



**European
Investment
Bank**

The EU bank

EIB's activity in the Western Balkans

2 December 2020



| Public

EIB's intervention logic in the WB

Crisis response

EIB's EUR 1.7bn crisis response for the WB within the EUR 3.3bn **Team Europe** package

- New financing in support of the healthcare sector, small infra and SMEs and mid-caps affected by the pandemic
- More flexible terms / Extended eligibilities
- Acceleration of disbursements
- Re-purposing of existing facilities
- Increase of the available EIB financing

EUR 1.15bn delivered to date

Looking beyond the crisis / The EU Climate bank

2019, EU and non-EU



Innovation and digital transformation

EUR 14.4bn



Environment and green transition

EUR 16.5bn



Infrastructure and better connectivity

EUR 15.7bn



SMEs

EUR 25.5bn

EIB at the fore of the Innovation, Green and Digital transformation

Supporting the Innovation, Green and Digital transformation of the WB

Challenges

- Relatively **low broadband** penetration rates, especially in rural areas
- Prioritisation of digital investments over other critical public infrastructure
- Lack of **digital literacy** and skills / SMEs particularly vulnerable to reskilling needs
- Brain drain / Migration / Demographic changes putting a **strain on education** infrastructure / Disparities in access to education

Recent developments

- **Green and digital convergence** ambitions of the region
- Role of the **Economic and Investment Plan** / Green Agenda and Common Regional Market

EIB's response

- Track record of major digital investments (EUR 2.4bn in 2019) and education projects (EUR 3.0bn in 2019) in the EU and beyond
- Various ongoing EIB projects in the digital and education sectors in the WB region
- Long-term financing / innovative financial instruments, including risk sharing and blending of loans and grant resources
- Technical assistance to prepare and implement projects, but also to support master plans and investment strategies

Recent examples of EIB's operations / Innovation - Social

Digital

Connected Schools in Serbia

EUR 70m to finance the continuous professional development of **teachers** in digital skills, the provision of new **digital equipment**, the upgrade of the **academic data network** and central locations, and the rollout of **Wireless Local Area Network**.

ERI grant: **EUR 1.8m** grant for **teacher training** by UNICEF and **EUR 2m** support call for tenders.



Telekom Srbija broadband evolution

EUR 70m for the design and early rollout of a **5G** network throughout Serbia as well as the **densification and upgrade** of the commercial 4G network.



Digital Infrastructure in Albania

Feasibility analysis and other technical assistance under WBIF to address **broadband connectivity** throughout Albania



Education

Montenegro Education Programme

EUR 18m for the construction and renovation of **public education infrastructure**. The project also includes **provision of new** and specific equipment for vocational schools. **EUR 2.9m** **ICT equipment** grant from ERI to help in the tendering process.



Social Impact

Social impact finance

EUR 30m impact finance loan to Unicredit Bank Srbija to help Serbian SMEs and MidCaps to improve the social impact of their businesses in areas such as **gender equality, youth employment and social inclusion**.





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**EUROPEAN
INVESTMENT
FUND**

Matteo Rivellini

Head of Division

Lending operations in Slovenia,
Croatia and the Western
Balkans

m.rivellini@eib.org

More information at: www.eib.org
info@eib.org

Thank you!
