



Western Balkans  
Investment Framework **WBIF**  
BUILDING THE EUROPEAN FUTURE TOGETHER

**SUMMARY**

**WBIF**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020**

# OLIVÉR VÁRHELYI

European Commissioner for Neighbourhood  
and Enlargement

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As European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, I intend strongly to reinforce EU support to the Western Balkans, to stimulate growth, reforms and improved living conditions for the people of this important part of Europe.

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**The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is a joint initiative of the EU, financial institutions, bilateral donor and beneficiaries, aimed at enhancing harmonisation and cooperation in investments for the socio-economic development of the region and contributing to the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Due to its collaborative nature in line with the ‘Team Europe’ approach, the WBIF is the main vehicle for implementation of the EU’s ambitious Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.**



**ABOUT  
WBIF**



These tangible results spur the long-term recovery of the region and contribute to the objectives and flagship investment priorities of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, to step up the region's socio-economic convergence with the EU.

# ACHIEVED RESULTS 2009-2020



## TRANSPORT

937 km of new roads



## ENVIRONMENT

2.1 million people benefiting from water/wastewater systems



## ENERGY

123 MW electricity from renewables



## SOCIAL

96,600 students benefiting from better schools



## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Broadband deployment, data centres, edge and cloud infrastructures



## PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

5,905 SMEs financed through WB EDIF

# WBIF FIGURES

**210**  
Public sector  
projects supported<sup>1</sup>

**€22.4bn**  
Estimated Project Value

**€1.4bn**  
Grants  
Awarded

**€6.5bn**  
Loans  
Leveraged

**€162.3m**  
Grants Approved in 2020

**€138.6m**  
Investment  
Grants

**€23.7m**  
Technical  
Assistance

**€4.2bn**  
Support to Private Sector



Financing  
available to SMEs  
**€841m**

Sub-loan  
Investments  
**€328.2m**



REEP/REEP Plus

Sub-loan  
Investments  
**€2.9bn**

Project  
Financing  
**€181.8m**

<sup>1</sup> Including regional projects and project implemented in Croatia before accession.

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



**€1.4bn**  
Committed funds

**€1bn**  
Connectivity Agenda  
pledge allocated



**68**  
N° of projects

**€1.8bn**  
Loans signed



**57**  
N° of projects

**€3.1bn**  
Loans signed



**48**  
N° of projects

**€725m**  
Loans signed



**14**  
N° of projects

**€475m**  
Loans signed

## PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



**16**  
N° of projects

**€359m**  
Loans signed



**3**  
N° of projects

**€42m**  
Estimated loans

# WBIF GRANTS AND PROJECTS

N° of grants / projects	210	103	361	187
	Projects supported	Projects under implementation / completed	Grants	Grants completed
Value of grants /projects	€22.4bn	€10.4bn	€1.4bn	€238m

# ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS 2021-2027

The Economic and Investment Plan, adopted by the European Commission in October 2020, aims to spur long-term economic recovery of the region, backed by green and digital transition. It also identifies key and investments flagships with projects expected to start having an impact on the Western Balkan economies in the near future.

Up To  
**€9bn**  
In EU Grants  
(IPA III)

Up To  
**€20bn**  
of investments  
(Western Balkans  
Guarantee  
Facility)

Integrating the  
Western Balkan  
Regional Market  
into the EU  
Single Market



**ECONOMIC AND  
INVESTMENT PLAN  
FOR THE WESTERN  
BALKANS 2021-2027**

**SELECTION OF  
FLAGSHIP PROJECTS**

# ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



## FLAGSHIP 7: WASTE AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

SERBIA

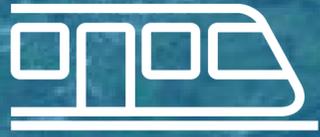
### Water Supply, Wastewater Collection and Sludge Management in Subotica

Total investment: **€24.6m**

EU grant: **€2m**

EBRD loan: **€11m**

Connecting 60% of population to new system and mitigation of pollution  
into Palić lake



## FLAGSHIP 2: CONNECTING NORTH TO SOUTH

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Mediterranean Corridor: Construction of Road Corridor Vc

Total investment (est.): **€1.2bn**

EU grants: **€223.4m**

EIB and EBRD loans: **€920.6m**

Improved connectivity for more than 1.5 million people  
living along the Corridor Vc

# SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

**CLEAN  
ENERGY**



**FLAGSHIP 5:  
TRANSITION FROM COAL**

**NORTH MACEDONIA  
Bogdanci Windpark Pilot Project**

**Total investment: €76m**

**EU grant: €0.4m**

**KfW loans: €65.9m**

**25 wind-turbines with a total capacity of 52.5 MW (7,000 average households)**



## FLAGSHIP 8: DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ALBANIA

### Regional Broadband Infrastructure Development

Total investment: **€196.5m**

EU grant: **€69m**

EIB loans: **€24m**

Broadband connection for 3,000 educational  
and 500 health facilities

# DIGITAL FUTURE

# PRIVATE SECTOR



## FLAGSHIP 9: INVESTING IN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

KOSOVO\*  
LabBox

Total funding (ENIF): €49m

SMEs financed: 29

Jobs supported: 975

5,905 SMEs financed and 133,492 jobs supported



**WB EDIF**

Western Balkans  
Enterprise Development  
and Innovation Facility

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



**NORTH MACEDONIA**

## **Construction of Physical Education Facilities and Rehabilitation of Primary and Secondary Schools**

**Total investment: €62.8m**

**WBIF bilateral donors' grant: €3m**

**CEB loans: €42.5m**

**70 school sports courts constructed  
and 60 schools rehabilitated in North Macedonia**

# **HUMAN CAPITAL**

**CLEAN  
ENERGY**



## **FLAGSHIP 6: RENOVATION WAVE**

**REGIONAL**

### **Direct Finance for Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings**

**EU and Bilateral Donor grants: €20.7m**

**EBRD and KfW loans: €145m**

**Technical assistance: €4.6m**

**Significant contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,  
and improvement of the living standards and health of citizens**

**REEP/REEP Plus**

# THE CONNECTIVITY AGENDA 2015-2020

The Connectivity Agenda is part of an ambitious plan to connect the region with Europe from East to West, and North to South – extending the core energy and transport corridors (Trans-European Transport Network) to the region and supporting the rollout of broadband infrastructure.

**€3.7bn**  
of total  
investment  
leveraged

**€1bn**  
in  
EU Grants

**€124m**  
in technical  
assistance  
for project  
preparation

**45**  
projects supported

Over **45,000**  
jobs created

## Achieved Results 2015 – 2020



560 km of 400kV  
transmission lines



500 MW installed capacity  
and 1,380 GWh/y  
from hydropower



176 km  
of gas pipeline



208 km of motorways



2 cross-border bridges  
and 1 joint border  
railway station



Improved navigability  
on 40 km of waterway



327 km  
of railway lines



One maritime port  
and one inland port  
renovated

# THE CONNECTIVITY AGENDA 2015-2020

The Green Agenda follows the priorities established by the five pillars covered by the European Green Deal. The objectives of these pillars should be pursued through concrete actions and supported by mechanisms and financial instruments set out in the following sections:

**Cleaning energy sources, protecting the climate**

**Moving to a circular economy**

**Depolluting air, water and soil**

**Building sustainable agriculture and food systems**

**Protecting biodiversity and ecosystems**

# THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

# THE BILATERAL DONOR COMMUNITY

## WBIF Bilateral Donors



## Bilateral Donors' Contributions 2009-2020

**€107.3m**

**€102.1m**  
Direct contributions  
to WBIF's European  
Western Balkans  
Joint Fund

**€5.2m**  
Transfers from the  
EBRD Western Balkan  
Fund (WBF)

Pledges in 2020 (€m)

Austria **2.0**  
Germany **1.4**  
Norway **2.3**  
Sweden **2.9**

Total:  
**€8.6m**



# ALBANIA

**37**  
projects

Estimated value  
of **€2.5 billion**

Signed loans  
**€470 million**

**53 grants**  
**€188.3 million**

2020: **8 grants**  
**€44.9 million**

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

**800 km**  
of new roads

Improved water  
/wastewater systems  
for **300,000 people**

Better schools  
for **18,500 students**



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**29**  
projects

Estimated value  
of **€3.9 billion**

Signed loans  
**€1.8 billion**

**67 grants**  
**€312.4 million**

2020: **6 grants**  
**€31.8 million**

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

**44 km**  
of motorways

Improved water  
/wastewater systems  
for **650,000 people**

Flood forecasting and  
warning system for  
**3.3 million people**



# KOSOVO

**30**  
projects

Estimated value  
of **€1.4 billion**

Signed loans  
**€265 million**

**46 grants**  
**€194.3 million**

2020: **5 grants**  
**€45.3 million**

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

District heating system  
rehabilitated for 13,500  
customers in Priština

57 public buildings  
renovated and over  
480,000 MWh/year  
in energy savings

Improved water  
supply systems  
for 550,000 people



# MONTENEGRO

20  
projects

Estimated value  
of €1.8 billion

Signed loans  
€250 million

49 grants  
€194.9 million

2020: 4 grants  
€22 million

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

Improved water  
/wastewater systems  
for 70,000 people

Efficient solid waste  
services for over  
185,000 people

Flood forecasting  
and warning system  
for 192,000 people  
in the Sava River Basin



# NORTH MACEDONIA

**23**  
projects

Estimated value  
of **€2.1 billion**

Signed loans  
**€591 million**

**38 grants**  
**€185.2 million**

2020: **1 grants**  
**€3.1 million**

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

**36.8 MW electricity**  
from renewables for  
over **16,000 households**

**Better schools**  
for more than  
**78,000 students**

**New prison facilities**  
in line with European  
standards for  
**1,870 detainees**



# SERBIA

**42**  
projects

Estimated value  
of **€6.3** billion

Signed loans  
**€2.6** billion

**65** grants  
**€225.6** million

2020: **5** grants  
**€15.2** million

## ACHIEVED RESULTS (2009 – 2020)

**90 km**  
of motorways

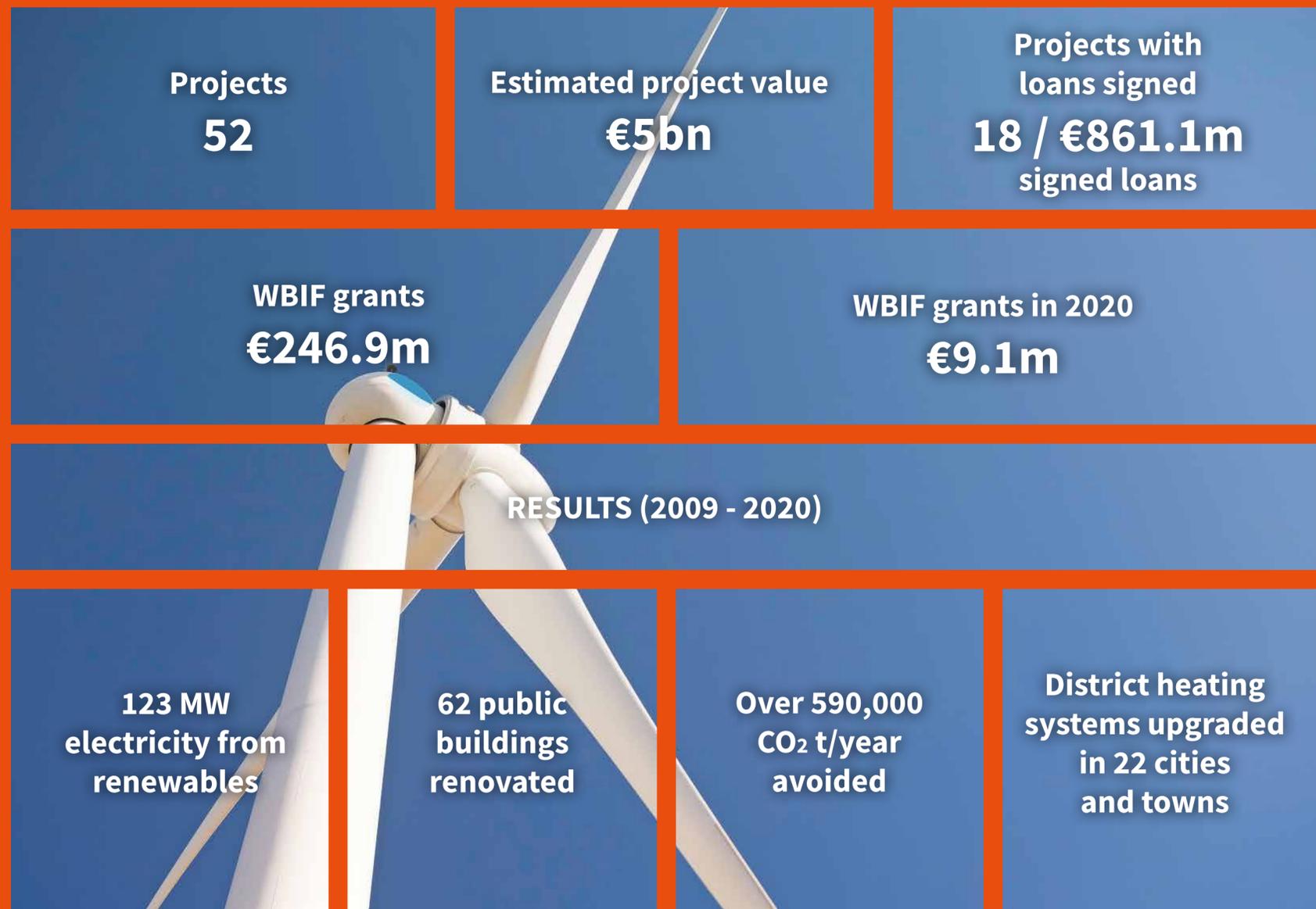
Improved  
water/wastewater  
systems for over  
500,000 people

Judiciary facilities  
and new prison  
for 500 detainees



# ENERGY

Transition to sustainable and clean energy





# ENVIRONMENT

Investing in the environment  
and climate

Projects  
**59**

Estimated project value  
**€2.8bn**

Projects with  
loans signed  
**36 / €990.1m**  
signed loans

WBIF grants  
**€149.7m**

WBIF grants in 2020  
**€9.7m**

## RESULTS (2009 - 2020)

Improved  
water/wastewater  
systems for  
2.1 million  
people

640,000 people  
protected  
from floods

Efficient solid  
waste services for  
186,000 people

Flood forecasting  
and warning  
system for 5.4 m  
people in the Sava  
River Basin



# SOCIAL

Reforming social policies  
and infrastructure





# TRANSPORT

Fast and efficient transport links  
with the EU

Projects  
**57**

Estimated project value  
**€10.4bn**

Projects with  
loans signed  
**24 / €3.4bn**  
signed loans

WBIF grants  
**€962.9m**

WBIF grants in 2020  
**€131.6m**

**RESULTS (2009 - 2020)**

**800 km**  
of local and  
regional roads

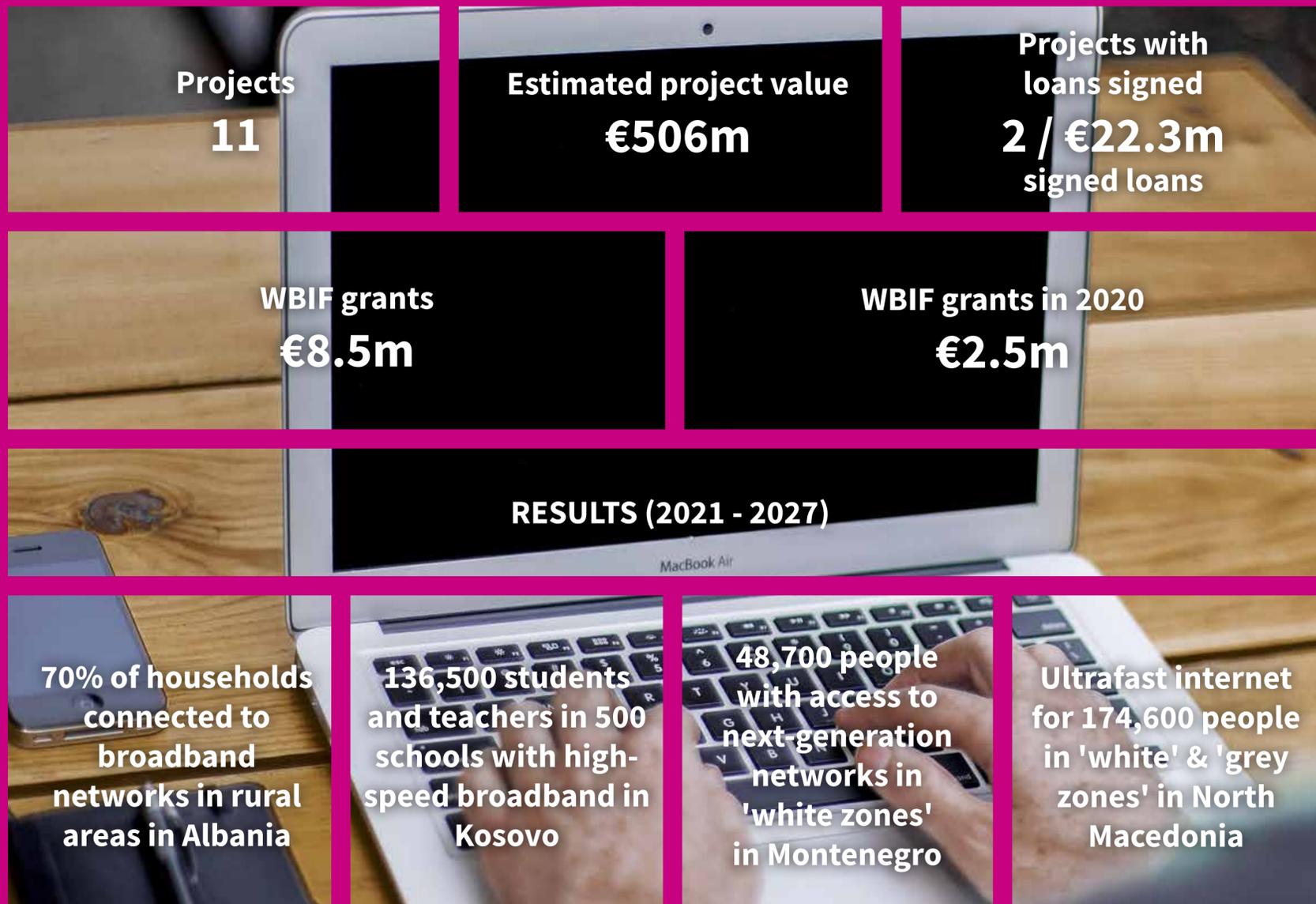
**137 km**  
of motorways

**Enhanced urban mobility**  
for over 1.3 million  
people in Belgrade



# DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Universal access to fast and secure broadband**





# PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Boosting the private sector competitiveness





**A joint partnership of:**



**In cooperation with:**



**Bilateral donors:**



**Beneficiaries:**



*European Commission*  
*Directorate General Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations*  
*Directorate D – Western Balkans Unit D5 – Western Balkans*  
*Regional Cooperation and Programmes, WBIF Secretariat*  
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