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 in the Western Balkans.

Flagship 1 Connecting East to West

The Peace Highway will be substantially advanced. The Rail Corridor X will be fully modernised.

Flagship 2 Connecting North to South

The railway route connecting Belgrade with Pristina will be prepared for rehabilitation.

Flagship 3 Health and education

A new hospital and a school will be built in North Macedonia.

Flagship 4 Renewable energy

Wind and hydro power plant investments will be substantially advanced.

Flagship 5 Transition from coal

Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor will be completed. The Serbia – North Macedonia Gas Interconnection will be prepared.

Flagship 6 Digital infrastructure

The roll-out of national broadband infrastructure will continue – with the completion of first projects by 2024.

Flagship 7 Waste and waste water management

Waste water treatment investments will be undertaken, and integrated waste management will be established.

Flagship 8 Renewable energy

Wind and hydro power plant investments will be substantially advanced.

Flagship 9 Competitiveness of the private sector

Increase of grant amount and guarantee capacity for the private sector, and assistance for rural development.

Flagship 10 Energy security of the region

Nuclear power plant units will be built in North Macedonia and Serbia.

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**

- 93 km of motorways built
- 93 km of railway lines rehabilitated
- 60 km of electricity transmission lines upgraded
- Improved water and sanitation services for 585,000 people

**Private sector**

€8.5bn estimated investment

- €529m regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects
- €3.2bn IPA bilateral funding

**Public sector**

€711m WBIF grant

- €408m regional guarantee coverage to support access to finance for SMEs
- €529m regional guarantee coverage to support infrastructure projects

**Expected results 2023 – 2030**

- 77 km of motorways built
- 586 km of railway lines rehabilitated
- 353 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
- Improved water and sanitation services for 2.1 million people

**WBIF project examples**

- €1 billion Energy Support Package

The package addresses immediate, short- and medium-term needs in the Western Balkans to accelerate decarbonisation, and improve the energy security of the region.

$1.65 billion will come from the European Commission and guarantees to crowd-in private investments in clean energy.

**Expected completion: 2024**

- €31m WBIF EU grant
- €145.1m estimated investment

**Expected completion: 2026**

- €3.68m WBIF EU grant
- €83.9m estimated investment

**Preferred completion: 2027**

- €34.2m WBIF EU grant
- €107.6m estimated investment

**Ambassador Emanuele Giaufret**

Head of EU Delegation to Serbia