CONNECTING EUROPE & ASIA
THE EU STRATEGY

SUSTAINABLE, COMPREHENSIVE AND RULES-BASED CONNECTIVITY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCED PROSPERITY, SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA

WHAT IS CONNECTIVITY?

TRANSPORT
Diversified trade and travel routes linking existing and future transport networks, shorter transit times and simplified customs procedures.

ENERGY
More interconnected regional energy platforms, modern energy systems and environmentally friendly solutions.

DIGITAL
Increased access to digital services while maintaining a high level of protection of consumer and personal data.

HUMAN DIMENSION
Advanced cooperation in education, research, innovation, culture and tourism.

WHY DO WE NEED BETTER CONNECTIVITY FOR EUROPE & ASIA?

€1.5 TRILLION IN ANNUAL TRADE BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA

EUROPE AND ASIA ACCOUNT FOR OVER **60% OF THE WORLD'S GDP**

SINCE 2015, **OVER 18,000 STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF** HAVE TRAVELLED BETWEEN OUR TWO REGIONS

WE HAVE A **JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**

CROSS-BORDER **RULES AND REGULATIONS MEAN FAIR COMPETITION** FOR BUSINESSES

FISCAL AND FINANCIALLY STABILITY REQUIRES LONG-TERM PLANNING

HOW WILL THE EU ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY?

1. CONTRIBUTING TO EFFICIENT CROSS-BORDER CONNECTIONS AND TRANSPORT, ENERGY, DIGITAL AND HUMAN NETWORKS
2. STRENGTHENING BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BASED ON COMMONLY AGREED RULES AND STANDARDS
3. LEVERAGING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR INVESTMENTS

The EU has a strong track record of financing connectivity internally and externally through combining innovative financing initiatives and creating opportunities for private sector participation.

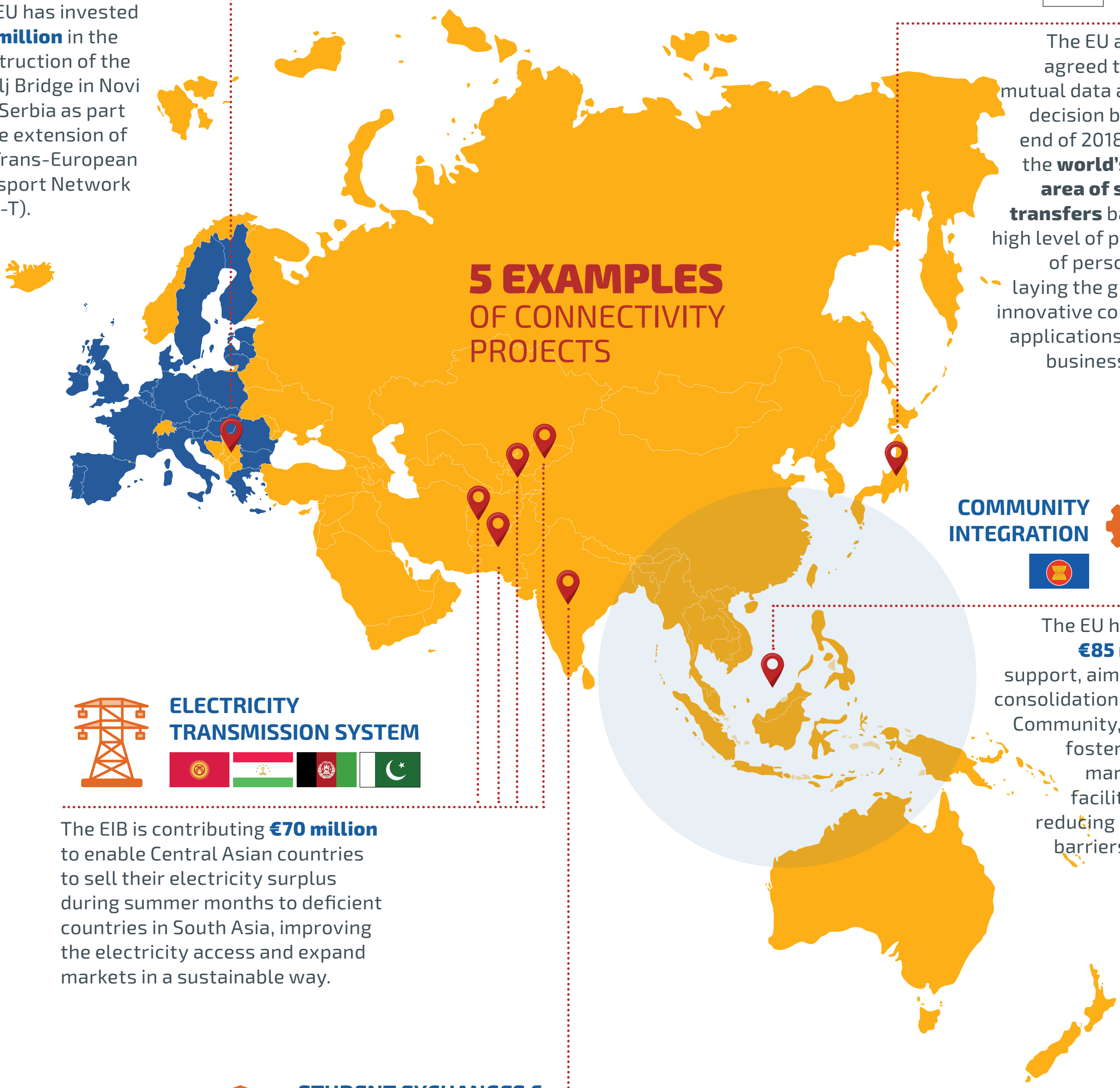
INSIDE THE EU

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and **The European Fund for Strategic Investments** (EFSI) support integrated investment programmes. **Connecting Europe Facility** mobilises investments in cross-border infrastructures for transport, energy and digital networks.

OUTSIDE THE EU

Investment Facility for Central Asia, Asian Investment Facility and the **European Fund for Sustainable Development** (EFSD) provide financing to catalyse additional public and private capital.

WHAT IS THE EU DOING TO CONNECT EUROPE & ASIA?



CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The EU has invested **€35 million** in the construction of the Žeželj Bridge in Novi Sad, Serbia as part of the extension of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

DATA TRANSFERS

The EU and Japan agreed to adopt a mutual data adequacy decision before the end of 2018 creating the **world's largest area of safe data transfers** based on a high level of protection of personal data, laying the ground for innovative commercial applications and new business models.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

The EU has agreed **€85 million** of support, aiming at the consolidation of ASEAN Community, including fostering single market, trade facilitation and reducing non-tariff barriers to trade.

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

The EIB is contributing **€70 million** to enable Central Asian countries to sell their electricity surplus during summer months to deficient countries in South Asia, improving the electricity access and expand markets in a sustainable way.

STUDENT EXCHANGES & STAFF MOBILITY

5,300 Indian students received Erasmus Scholarships and **1,800** Indian researches have been granted Marie Skłodowska-Curie Scolarship since 2004.