Economic and Investment Plan for 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 transport, 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 in the form of EU grants 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 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**

- 46.8 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
- 70 km of transmission lines upgraded
- Better schools for more than 76,000 students/year
- Healthcare research and treatment facilities for 1.8 million people

**Expected results 2023 – 2030**

- 957 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
- 107 km of future-proof gas pipelines built
- 205 km of railway lines rehabilitated
- Efficient solid waste services for 1.4 million people

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 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.

**Public sector**

- €462.4m WBIF grant
- €2.6bn estimated investment

**Private sector**

- €311m WBIF EU grant
- €529m regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects
- €408m regional guarantee coverage to support access to finance for SMEs
- €1.5bn IPA bilateral funding

**WBIF project examples**

**Flagship 1 Connecting East to West**

- €154.5m Rehabilitation of Six Hydroelectric Power Plants Phase 3
- €418m estimated investment
- Expected completion: 2028

**Flagship 2 Connecting North to South**

- €11.1m €36.3m €50.1m
- €1 billion Energy Support Package

**Flagship 3 Human capital development**

- €408m
- €489m

**Flagship 4 Renewable energy**

- €1 billion Energy Support Package

**Flagship 5 Competitiveness of the private sector**

- €1 billion Energy Support Package

**Flagship 6 Digital infrastructure**

- €500m
- €500m

**Flagship 7 Waste and water management**

- €500m
- €500m

**Flagship 8 Education**

- €500m
- €500m

**Flagship 9 Energy security**

- €500m
- €500m

*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.*