

# About the WBIF

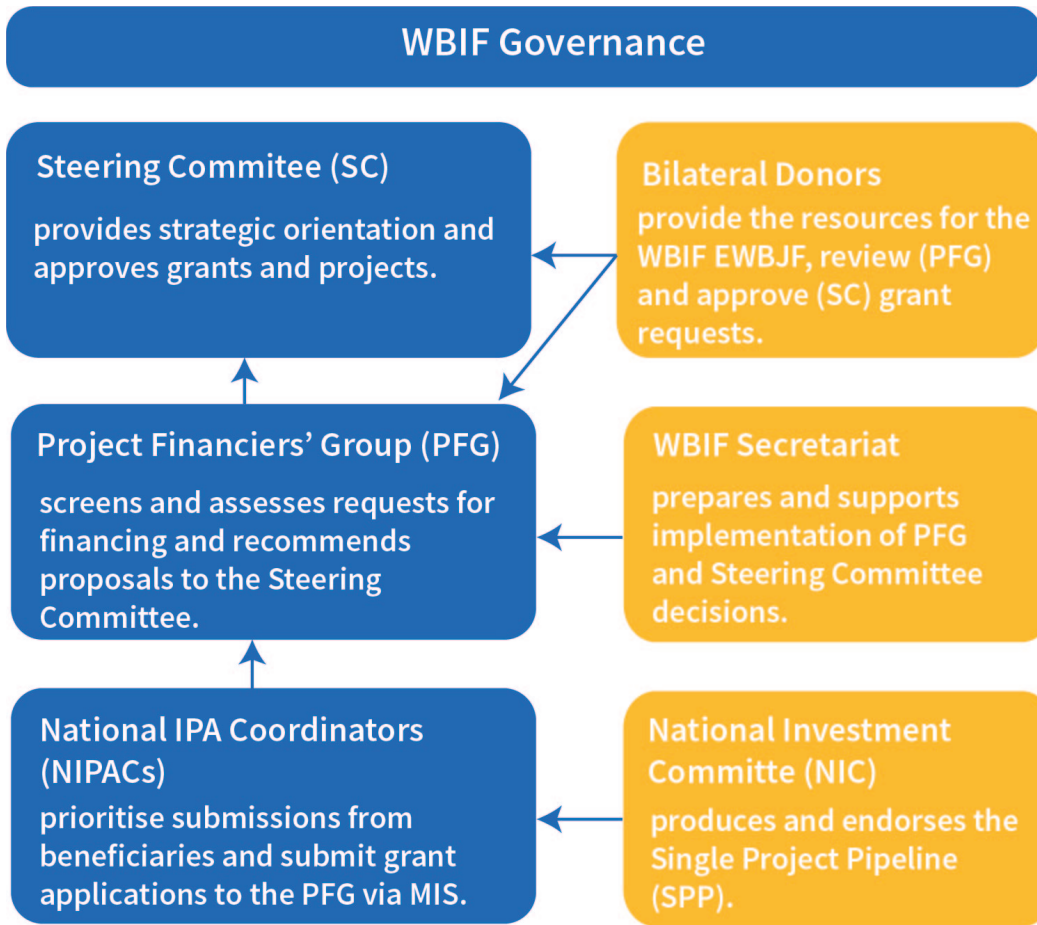
**The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) supports socio-economic development and EU accession across the Western Balkans through the provision of finance and technical assistance for strategic investments. It is a joint initiative of the EU, financial institutions, bilateral donors and the governments of the Western Balkans.**

The WBIF focuses on key sectors of the Western Balkan Economies: [energy](#), [environment](#), [social](#), [transport](#), [private sector development](#) and, since December 2017, [digital infrastructure](#).

The Framework awards, based on competitive procedures, grants for infrastructure project preparation activities as well as for investments. Calls for proposals are launched by the WBIF Steering Committee. Generally, there are two calls for technical assistance and only one call for investment grants per year. [Guidelines](#) are published for each call for proposals setting out eligibility criteria, including any specific requirements, as well as the pre-notification and submission deadlines.

Applications are assessed by the WBIF's Project Financiers' Group, which recommends selected applications for approval to the Steering Committee. Approved grants are then implemented by the Infrastructure Project Facility teams and/or the IFIs themselves.

## **WBIF Governance Structure**



The WBIF is a coordinated blending platform financing the preparation and implementation of priority infrastructure projects through:

- grants from the European Commission's [Instrument for Pre-Accession \(IPA\)](#) and 20 [Bilateral Donors](#); with
- loans from the participating financial institutions; and
- national finance.

At inception, the CEB, the EBRD and the EIB contributed to the WBIF's grant activities.