



# Economic & Investment Plan

OCTOBER 2022

#GlobalGateway  
#WesternBalkans  
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## for the Western Balkans

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

CLEAN ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

DIGITAL FUTURE

PRIVATE SECTOR

HUMAN CAPITAL

Up to

**€30 billion**

in public and private investments in cooperation with international financial institutions. This includes up to **€9 billion of EU grant funding**



The Economic and Investment Plan identifies 10 investment flagships and aims to spur the long-term recovery, accelerate a green and digital transition, and foster regional cooperation.



Moving from plan to action: The EU has so far approved 24 flagship investments\* worth **€3.3 billion in total investment value** – with bilateral contributions from EU Member States and Norway, and favourable loans from international financing institutions. This includes **€1.3 billion\*\* in EU and bilateral donors' grant funding**.



Investments will only be sustainable if Western Balkan partners accelerate reforms, including in the area of rule of law and fight against corruption.

\* [WBIF booklet on 24 endorsed flagship investments.](#)

\*\* Funded through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance IPA II and IPA III.

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The EU will improve core transport corridors in the region, to make them faster and comply with EU standards. Better transport will facilitate trade and drive sustainable economic growth. Connectivity reforms and simplified border crossing procedures are key.

FLAGSHIP 1 – Connecting East to West

FLAGSHIP 2 – Connecting North to South

FLAGSHIP 3 – Connecting the coastal regions



## CLEAN ENERGY

The EU support in the field of energy will be reinforced, in line with its ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Decarbonisation and transition to clean energy will be key. Priority will be given to energy interconnections and the use of renewable energy sources will be increased.

FLAGSHIP 4 – Renewable energy

FLAGSHIP 5 – Transition from coal

FLAGSHIP 6 – Renovation wave



## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

The new Green Agenda for the region, was endorsed at the Western Balkan summit in Sofia in November 2020. It covers green transition, decarbonisation, depollution of air, water and soil, circular economy and promotes biodiversity, urban mobility and green transport solutions.

FLAGSHIP 7 – Waste and Waste water management



## DIGITAL FUTURE

The deployment of an ultra-fast broadband, with a view to ensuring universal access, lowering the cost of roaming, developing digital skills and enhancing cybersecurity, will be key priorities of the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.

FLAGSHIP 8 – Digital infrastructure



## HUMAN CAPITAL

The EU will strongly support the development of human capital, including high quality education and training systems, employment, health and social protection. The EU will improve labour market participation, especially of young people and women, vulnerable groups and minorities, in particular Roma.

FLAGSHIP 10 – Youth Guarantee



## PRIVATE SECTOR

The EU will increase financial support to strengthen the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in strategic economic sectors, foster the green and digital transition, including through circular economy. The Western Balkans Investment Facility will play a key role including through its Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

FLAGSHIP 9 – Investing in the competitiveness of the private sector

## Integrating the Western Balkan Regional Market into the EU Single Market

The EU Single Market

