

WBIF Newsletter

April 2021



Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027 Environment and Climate

Flagship 7 · Water and Waste Water Management

Improving Water and Wastewater Treatment in Subotica

Through the Western Balkans Investmet Framework, the European Union, the bilateral donors and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, have been supporting the efforts of City of Subotica for the modernisation of its water and waste water treatment plants and the construction of a sludge line since 2006.

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Clean Energy Flagship 6 • Renovation Wave



New Green Economy Financing Facility Launched in Montenegro to Support Green Investments

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development launched in March 2021 a new Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) in Montenegro that will provide loans to households for energy efficiency improvements. The programme will benefit from over €27 million in incentives to end borrowers provided by the European Union through the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

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Economic and Investment Plan Flagship Projects Update

Sustainable Transport Flagship 2 • Connecting North to South



An Additional €21 Million in Grants for the EU Flagship Investments on Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The construction of Corridor Vc, a key infrastructure project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is progressing with new financing from the European Union. In March, two EU grant agreements have been signed to support the completion of two sections on Corridor Vc: Buna-Pocitelj and tunnel Zenica-Donja Gracanica.

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Clean Energy
Flagship 5 • Transition from Coal



EU Support for the Expansion of the Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor in Serbia

A loan agreement for the WBIF project Trans-Balkan Electricity Corridor: Obrenovac – Bajina Basta Grid Section in Serbia was signed by the KfW in February. This WBIF Flagship project contributes to the establishment of a regional power network connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia with the European Union.

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The First Large-scale Overhaul of the Railway Network in Albania

The rehabilitation of Tirana - Durres Railway section, an extension of the Mediterranean Corridor, a part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), is ready to start with the signing of a contract for the construction works. The project is supported by the European Union, the WBIF bilateral donors and by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

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Clean Energy
Flagship 6 • Renovation Wave



EU Support to the Rehabilitation of Serbia's Largest Hospital

Serbia's largest tertiary care facility is getting a complete overhaul to meet current energy efficiency, health and safety standards. The planned renovation – supported by an EU grant and a KfW loan – will make hospital operations run more smoothly, save energy and water, and thus lower the maintenance costs in the long run.

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Digital FutureFlagship 8 • Digital Infrastructure



The Expansion of the Broadband to Rural Areas in Serbia

Rural areas in Serbia with around 90,000 households and 600 schools and public institutions will gain access to fast broadband thanks to a government digitalisation project supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and bilateral donors under the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

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Preparing Flagship Investments: Technical Assistance Update



The EU-Backed Development of Flood Risk Maps for Bosnia and Herzegovina

The WBIF project, implemented by the IPF5, aims to contribute to long-lasting improvements to flood defence systems and predicting floods in the future. The development of maps is a part of the broader Flood Risk Management Project for Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by EU grants and loans by the European Investment Bank.

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Launch of EU-supported Technical Assistance for Corridor Vc in BiH: Prenj Tunnel - Mostar North Section

An EU-funded Technical Assistance for the development of the Detailed Design for the motorway section on Corridor Vc in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was launched in January 2021. The project, implemented by IPF8 under a contract with the European Investment Bank, concerns the construction of approximately 13 km of motorway between Prenj Tunnel and Mostar North Interchange.

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Completion of the EU-funded Flood Risk Assessment for the River Basins in Kosovo*

In January, the EU-funded Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for the River Basins in Kosovo was completed by the IPF8. The project initiated a wider programme, supported by the European Union and the European Investment Bank, for rehabilitation and construction of flood protection infrastructure in the entire Kosovo.

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WBIF Publications



The Economic and Investment Plan Brochure **Online**

The European Commission adopted a comprehensive Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans 2021-2027, which aims to spur the longterm economic recovery of the region, support a green and digital transition, foster regional integration and convergence with the European Union.

Download here >>



Corridor Vc in BiH Factsheet

The WBIF Factsheet on the progress of the Construction works on the Corridor Vc in BiH has been updated and can be downloaded from the Library.

ENG version here >>

BiH version here >>

Visibility Events



WB EDIF Webinars for SMEs in Serbia

In cooperation with the EU Info Centre in Serbia, a series of webinars for the Small and Medium Enterprises was organised. The Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (WB EDIF), and more specifically the Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) were presented to the representatives of the Serbian SMEs.

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New Outlet for the Western Balkan Stories webalkans.eu

The European Commission launched the website webalkans.eu, a unique platform for news, stories, funding opportunities, and related information on cooperation between the European Union and the Western Balkans.

View website >>

Good Luck in Your Future Endeavours!



Ms Genoveva Ruiz Calavera

Ms Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for Western Balkans at DG NEAR EU Commission has been appointed the Director-General at DG Interpretation (SCIC).

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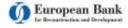
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