THE **EU** AND **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

November 2026



Bosnia and Herzegovina has been **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

GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

Under the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to prepare a Reform Agenda, which was submitted in September 2025 and approved by the European Commission in November 2025.

Under the **Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans, €976.5 million in non-repayable grants and favourable loans** are indicatively allocated to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the implementation of this Reform Agenda.



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. This support is provided through channels like the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), part of the EU's Global Gateway initiative.

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance

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 2021, the EU has provided **€1.1 billion, expected to mobilise €2.6 billion** in total **investments**. This includes:

Constructing 285 km of new motorways

along Corridor Vc, connecting the country to the Adriatic Sea and to Central Europe which should increase travel speed to 130 km/h and **improve mobility for 1.5 million people**.

Čapljina pump storage hydropower plant

expected **increase in production from 555 GWh per year to 575 GWh per year**.

Upgrading the **water supply system**

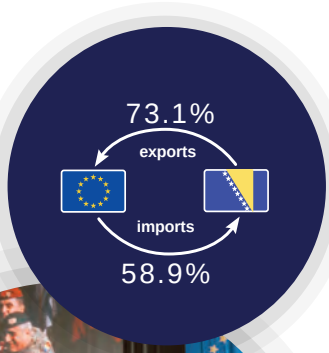
in the Sarajevo Canton, reducing water losses and improving the quality of services and the efficiency of the system, adding or improving about **4,000 new household connections**. The WBIF Bilateral Donors co-fund this project.

What we are **achieving together**

- **92 km** of motorways built
- **40 km** of waterways upgraded
- **400 MW** renewable energy generation capacity installed
- Improved water and sanitation services for **634,000 people**

CLOSE TRADE & INVESTMENT LINKS

The EU is Bosnia and Herzegovina's main trading partner. In 2025, the EU accounted for 63.5% of Bosnia and Herzegovina's total trade in goods (73.1% of total exports and 58.9% of total imports). Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €5 billion by 2024.



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 AND DEFENCE POLICY COOPERATION



Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to align itself with the **EU Common Foreign and Security Policy** statements and restrictive measures. 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 **€35 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).
- Since 2004, **EUFOR Althea** supports the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all citizens.



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS

- Since 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina benefits from **visa-free travel** to the EU.
- The EU has funded over **14,400 exchanges** between EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under **ERASMUS+** between 2021 and 2025.

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