



THE EU AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

November 2025

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an **EU candidate country** since 2022.

FEBRUARY 2016 Application for EU membership	OCTOBER 2022 Commission recommends candidate status	DECEMBER 2022 European Council grants candidate status	NOVEMBER 2023 Commission recommends opening negotiations	MARCH 2024 European Council decides to open accession negotiations & invites the Commission to prepare the negotiating framework with a view to its adoption by the Council the moment all relevant steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of October 2022 are taken
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GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

Since 2023, the EU has been implementing a landmark **Growth Plan** to accelerate Western Balkans partners' socio-economic development and EU integration. It is backed by a €6 billion Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

The Plan aims to boost **socio-economic convergence** through enhanced economic integration with the **EU's single market**, regional integration within the **Common Regional Market**, and the acceleration of fundamental reforms.

As part of the Growth Plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to prepare a **Reform Agenda** focusing on reforms to **unlock national and regional growth potential** and related to the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the **rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms**. The Reform Agenda was submitted in September 2025 and is now being assessed by the European Commission.

A €6 billion **Reform and Growth Facility** for the Western Balkans is supporting the implementation of the Growth Plan, part of which is indicatively allocated to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**The EU is
Bosnia and
Herzegovina's**

largest trade
partner

largest
investor

largest provider of
financial assistance

ONGOING EU SUPPORT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The EU is the **largest provider of financial assistance** to Bosnia and Herzegovina. It offers a variety of programmes and instruments to support its development and EU accession process.

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

Between **2021 and 2024** the EU has allocated **over €309 million** of financial and technical assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina under IPA III. Assistance is provided in the form of **non-repayable grants**. This includes:

- **€70 million Energy Support Package** to support vulnerable families and SMEs against rising energy prices.
- **€23 million EU4people programme** for employment and social inclusion.
- **€13 million EU4 Rule of Law and Equality** programme to improve the quality of justice and support gender equality and inclusion of the Roma.

The Commission adopted further IPA financial assistance in the amount of €140.5 million via the IPA III 2025-2027 multiannual action in July 2025.



Global Gateway in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the framework of Global Gateway, the EU has identified investments in sustainable transport, clean energy, environment and climate, digital future, human capital and the private sector. These investments aim to support a green and digital transition and bring the region closer to **the EU's single market**.

For projects in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, since 2020 the EU has mobilised **€2.4 billion in investments thanks to €820 million in EU and Bilateral Donor grants**. Funds are raised through tools such as the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF). This includes:

- Constructing **98 km of new motorways** along Corridor Vc, connecting the country to the Adriatic Sea & to Central Europe which should increase travel speed to 130 km/h and **improve mobility for 1.5 million people**.
- **Rehabilitation and modernisation of the Čapljina pump storage hydropower plant**, with an expected **increase in production from 555 GWh per year to 575 GWh per year**.
- Upgrading the **water supply system in the Sarajevo Canton**, reducing water losses and improving the quality of services and the efficiency of the system for **over 360,000 people**. The WBIF Bilateral Donors co-fund this project.

What we are achieving together

 98 km of motorways built
 40 km of waterways upgraded
 400 MW renewable energy generation capacity installed
 Improved water and sanitation services for 570,000 people

CLOSE TRADE & INVESTMENT LINKS

The EU is Bosnia and Herzegovina's main trading partner. In 2024, the EU accounted for 62.8% of its trade in goods (71.6% of total exports and 57.8% of total imports). Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €325 million in 2023.

Under the **Stabilisation and Association Agreement** (SAA) and its Interim Agreement there has been progressive **trade** liberalisation and mutual duty-free access for most goods since 2008.



FOREIGN & SECURITY POLICY COOPERATION

Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligns with the EU's **Common Foreign and Security Policy** positions and declarations.

In addition:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in EU crisis management missions and operations under the **Common Security and Defence Policy**.
- The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina benefit from €20 million in assistance from the **European Peace Facility**, which increases their capacity to participate in Common Security and Defence Policy military missions and operations.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina contributes to regional cooperation in military medicine through the Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF).
- The EU provides support to strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's **resilience to hybrid threats, including cyber threats and foreign information manipulation and interference**.



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS

- Since 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina benefits from **visa-free travel** to the EU.
- The EU has funded over **9,000 exchanges** between EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under **ERASMUS+** since 2021.

