

Balkans Digital Highway

Project Financing

WBIF	Grant	WB22-REG-DII-02 € 962,000
National Contribution	Own Contribution	€ 320,000
National Contribution	Own Contribution	€ 1,650,000
National Contribution	Own Contribution	€ 850,000
WB	Loan	€ 1,397,500
World Bank	External Grant	€ 411,000
EBRD	External Loan	€ 2,950,000
World Bank	External Grant	€ 136,000
World Bank	External Grant	€ 272,400
National Contribution	Own Contribution	€ 2,050,000
Anticipated WBIF INV grant	External Grant	€ 2,963,100
EIB	Loan	€ 2,000,000
Anticipated WBIF TA Grant	External Grant	€ 675,000
Total		€ 16,637,000
Total Grants		€ 962,000
Total Loans		€ 3,397,500

Project Description

An analysis conducted by the World Bank revealed that TSOs in the Western Balkans are facing declining returns as electricity consumption flattens, making infrastructure sharing an attractive way to diversify revenue. If the region's TSOs (transmission systems operator) were to use their fibre assets to increase the network supply, it would potentially transform the wholesale broadband market in the Western Balkans.

The Balkans Digital Highway initiative aims to improve access to high-speed broadband services nationally and regionally, in and between participating countries, through setting up a regional wholesale broadband network over OPGW infrastructure of the participating TSOs. Thanks to the outcomes of the Project, the TSOs will be able, in collaboration with each other, to offer seamless wholesale broadband services cross-border and across participating countries.

Results and Benefits

- An improved access to online knowledge sources, online services, and labour markets for citizens, public institutions and businesses through the improved wholesale access to highspeed broadband services, nationally and regionally, in the participating countries
- Increasing the share of households that have the possibility to access ultra-fast internet access from 40% to 75%

- **Countries:** Albania,Kosovo*,North Macedonia,Montenegro
- **Code:** PRJ-MULTI-DII-006
- **Sector:** Digital infrastructure
- **Lead IFI:** WB
- **Status:** Preparation
- **Beneficiary:**