The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP) is the long-term recovery plan of the region. It accelerates the twin green and digital transition, and fosters regional cooperation and convergence with the EU. The EIP identifies 10 investment flagships to support sustainable infrastructure, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, human capital and private sector. In the next six years the European Commission will mobilise close to €30 billion, one-third of the current GDP of the Western Balkans. €9 billion will come from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and this is expected to leverage more than €20 billion additional investments through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

The EIP is the main vehicle to implement the Global Gateway in the Western Balkans. The Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (EIP) is the long-term recovery plan of the region. It accelerates the twin green and digital transition, and fosters regional cooperation and convergence with the EU. The EIP identifies 10 investment flagships to support sustainable infrastructure, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, human capital and private sector. In the next six years the European Commission will mobilise close to €30 billion, one-third of the current GDP of the Western Balkans. €9 billion will come from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and this is expected to leverage more than €20 billion additional investments through the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

The EIP is the main vehicle to implement the Global Gateway in the Western Balkans. The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) is the main financial tool to implement the EIP’s investment flagships. The EIP is also implemented via IPA bilateral funding to support national high priority projects. The WBIF was established in 2009 as a joint financial platform of the European Commission, international financial institutions, EU Member States and Norway, and hence fully in line with the Team Europe approach. WBIF aims at enhancing cooperation in public and private sector investment for the socio-economic development of the region, accelerating the European perspective for the Western Balkans.

### Achieved results 2009 – 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public sector</th>
<th>Private sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€297 m WBIF grant</td>
<td>€493 m estimated financing for SMEs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€2 bn IPA bilateral funding</td>
<td>€529 m regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€1.4 bn IPA bilateral funding</td>
<td>€408 m regional guarantee coverage to support access to finance for SMEs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expected results 2023 – 2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public sector</th>
<th>Private sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.7 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed</td>
<td>27 km of motorway built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects</td>
<td>165 km of railway lines rehabilitated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 km of railway lines rehabilitated</td>
<td>130 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe drinking water for 550,000 people</td>
<td>Improved water and sanitation services for 1.3 million people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WBIF project examples

#### Flagship 1 Connecting East to West

- **Kosovo – Serbia Road Interconnection: Peace Highway, Pristina – Merdare Section**
  - €84.2 m WBIF EU grant
  - €207.7 m estimated investment
  - Expected completion: 2026

#### Flagship 4 Renewable energy

- **Solar4Kosovo II – Solar District Heating for Pristina**
  - €81.5 m estimated investment
  - Expected completion: 2027

#### Flagship 8 Digital infrastructure

- **An additional €500m is channelled through the WBIF for the priority infrastructure projects. The Regional Energy Efficiency Programme and guarantees to crowd-in private investments in clean energy.**

### Implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

- **Flagship 1 Connecting East to West**
  - The Peace Highway in Kosovo, linking Pristina with Niš in Serbia, will be completed.

- **Flagship 2 Connecting North to South**
  - The railway route connecting Belgrade with Pristina will be further upgraded through construction works in Kosovo.

- **Flagship 4 Renewable energy**
  - Solar district heating will be introduced in Pristina, and the preparations for the Ibër-Lepenc Hydro System accelerated.

- **Flagship 5 Transition from coal**
  - The Kosovo – North Macedonia Gas Interconnection will be prepared for construction.

- **Flagship 7 Waste and waste water management**
  - The construction of the waste water treatment plant in Pristina will be completed.

- **Flagship 8 Digital infrastructure**
  - The broadband roll-out will continue with the completion of the most advanced investment projects by 2024.

- **Flagship 9 Competitiveness of the private sector**
  - Increase of grant amount and guarantee capacity for the private sector, and assistance for rural development.

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The 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.