

Environment and climate



March 2024

The European Green Deal is underpinned by policies designed to develop resource-efficient and competitive economies where growth is decoupled from resource use, and where climate neutrality is pursued. The Economic and Investment Plan and the EU Green Agenda set out significant investments under environment and climate, to upgrade infrastructure, introduce climate-smart technologies, modernise water and waste management and strengthen resilience to extreme conditions.

2009 - 2023

€346m

WBIF grant

€3.8bn

estimated investment

up to **€90m**
guarantee coverage

up to **€4.5m**

EU technical assistance grant
for guarantees

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027

Flagship 7

Waste and wastewater management



Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

The Agenda focuses on climate action, including decarbonisation of energy and transport, circular economy, addressing waste, recycling, sustainable production and efficient use of resources, fighting pollution, sustainable agriculture, and protection of nature and biodiversity.

EIP flagship investments 2020-2023

6 flagships endorsed

€181.2m WBIF EU and bilateral donor grant

€427.4m estimated investment

Expected results of flagship investments



Improved water supply and sanitation
for 1.2 million people



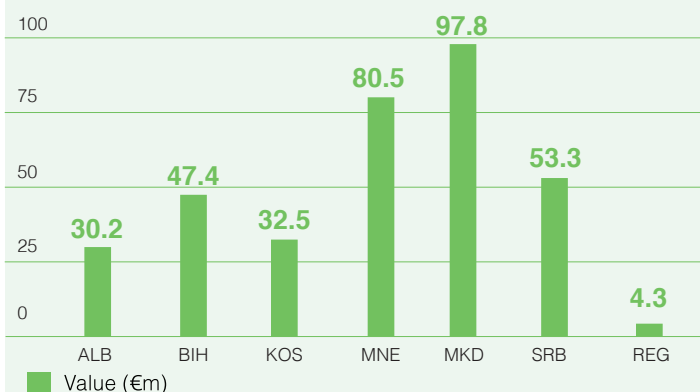
Efficient waste collection and disposal
services for 1 million people



Additional 170,423 m³/day wastewater
treatment capacity

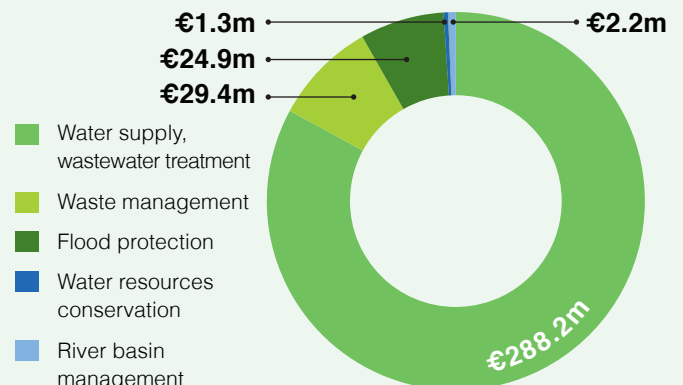
WBIF grants approved by beneficiary

2009-2023



WBIF grants approved by subsector

2009-2023



Flagship investments examples

March 2024

Flagship 7 Waste and wastewater management

Serbia Sewerage System for Palilula, Belgrade



This project will rehabilitate and extend the existing sewerage network and construct a new wastewater treatment plant for the Municipality of Palilula, in northern Belgrade, on the left bank of the Danube River. These investments in vital infrastructure will help provide better sanitation services and improve living conditions for over 81,000 people. It will also reduce pollution of groundwater and the Danube River, raising environmental and social standards in Serbia.

WBIF EU grant	€36.8m
EIB loan	€35m
EIB grant	€1.7m
Beneficiary contribution	€10.5m
Estimated investment	€84m
Expected completion	2028

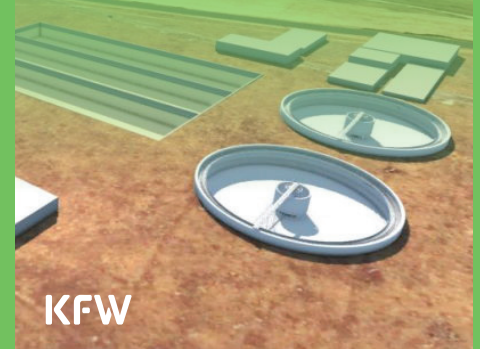
North Macedonia Regional Waste Management System for Polog, Pelagonija, Vardar, Southwest and Southeast Regions



Current waste management practices in North Macedonia primarily focus on waste collection and disposal, mainly in non-engineered dumpsites. Treatment of municipal solid waste and source-separation of recyclables and biowaste is basically non-existent. This investment project is the first countrywide undertaking in the sector and an important step towards integrated solid waste services. It supports the introduction of EU-compliant solid waste services for a population of over 1 million residents across 45 municipalities and develops environmentally safe disposal practices.

WBIF EU grant	€22.6m
EBRD loan	€29.3m
EBRD grant	€1m
Other sources	€7.7m
Estimated investment	€60.6m
Expected completion	2028

Montenegro Podgorica Wastewater Treatment Plant



Podgorica is served by a wastewater plant built in the 1970s, performing well below the capacity needed for present demand. Around half of the effluent is discharged untreated into the Morača River running into the Skadar Lake - an internationally recognised wetland area. This investment project will build a new wastewater treatment plant for the city, 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.

WBIF EU grant	€23.7m
WBIF bilateral donor grant	€10.1m
KFW loan/grant	€35m/€0.3m
Beneficiary contribution	€7.5m
Estimated investment	€76.6m
Expected completion	2026