



THE EU AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Membership status: candidate country

#WesternBalkans
#EUEnlargement



November 2023

The EU acknowledged the European perspective for all Western Balkan partners at the Thessaloniki European Council summit in June 2003. Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership in February 2016. The Commission adopted its Opinion on the membership application in May 2019. On the basis of the October 2022 recommendation by the Commission, the European Council granted Bosnia and Herzegovina the candidate status in December 2022.



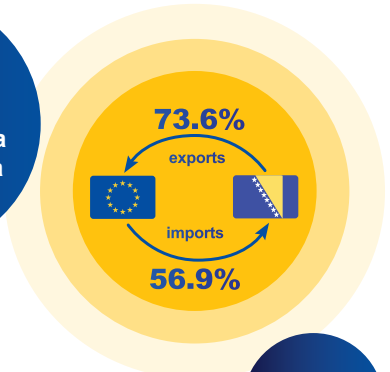
EU FUNDING

The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EU is supporting the socioeconomic development and fundamental reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina with financial and technical assistance through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**.

For **2021-2023**, the IPA III funding for national programmes amounts to over **€256 million for Bosnia and Herzegovina**. This includes the dedicated **€70 million** from the 2023 **Energy Support Package** immediate measures, the 90% of which have already been disbursed to support vulnerable families and SMEs facing the rising energy prices. The actions are also aimed at supporting policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

Since 1999, the EU has provided **€3.2 billion** in loans to Bosnia and Herzegovina through the European Investment Bank.

The EU is the biggest trading partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

in 2022

Source: Eurostat

Total EU Foreign Direct Investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina has amounted to €5.3 billion in 2022.

Total volume of trade in goods with the EU was almost €15.1 billion in 2022.

KEY MILESTONES





HUMAN CAPITAL

The EU pays special attention to youth, education, and innovation. It helps the Western Balkans in implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment.

15,300+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).

The EU has provided €45 million in support to civil society (2014-2023).



ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Launched in 2020, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans aims to mobilise up to €30 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU has already mobilised **€3 billion** in investments, out of which €934 million in grants.

The EIP flagship projects in public sector for Bosnia and Herzegovina, endorsed between 2020 and 2023, support **sustainable transport, renewable energy**, and **environment and climate**.

For instance, the investments help:

- construct motorway sections and subsections of Corridor Vc
- rehabilitate and modernise Čapljina pump storage hydropower plant
- rehabilitate and modernise Sarajevo water distribution system

Expected results up to 2030



152 km of motorways built



1 inland port and **40 km** of waterways rehabilitated



182 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed



Improved water and sanitation services for **770,000 people**

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