



# **WBIF Newsletter**

April 2023



# EU Energy Support Package – First part allocated to most vulnerable households and SMEs in the Western Balkans

Vulnerable households and SMEs in the region will pay less for energy thanks to the immediate EU budget support of €500 million. This is the first tranche of the ambitious €1 billion EU Energy Support Package to help the Western Balkans face the current energy crisis and promote its clean energy transition. The second part will cover priority flagship investments to diversify energy supplies, boost renewable energy and improve energy efficiency.

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# **Feature story**



#### North Macedonia stirring towards a greener future

North Macedonia has advanced significantly in energy transition in recent years. One of the flagship green energy projects that increased the amount of renewable energy for power supply in North Macedonia is the Bogdanci Wind Park.

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# Latest news



#### 27-03-2023

# Kick-off meeting for WBIF EU-funded project for Secondary Sewerage Network for Mostar City

The kick-off meeting for the Technical Assistance 'Secondary Sewerage Network for Mostar City – Phase 2: Updated Feasibility Study, ESIA, Detailed Design, Tender Dossiers' was held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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# Latest news



#### 24-03-2023 EU invests €91 million in largest wastewater treatement plant in Skopje

The European Investment Bank has signed a €70 million EU investment grant with the government of North Macedonia to build a wastewater treatment plant in Skopje. Signed on World Water Day, this is the largest EU investment grant allocated to the country under the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

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#### 10-03-2023 Works begin on energy-efficient Student City I campus dormitories in Tirana

A ground-breaking ceremony marked the beginning of an energy-efficient renovation of the Student City I campus dormitories in Tirana. The project consists of the rehabilitation of 19 dormitories to the EU Nearly-Zero Energy Building standard and constructing at least 3 new energy efficient buildings.

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#### 09-03-2023

# €35 million in EU support for Children's Hospital Tiršova 2, Serbia – First patients expected in 2026

A record-breaking €35 million grant agreement has been signed between the EU and Serbia for the construction of a new children's hospital in Belgrade. This outstanding paediatric care facility, called Tiršova 2, will serve Serbia and the wider Western Balkans region.

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# Flagship 1 Connecting West

#### 03-03-2023

# From Belgrade to Niš at 200 km/h – EU financial package of €2.2 bn for Railway **Corridor X**

The European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Serbia announced jointly a €2.2 billion financial package for the modernisation of railway Corridor X. The package focuses on rehabilitating the railway section between Belgrade and Niš.

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# **Renewable energy**

#### 28-02-2023

# Energy Support Package in action - The rehabilitation of six hydropower plants in North Macedonia

Financing agreements were signed for the rehabilitation of six hydropower plants, that provide 20-30% of the total electricity production in North Macedonia. The investment consists of €11 million in EU grants, €25 million loan from the KfW development bank, and €200,000 from the German Government.

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#### 13-02-2023

# Additional EU support for the railway network modernisation in Kosovo\*

The representatives of the European Investment Bank and the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers of Kosovo signed a €38 million loan for the rehabilitation of 148 km of railway on Railway Route 10. The renewal of track and the stations will increase travel speed and improve passenger and freight capacity. Read more >>

#### 03-02-2023



# Start of works on the Bulgarian stretch of Serbia-Bulgaria Gas Interconnector

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Serbia, together with the EU Ambassador to Serbia Emanuele Giaufret, the ministers of energy of both countries, and other EU representatives attended in Sofia the start of works to build the Bulgarian stretch of the EU-financed Serbia-Bulgaria gas interconnector.

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## 31-01-2023

## EU supports the final section of the Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor in Serbia

An investment grant was signed for the implementation of the 84-km section of the Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor in Serbia. The section involves the construction of a 400-kV transmission line from the Bajina Bašta substation to the borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

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Western Balkans WBIF Investment Framework **BLENDING** PUBLIC PRIVATE BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER **GUARANTEES** 

# **WBIF Stakeholders**



#### **Bilateral Donors**

**The Bilateral Donor Community activities in** 2022



webalkans.eu EU support to innovative diagnostic tool

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# **WBIF Publications**



ebrd.com

March 2023 **Beneficiary factsheets** Download here >>



eib.org

**Big financing to** modernize the **Belgrade-Niš railway** 

e8.1

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**EBRD** infrastructure

**IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY IN** 

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** 

Improving the water

supply in Bosnia and

January 2023 **Bilateral Donors factsheet** Download here >>

# **Upcoming events**

15-20 May, Sarajevo **REEP Photo Exhibition EBRD** 

16-20 May, Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad

# **Related events**

Sector factsheets

February 2023

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28 March, Sarajevo Investing in Digitalisation in the Western Balkans

**Regional Cooperation Council** 

**EU Opportunity week** EU Delegation Serbia

15 May, Budva **Connectivity Summit** Transport community

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