

# ALBANIA

## ON ITS EUROPEAN PATH

### TRADE & INVESTMENT

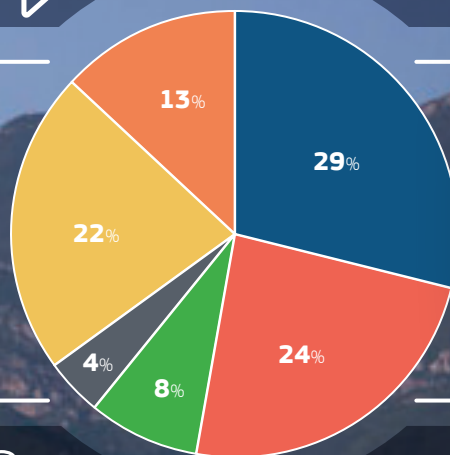
- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner
- The EU's contribution to total Foreign Direct Investment in Albania was €402.6 million in 2018
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.9 billion in 2018



### MOBILITY & EMPOWERMENT

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015 - 2019 5453 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
- €25 million in support to the civil society for 2014 - 2020

### SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS 2014-2020 (€658 MILLION)



- Democracy and governance
- Rule of law and fundamental rights
- Environment, climate action and energy
- Transport
- Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development
- Education, employment and social policies

### EU FUNDING

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
  - €135 million for sector budget support programmes
  - €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
  - €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, leveraging investments of estimated €2.3 billion
  - €14.9 million in disaster relief after the 2015 floods

### SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Strengthening competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food

## KEY MILESTONES

APRIL 2009

1. Application for EU membership
2. Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

DECEMBER 2010

Entry into force of visa liberalisation

JUNE 2014

EU candidate country status granted

APRIL 2018

Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

JUNE 2018

The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

MAY 2019

Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

