



WBIF 1st Strategic and Operational Board Meetings

On 16 and 17 December, the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) held its first meeting of the Strategic and Operational Boards. Over 120 participants attended, including representatives from 27 EU Member States, the European Parliament, representatives of the Western Balkan partners, Norway, Financial Institutions (EIB, EBRD, CEB, KfW, WBG, AFD, EIF and IFC), and the Energy Community Secretariat.

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WBIF 32nd Project Financiers' Group Meeting

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) held its 32nd Project Financiers' Group Meeting (PFG) on 18 and 19 November 2021. Over 130 participants attended the meeting from the European Commission, Financial Institutions (EIB, EBRD, CEB, KfW, WBG, AFD, EIF), Bilateral Donors, Western Balkan partners, Energy Community Secretariat, Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, Regional Cooperation Council and OECD.

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Economic and Investment Plan Flagship Projects Update

Sustainable Transport Flagship 2 • Connecting North to South



Start of Works on the EU-supported Corridor Vc Section near Doboj

At the end of November, works started on Corridor Vc section from interchange Rudanka to the exit tunnel Putnikovo brdo 2, another important part of the Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This section crosses entity border in the middle of a tunnel Putnikovo brdo 2 and is an example of a successful cooperation between the public companies of both entities - Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska.

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Zenica Tunnel on the Corridor Vc Fully Drilled

In November, workers of the Sarajevo-based company "Euro-Asfalt" broke the left pipe of the "Zenica" tunnel on the Ponirak-Vraca section of the road Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first, right pipe of this tunnel near Zenica, in the length of 3.4 km, was drilled earlier in November.

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Additional €5 million for Počitelj-Zvirovići Section of Corridor Vc

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Ministry of Finance of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an agreement in November for a €5 million EU grant for the supervision of construction works for the Počitelj-Zvirovići subsection of Corridor Vc. Once completed in 2022, it will provide approximately 21 km of continuous motorway between Počitelj and Bijača on the southern border of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Union in Croatia.

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Cross-border Bridge on the River Sava at Gradiška Connected

Steel construction works on the cross-border bridge at Gradiška on the Sava river, one of the most important regional infrastructure projects, connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, were finalised on Friday, 18 October. The European Union is co-funding the building of this vital bridge with €3.2 million in grants..

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Clean Energy

Flagship 6 • Renovation Wave



EU and Germany Support for Student Dormitories in Albania

Through the EU-supported Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans (REEP/REEP Plus), 19 student dormitories in Tirana University campus area, will undergo energy-efficiency renovation based on structural energy audits, and at least three new buildings will be built.

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Preparing Flagship Investments: Technical Assistance Update

Clean Energy

Flagship 5 • Transition from Coal



Technical Assistance for Dumrea Underground Natural Gas Storage in Albania

A final workshop for the project 'Dumrea Underground Natural Gas Storage: Feasibility Study and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)' was held in Tirana on 24 November, 2021 to present results of the technical assistance assignment.

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EU Allocates Additional Grant to introduce District Heating in Eight Municipalities in Kosovo*

A new EU funded technical assistance project worth €2 million was launched in October 2021 to support the preparation of a Feasibility Study for the District heating, based on renewable energy in eight Kosovo* municipalities - Gjilanë/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Prizren, Pejë/Peć, Drenas/Glogovac, Kastriot/Obilić, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Zvečan/Zvečan - including Cost Benefit Analyses and an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report.

[Read more >>](#)

Environment and Climate

Flagship 7 • Water and Waste Water Management



Additional EU Grant To Improve Wastewater Services in Montenegro

A new EU funded project worth €350,000 has been launched in December for the development of a feasibility study and detailed design for the rehabilitation and extension of the wastewater and stormwater sewerage networks in the Municipality of Pljevlja in Montenegro.

[Read more >>](#)



Start of the EU-funded Technical Assistance for Water Supply Improvement and Water Resources Protection in Kosovo*

An EU-funded project "Water Supply Improvement and Water Resources Protection for Gjakova Regional Water Company" was launched on 15 September 2021 in Gjakova/Djakovica, Kosovo.

[Read more >>](#)

Sustainable Transport

Flagship 2 • Connecting North to South



EU Funded Rehabilitation of the Railway Route 10 in Kosovo*

The European Union through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) funds the Technical Assistance (TA) for the rehabilitation of the Northern Part of Railway Route 10 from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica to Leshak/Lešak in Kosovo.

[Read more >>](#)

Sustainable Transport

Flagship 3 • Connecting Coastal Regions



EU-funded Technical Assistance for the Rehabilitation of the Durres – Rrogozhina Railway Section in Albania

The development of railways in Western Balkan countries takes an important part in of European Union's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, as it does for all countries in European Union. Indeed the first three Flagships of this Plan have important railway components.

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Sustainable Transport

Flagship 1 • Connecting East to West



Grant Agreements for Consulting Services on the Railway Corridor VIII in North Macedonia

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia signed the Grant Agreement for consulting services, as well as the Agreement for Supervising Engineer for the upcoming construction works on the eastern part of the railway Corridor VIII, phase 1, which refers to the section Kumanovo - Beljakovce and phase 2 which covers the section Beljakovce - Kriva Palanka.

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Digital Future

Flagship 8 • Digital Infrastructure



EU Support to the Deployment of Next Generation Networks in Montenegro

The European Union funds the development of broadband infrastructure in Montenegro with technical assistance grant of €550,000, which shall improve the coverage of the territory with infrastructure for fixed internet. As part of the project, which began in July last year, an assessment of the existing situation in Montenegro and the plans of the telecom operators to deploy infrastructure in next three years were investigated.

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WBIF Partner Initiatives



#TogetherIsPossible – Communication Campaign for Western Balkans Now Live

The “#EUandYOU – Together it's possible” campaign launched on 11 November, across the Western Balkans region. The campaign highlights the opportunities and projects that are part of the EU Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the region. This is the second regional communication campaign under the EU Regional Communication Programme for the Western Balkans – WeBalkans.eu.

[Read more >>](#)



The EU, EBRD and Austria Donate Trees for a Greener Western Balkans

To mark the results of the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) programme and to symbolically contribute to the fight against climate change, the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and Austria began planting 1,000 trees in six Western Balkan partners.

[Read more >>](#)

Video



Modernisation of Rail Corridor X in Serbia

Promotional video, produced by the European Union Delegation to Serbia, on the occasion of the beginning of works on rehabilitation and modernisation of the railway Niš - Brestovac.

[Watch here >>](#)



Improving Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans

Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) supports the Western Balkans partners to invest in energy efficiency improvements. Video produced by the EBRD.

[Watch here >>](#)

WBIF Publications



WBIF At a Glance

Factsheet on the WBIF.

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The Bilateral Donor Community

Factsheet on Bilateral Donor Community.

[Download here >>](#)



WBIF Sector Factsheets

Factsheets on the WBIF Investment priorities.

[Download here >>](#)

Farewell Stine



Stine, we will miss you!

Here you can leave a message for Stine.

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