

Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

CLEAN ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

DIGITAL FUTURE

PRIVATE SECTOR

HUMAN CAPITAL

up to
€9 billion*
of EU funding

**for key
investments**

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** and **convergence with the EU**.

It will help attract public and private investments, backed by the Western Balkan Guarantee Facility, which has a potential to mobilise up to **€20 billion**.

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

* IPA III funding subject to the adoption of the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

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, just presented, is expected to be endorsed at the Western Balkan summit in Sofia in November. It will cover green transition, decarbonisation, depollution of air, water and soil, circular economy and promote biodiversity, urban mobility and green transport solutions.

FLAGSHIP 7 – Waste and 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

PRIVATE SECTOR

The EU will increase financial support to strengthen the competitiveness of micro and SMEs in strategic sectors and foster green growth and circular economy, under the new Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

FLAGSHIP 9 – Investing in the competitiveness of the private sector

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

Integrating the Western Balkan Regional Market into the EU Single Market

The EU Single Market

Mobility of People

Digital Market

European Value Chains

Connecting Economies

Regional Investment Space

Common Western Balkan Regional Market

Free Movement of Capital

Free Movement of Goods

Free Movement of Services