 ALBANIA

Vau i Dejës floating solar photovoltaic power plant

Although modest in size, the project holds opportunities not only for the further development of public generation assets on a strong commercial, technical and environmental basis, but also showcases the know-how that is required to operate a hybrid hydro-photovoltaic system.

Besjan Kadiu
CEO of Korporata Elektroenergjitike Shqiptare (KESH)

Project description

This investment project installs a 12.9 MW floating solar photovoltaic power plant at Vau i Dejës, a reservoir that hosts one of the largest hydropower plants in Albania. This will be the first medium-sized hybrid floating solar and hydropower plant and the first application of purefloat technology in the Western Balkans. The project aims at exploiting Albania's solar resources and improve resilience to climate risks.

Funding

Total cost
(estimated)

€12.1
million

EU grant
(WBIF Bilateral Donors)

€2.7 million

IFI loan

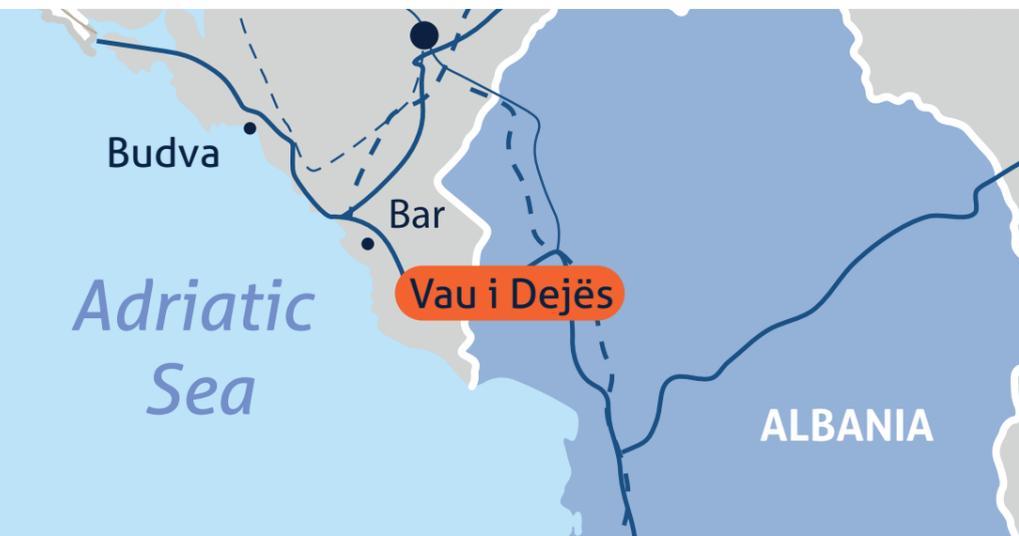
€7.5 million

National contribution

€1.9 million

Impact

- ✓ **18 GWh** of electricity produced each year
- ✓ **8 700 tonnes of CO₂** displaced each year
- ✓ Significant demonstration effect produced
- ✓ Easy replication in other reservoirs in Albania and the region



14 WESTERN BALKANS Regional

Regional Energy Efficiency Programme

(REEP)

We are here today to celebrate the completion of works on the first of 40 public buildings in the Canton, with children's smiles and laughter in the background. The benefits of this project are multiple – our children will have better conditions, and we will reduce energy costs and emissions of harmful particles into the air.

Enver Hadžiahmetović
Minister of Communal Economy, Infrastructure, Physical Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection of Sarajevo Canton

Project description

The building sector accounts for over 40% of total energy consumption in the Western Balkans. Renovating public and private buildings to meet energy performance standards can significantly contribute to energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve living standards. The Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) was established in 2013 by the EBRD jointly with the European Commission, the Energy Community Secretariat, WBIF and bilateral donors. The programme blends policy support with loans, technical assistance and incentives, to support energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in the public and private sectors and implement the EU energy efficiency acquis in the Western Balkans. The EBRD and the KfW implement the programme, which operates both directly and through intermediaries and is a key instrument for the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan.

Funding

Total cost (estimated)

€1.2
billion

EU grants
€182.6 million

Other grants
€40 million

IFI loans
€928 million

Impact

- ✓ Around **1 000 SMEs** and **16 000 households** benefitted from loans and incentives
- ✓ Around **400 public buildings** benefitted from energy efficiency rehabilitation
- ✓ More than **700 cities** and towns in the region targeted
- ✓ Biomass market developed in Serbia
- ✓ **964 000 MWh** of energy saved each year
- ✓ **540 000 tonnes of CO₂** emissions avoided each year
- ✓ **121 MW** of renewable energy capacity installed



Gas interconnector Serbia-Bulgaria

This additional gas interconnection with Bulgaria, with the support of the EU, will mean a better quality of life for all citizens, especially those living in Eastern and Southern Serbia, will mean additional competitiveness for our economy, but will also mean new investments and new workplaces. Also, this project means the most concrete fight for better air quality, for the Green Agenda, because we will be able to expand the gas pipeline network, to give subsidies so that people who now heat individual fireplaces can connect to central district heating.

Ana Brnabić
Prime Minister of Serbia (2017-2024)

Project description

By funding the building of the gas interconnector Niš–Dimitrovgrad–Bulgaria, the EU supports safe and sustainable gas supply for homes and industries in Serbia. This will boost the diversification of energy sources in Serbia and in the Western Balkans region, while also enhancing the transition from fossil fuel to fully renewable sources of energy. Moreover, it will provide more secure and stable supply from a different gas network system.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€106.5
million

EU grant
€50 million

IFI grant
€25 million

National contribution
€24 million

Srbijagas' contribution
€7.5 million

Impact

- ✓ **1.8 billion m³** of gas transferred every year, equal to **60%** of Serbia's annual consumption
- ✓ Citizens, schools, hospitals and businesses in Bela Palanka, Pirot and Dimitrovgrad will have access to gas supply for heating and industrial production
- ✓ Countries in the Western Balkans have more diversified, secure and stable supply from different gas network systems



16  **MONTENEGRO**

Podgorica waste water treatment plant

Photo ©: Vodovod i kanalizacija d.o.o. Podgorica

It is necessary to emphasise that the project beneficiaries, Capital City and ViK Podgorica have reached important administrative and infrastructural milestones having successfully closed Phase 1 Main Collector, pedestrian Bridge and Secondary network extension construction contracts. Phase 2 & 3 Network extension main designs are timely prepared and ready to be tendered while the design-build wastewater treatment plant construction contract has entered a crucial main design finalisation phase. Full EU and WBIF support remains essential prerequisite for further project implementation.

Aleksandar Nišavić
Executive Director of public company "Vodovod i kanalizacija"

Project description

This investment project will support the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant for Podgorica, a sludge incineration plant, and extend the sewerage network. These investments will enable the collection and treatment of the wastewater generated by the city in line with EU standards. Currently, Podgorica is serviced by a wastewater plant built in the 1970s, performing well below the capacity needed to meet present demand. About half of the effluent is discharged untreated into the Morača River, running into the Skadar Lake - an internationally recognised wetland area.

Funding

**Total investment
(estimated)**
€76.6
million

EU grant
€23.7 million

IFI grant
€0.3 million

IFI loan
€35 million

National contribution
€6.6 million

Other grants
€11 million

Impact

- ✓ Sanitation services improved for over **189 300 people**
- ✓ Wastewater treatment capacity increased from 29.4 m³/day to **48.9 m³/day**
- ✓ Primary and secondary sewer network extended by **33.6 km** of new sewer pipes installed
- ✓ Direct positive impact achieved on the health of residents and better living conditions in Podgorica and its neighbourhood
- ✓ Environment protected by reducing pollution load in surface and groundwater in the area and downstream
- ✓ Adequate collection and treatment of wastewater and sludge achieved
- ✓ Compliance with EU water and environment Directives and international best practices in the field



17 KOSOVO

Support to waste management

Today, every municipality in Kosovo has waste disposal plans, dedicated officials, environmental inspectors, and a robust operating system for waste collection companies, all aligned with legal requirements. The EU and German Government support has driven us to enhance services, foster competition, and deliver tangible benefits for our citizens.

Agim Aliu
President of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and mayor of Ferizaj

Project description

The project supported the central government and all the municipalities in providing sustainable basic services, laying the foundation for reforms in the sector, applying an integrated waste management system and enhancing the legal and policy framework in line with the EU acquis and moving towards the implementation of the “waste hierarchy” and “polluter pays” principles. This also allows Kosovo to move towards a circular economy, with the inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Funding

Total investment

€7 million

EU grant

€6.1 million

IFI contribution

€0.9 million

Impact

- ✓ Waste management plans developed for **36 municipalities**
- ✓ Waste separation has been implemented as a pilot project in **25%** of all households in the country
- ✓ Collection rate of solid waste increased in **38 municipalities** from 32% to **90%**
- ✓ **1 483 illegal dumpsites** closed from 2017 to 2022
- ✓ Waste-collection and management services accessed by **94%** of urban and rural households
- ✓ Set up of the first deposit refund system for beverage containers to reduce the use of plastic bags



18 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Regional sanitary landfill

for Živinice, Banovici and Kladanj

This is a very significant project for three municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until now, waste was transported to an unsanitary landfill in Doboj, 70 km away. This project lays the ground for future investments in the circular economy. We always say that waste is not rubbish, but a resource that can be used again.

Selmir Šljivić
Director of Eko-Sept d.o.o., Živinice

Project description

This investment has built a regional, EU-compliant solid waste landfill, including facilities for waste separation and a recycling yard, to serve three municipalities in Tuzla Canton - Živinice, Banovici and Kladanj. The landfill improves the overall solid waste management system in the three municipalities, reducing environmental risks stemming from water and soil contamination, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and decreasing the amount of disposed waste.

Funding

Total investment

€8.3
million

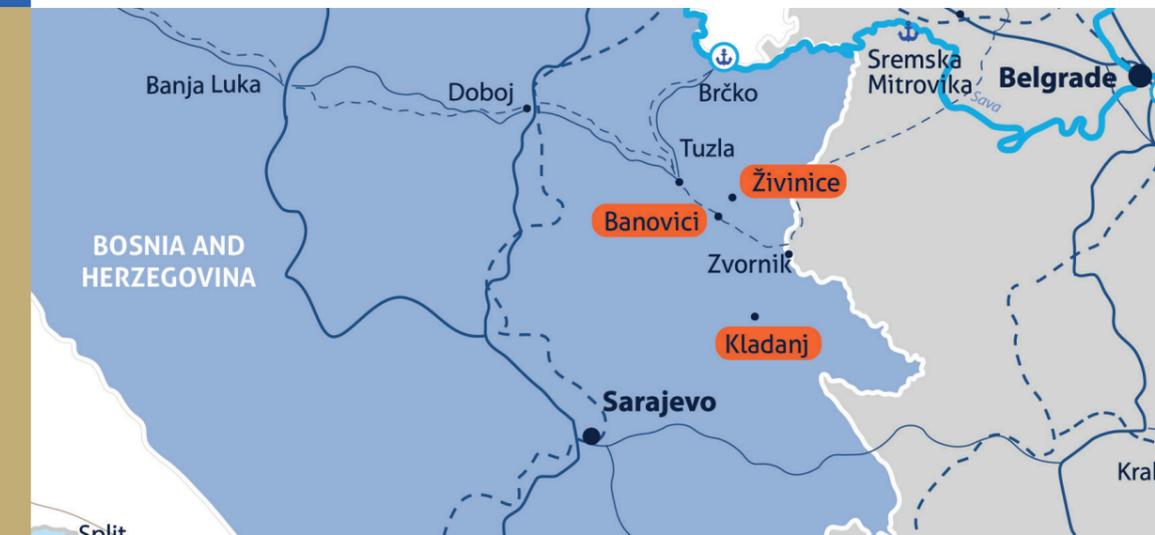
EU grant
€374 400

Member States' and other grants
€2.7 million

IFI loans
€5.2 million

Impact

- ✓ Efficient waste collection and disposal services provided to over **151 300 people**
- ✓ **16 140 tonnes** of waste disposed of in compliance with EU landfill standards each year
- ✓ **1 million m³** of landfill compliant with EU standards
- ✓ **3 non-compliant urban landfills** closed
- ✓ Environmental risks stemming from water and soil contamination reduced
- ✓ Greenhouse gas emissions reduced



19  SERBIASME
competitiveness
support
programme

With this investment, we have achieved not just greater productivity with significant reductions in waste and energy, but also improvements in terms of product quality and higher protection and safety at work.

Goran Gogić
Co-owner of MNG Plastik Gogić

Project description

The SME Competitiveness Support Programme helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to upgrade their operations to meet EU standards in environmental protection, occupational health and safety and product quality, through technical assistance provided by experts' guidance and grants. This holistic approach not only aids SMEs in aligning with stringent EU directives but also boosts their market potential and profitability.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€170
million

EU grant
€30 million

IFI loan
€140 million

Impact

- ✓ Competitiveness improved for **419 Serbian companies**
- ✓ Expert guidance to optimise investment provided to SMEs
- ✓ Compliance with EU legislation facilitated for SMEs
- ✓ Technical assistance provided on environmental protection, occupational health and safety, and product quality and safety



20 WESTERN BALKANS Regional

Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF)

This investment loan not only validates the strength of our business model and growth potential, but also empowers us to execute our strategic vision on a global scale. This financing will serve as a catalyst for the company's ambitious expansion plans, providing vital capital to support our initiatives in key markets around the world.

Ivana Kappenmann
Chief Financial Officer at Vega IT

Project description

The Enterprise Expansion Fund II (ENEF II) is a new investment fund that was established with EU support, building on the success of its predecessor fund, the ENEF. The ENEF II, part of the Western Balkans Investment Framework, is advised by the EBRD. Dedicated to SMEs and mid-caps in the Western Balkans, the ENEF II has already started investing in local companies. It aims to build a portfolio comprising 15-20 companies. Beyond providing expansion and growth capital, the ENEF II complements its investments with comprehensive pre- and post-investment advisory services, empowering businesses with the skills and tools they need to build resilient and thriving enterprises. The fund also aims to support companies' commitments to sustainability by embedding environmental, social and governance (ESG) best practices into its financing instruments.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€75
million

EU grant
€30 million

IFI loans
€45 million

Impact

- ✓ **15 to 20 companies** supported with individual investments
- ✓ Individual total investments for the companies ranging from **€0.5 million to €8 million**
- ✓ Advisory services and support provided on sustainable environmental, social and governance best practices
- ✓ Private sector growth and economic development enhanced in the region



21 WESTERN BALKANS Regional

GO DIGITAL in the Western Balkans

I am confident that company executives understand what makes them stronger, more efficient, and more resilient, and that digitisation, with components of energy efficiency and sustainable energy production for their own purposes, is high on their priority list. In this regard, I believe that the Go Digital credit line, which includes a grant as part of the credit arrangement, will serve as a motivation for investment and further improvement in our economy's most productive and crucial sector.

Amir Salkanović
President of the Management Board ProCredit Bank
d.d. Sarajevo

Project description

The GO DIGITAL programme provides a combination of specialised financing and know-how for digitalisation, automation and competitiveness for micro and small businesses (MSMEs) across the Western Balkans. EU grant financing is used for investment incentives and capacity building to promote proactive investments in high-performing technologies and mitigate upfront costs.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€177.6
million

EU grant
€27.6 million

IFI loan
€150 million

Impact

- ✓ At least **60%** of the investments provided in digitalisation and automation technologies
- ✓ At least **50%** of investments are green
- ✓ At least **30%** investment focused in areas outside capital cities
- ✓ Regional and rural development supported



22  SERBIA

Improving energy efficiency

of the Technical Faculties campus in Belgrade

It is a project that contributes to merging all five faculties into one technical campus. Architecturally, it is a landscape platform in the middle of two parks, creating a unified green area. Furthermore, this space will provide an environment for students to work, study and spend leisure time.

Igor Mikitišin
4mind Architects, author of the winning EU-funded architectural concept

Project description

With the support of the EU, the University of Belgrade, one of the oldest in the Western Balkans, has embarked on a transformative journey. This project involves the creation of an energy-efficient campus, to improve and strengthen the capacities of university education through capital investments in university infrastructure, facilitating the improvement of the quality of higher education in Serbia. In particular, the EU's intervention will focus on the Electrical Engineering and Technical Faculties Campus in Belgrade, constructing and equipping new buildings and rehabilitating existing ones in line with current energy efficiency and accessibility standards.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€169.5
million

EU grant
€22.1 million

IFI loan
€95 million

National contribution
€52.4 million

Impact

- ✓ Around **15 000 students** and **1 750 university staff** benefit from improved quality of education and learning conditions
- ✓ New modern university centres with an area of more than **30 000 m²** constructed
- ✓ **93 000 m²** of existing faculty buildings rehabilitated to ensure safety, energy efficiency, maintain the asset value and rationalise operational costs
- ✓ More than **1 620 jobs** created during construction and maintenance periods



23 MONTENEGRO

Education infrastructure improvement

Investing in children means creating prosperity, future and humanity, because child - shaping, motivating and creating new successful generations - means creating a state by measure of every modern and great civilization.

Slobodan Vujović
Teacher

Project description

This project aims at modernising education facilities, including kindergartens, primary, secondary and vocational schools, as well as providing Information and Communications Technology equipment. The project fosters a positive and efficient learning environment for children and adolescents in Montenegro, while at the same time addressing overcrowding in schools.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€64
million

EU grant

€11 million

IFI loan

€18 million

IFI grant

€2.5 million

National contribution

€32.5 million

Impact

- ✓ **10 vocational secondary schools** and **3 kindergartens** renovated
- ✓ **2 100 new places** provided for students
- ✓ Around **530 full-time jobs** created
- ✓ By 2026, **10 000 students** benefit each year from an innovative learning environment



24  SERBIA

Refurbishing University Children's Hospital

Tiršova 2

Health, especially the health of our children, is the most important thing. I am sure that patients will appreciate this, because this gives a great contribution to the city and the state.

Olivér Várhelyi
Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Project description

The University Children's Hospital is a leading paediatric health centre in Serbia. This investment project will construct a new building for the hospital to offer new diagnostic and treatment technologies, robotic surgery facilities, more sophisticated patient monitoring and new fields of therapeutic diagnosis. The new hospital will provide healthcare services for young patients in Serbia that align with European standards and will cater to neighbouring countries' specific, complex paediatric needs. Low-income families not living in Belgrade will have access to family accommodation options for admitted patients. At the same time, all physical spaces will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Funding

Total investment (estimated)

€164.1
million

EU grant
€36.2 million

IFI loan
€54 million

External grant
€0.3 million

National contribution
€73.6 million

Impact

- ✓ Number of total patient capacity increased by over **3 700 persons** per year
- ✓ Medical diagnostic and treatment area increased by **15 676 m²**, more than double the current space
- ✓ Paediatric diagnostic and treatment improved, in line with European best practice
- ✓ Healthcare costs reduced by improving space and energy efficiency
- ✓ Hospital's carbon footprint reduced in line with the objectives set in the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
- ✓ **560 new non-medical jobs** created during construction and maintenance periods



25  KOSOVO

Learning through experience

Through 'Learning through experience,' students have become more engaged and active in class, fostering a culture of reflection and critical thinking. This programme not only equips students with valuable skills but also empowers them to make a positive, sustained impact in their communities. Thanks to the EU's support, we're cultivating a generation of empowered youth ready to drive positive change in Kosovo.

Antigona Kastrati
"Hasan Prishtina" school

Project description

Through this programme, the EU is strengthening education and empowerment of young people in Kosovo, while also advocating for better youth development and education policies and practices. Thanks to this programme, a new generation of Kosovar youth leaders will make a positive sustained impact in their community, while Ministries of Education, Youth and local government engage more effectively with relevant civil society actors and networks.

Funding

Total investment
(estimated)

€115 000

EU grant
€60 000

NGO funding
€55 000

Impact

- ✓ More than **3 000 students** and **300 maths teachers** trained
- ✓ **97%** of students and teachers satisfied with the training on practical maths teaching methods
- ✓ **275 volunteers engaged** during the Solidarity Action Day in August 2023

