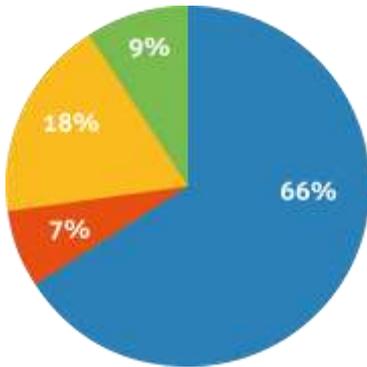




## Serbia and the Western Balkans Investment Framework

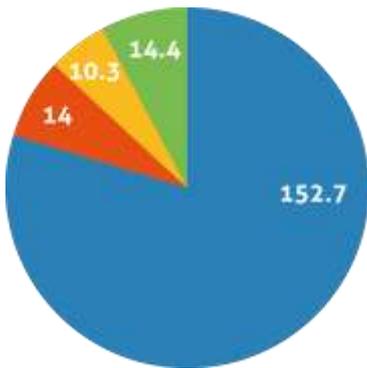
### Estimated project value:

- €4.9 billion



### WBIF grants:

- €191.4 million



### Signed loans:

- €2.3 billion

### What is the Western Balkans Investment Framework?

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is a financing facility launched in December 2009 by the European Commission, together with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), Bilateral Donors, and Western Balkans countries with the purpose to deliver funding for strategic investment projects in beneficiary countries. Eligible sectors include infrastructure development within the energy, environment, social, transport, private sector development and, since December 2017, digital infrastructure.

The KfW, the World Bank Group and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) subsequently joined the Framework. In December 2018, the AFD became a participating organisation in the WBIF.

### The Western Balkans Investment Framework in Serbia

The WBIF has supported **34 projects** with an estimated value of **€4.9 billion** in Serbia. The country has benefited from **54 grants** for technical assistance and investment works with an overall value of **€191.4 million**, out of which **€167.4 million from the EU and €24.0 million from other donors**. The WBIF financial institutions have extended a further **€2.3 billion in loans signed** on 20 projects.

The investments comprise key infrastructure projects in several sectors, such as:

- Rail and road transport;
- Electricity and gas transmission, district heating systems;
- Water and wastewater systems;
- Schools, research and healthcare facilities, cultural and heritage centres;
- Social housing, judiciary and prison facilities.



Existing infrastructure on the Orient/East-Med Corridor, Serbia – Bulgaria CXc Rail Interconnection, Nis – Dimitrovgrad Section, © Serbian Railways Infrastructure. The project has benefited from €76.2 million in EU grants through the WBIF for the modernisation of 118 km of railway line on this route, including €73 million investment grants under the Connectivity Agenda in 2016 and 2017.

### **Achieved results (selection):**

- Water/wastewater systems for 780,000 people;
- Upgraded district heating systems in 21 cities and towns throughout the country;
- Five new higher education and research facilities;
- Two judiciary facilities reconstructed and one new prison in line with European standards for 500 pre-trial detainees and inmates.

### **Expected results (selection):**

- 190 km of new highspeed roads;
- 220 km of railway lines rehabilitated;
- Enhanced urban mobility for 1.3 million people;
- 370 km of electricity transmission lines upgraded and secure power supply;
- Water/wastewater systems for 1.6 million people;
- Flood forecasting and warning system for more than 1.8 million people living in the Sava River Basin;
- Healthcare treatment facilities for 1.3 million people;
- New prison facility in line with European standards for 400 inmates.



Zvezdara Science and Technology Park, © Public Sector Projects Implementation Unit. The WBIF has contributed €1.5 million in EU grants for project preparation for €427 million investments in higher education, research and healthcare facilities and centres throughout the country. The EU has provided a further €30.9 million grant under the HETIP Project to complement loans from EIB and CEB and the national contribution.

The WBIF has thus been instrumental in effecting key improvements in the everyday lives of the citizens in Serbia by:

- ensuring continuous and competitive energy supply for the people and businesses;
- creating key road and rail transport links with neighbouring countries;
- securing access to efficient water, wastewater and district heating services;
- providing better schools, healthcare facilities and successfully piloting research and innovation facilities;
- modernising judiciary and prison facilities;
- enhancing urban mobility in Belgrade.

In addition, Serbia has benefited from regional projects and multi-country initiatives funded by the WBIF, such as the [Regional Energy Efficiency Programmes for the Western Balkans](#) (REEP and REEP Plus) and the [Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility](#) (WB EDIF).



Existing water treatment facilities in Makis 2 Water Treatment Plant, Belgrade. The WBIF has provided a €3 million investment grant from the bilateral donors' contribution to the Joint Fund for the refurbishment of Jezero Water Treatment Plant, construction of two new raw water distribution pipelines, back-up water reservoir and new facilities for technical water and sludge treatment to ensure continuous water supply for 1.3 million people living in Belgrade.