

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

**EU 4 Green Recovery:
Support the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**

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Description

As part of the efforts of the Green Finance team at EU4Green, the following overview has been created to enable easier access to information, guidelines, principles and other useful information related to available financing and cooperation possibilities for the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

The document is subject to updates.

About EU4Green

The EU4Green project supports the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia – in implementing the ‘Green Agenda for the Western Balkans’, in greening their economies in consultation with all relevant partners and in enhancing monitoring and reporting.

EU4Green will contribute in the region to:

- move to a circular economy
- monitor and reduce pollutants in air, water and soil
- make agriculture more sustainable and climate resilient
- preserve biodiversity
- provide ad hoc high-level policy support
- strengthen Green Agenda monitoring and reporting
- improve Green Agenda understanding through communication activities
- strengthen green education
- involve civil society and other stakeholders
- foster financing the green transition

To ensure ownership and strengthen acceptance, EU4Green involves decision-makers and stakeholders in the process. Making EU4Green as participative as possible contributes to building synergies, encourages new ideas and improves the quality of decisions. This will strengthen communication and cooperation between regional key institutions and stakeholders.

The EU4Green’s activities will also give specific support to the alignment of legislation in the economies to the EU acquis Communautaire.

During the EU4Green project, the Western Balkan economies will improve mutual cooperation, aiming to bring economic and environmental benefits to a region of more than 20 million people.

The European Union finances the EU4Green project with EUR 10 million and the Austrian Development Agency with EUR 1 million, respectively. The project is implemented by the

Environment Agency Austria in cooperation with public authorities and institutions of the Western Balkans.

EU funding and opportunities

[Multi-country – financial assistance under IPA - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU multi-country financial assistance under Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) providing an overview, relevant links and strategic documents for current period.

[Western Balkans Investment Framework \(wbif.eu\)](#)

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), is aimed at enhancing harmonization and cooperation in investments for the socio-economic development in the region and contributing to the European perspective of the Western Balkans. The website offers information about regional and local large infrastructure projects, as well as on the core European donors investing in the region.

[WBIF PRIVATE SECTOR Blending and Guarantees Booklet_March2024.pdf](#)

WBIF - Blending and Guarantees booklet, providing an overview of active WBIF Programmes for private sector.

[EU funding programme for the environment - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

The EU funding for environment guidance, covering some EU Funding programs available in the Western Balkans: Horizon, LIFE, IPARD.

[Funding programmes Western Balkans and other EU projects | WeBalkans](#)

Offers an overview of some of the main EU initiatives and funding programmes in the Western Balkans (not only for Green Agenda financing).

[EU funding programmes - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU website listing the funding programs categorized by the sector or purpose of financing, with links to each of the program.

[EU funding and tenders opportunities](#)

Provides information on EU funding and tenders, including the basics and fundamentals on EU funding and tender opportunities.

[Funding and tenders - information / Funding and tenders – manuals](#)

The Funding & Tenders Portal is the main entry point for funding programmes and procurement options managed by the European Commission and other EU institutions and agencies.

[Tenders Electronic Daily \(TED\) – EU tenders](#)

TED is the online version of the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union, dedicated to European public procurement. The portal includes all procurement opportunities from the EU, the European Economic Area and beyond.

[European Climate Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency \(CINEA\)](#)

The portal provides information necessary for project application and delivery under the [CEF Transport](#) and [CEF Energy](#) programmes plus the [Just Transition Mechanism \(JTM\)](#) and [Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism \(REFM\)](#), the [Horizon Europe Programme](#), including [three EU Missions](#) and the Innovation Fund programmes, [LIFE](#), sustainable Blue Economy and [European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund \(EMFAF\)](#) programmes, as well as on Green ASSIST.

[Fi-compass platform](#)

Platform for general information, practical tools and learning opportunities that guide visitors through European Structural and investment Funds financial instruments.

[Enterprise Europe Network](#)

Provides expert advice to small business on how to access EU public funds and grants for research and development, innovation, investment, employment and training.

[Directorate-General for Environment - funding opportunities](#)

Provides information on grants and procurements issued by the Directorate-General for Environment, with a list of funding opportunities.

Local references to EU funding

At local level, in each of the six Western Balkans economies, information and useful links about EU funding, projects and programmes can be found at the following official websites:

Albania: [EU Projects in Albania](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: [DEI | The EU Programmes](#)

Montenegro:	EU funds (www.gov.me)
North Macedonia:	Secretariat for European Affairs (sep.gov.mk)
Kosovo*:	EU – Programmes – Integrimi Evropian (rks-gov.net)
Serbia:	MEI - Union Programmes ; EU Za tebe

Creating a common language to mobilize additional financial resources

Below, useful links related to the EU Sustainable Finance regulation can be found. This is particularly interesting for the Western Balkan countries, as the information on the web pages below offers information relevant for accession countries, and it offers insights in sources and opportunities for development of better understanding and overview of EU financial resources.

[Sustainable finance - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

The EU is examining how to make sustainability considerations an integral part of its financial policy in order to support the European green deal, among others through the EU Sustainable Finance Framework.

[EU Sustainable Finance Regulation - LSF](#)

The Luxembourg Sustainable Finance Initiative online toolkit provides an overview of the key EU sustainable finance legislative piece, explaining what each of them is about, how they affect financial services, their chronology, how they are interconnected, and a collection of relevant links to official sources (Taxonomy, Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II), Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), Low Carbon Benchmark Regulation and Green Bond Standard (GBS)).

[ESG Qualification \(esg-qualification.eu\)](http://esg-qualification.eu)

Free online course about EU Taxonomy, SFDR & sustainability regarding MiFID II.

For more information about the course and explanatory videos: [Sustainable Finance Qualification of Financial Advisors \(EURENI\) | ÖGUT \(oegut.at\)](#)

[Sustainable Finance | ICMA » ICMA \(icmagroup.org\)](http://icmagroup.org)

International Capital Market Association (ICMA) which serves as a “Secretariat to the Green Bond Principles (GBP), the Social Bond Principles (SBP), the Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) and the Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles (SLBP) - collectively known as "the Principles", providing support while advising on governance and other issues.” The guidelines, principles and handbooks can be found here.

[Climate Bonds Initiative | Resources](#)

Climate Bonds Initiative is an international organisation working to mobilise global capital for climate action. Find here their resources overview (reports and webinars)

Multi-stakeholder coordination with focus on GAWB implementation

EU4Green pays special attention to involvement and coordination between various interested parties and sectors. The sources listed below offer great insight in activities and importance of the multi-stakeholder coordination.

RCC information on the event “Revolve to Evolve – Go Circular”. Regional Western Balkans Coordination Meeting [Regional Cooperation Council | Draft Agenda \(rcc.int\)](#)

Opening speech by the RCC Secretary General Majlinda Bregu at the Western Balkans Coordination Meeting “Revolve to Evolve – Go Circular” [Regional Cooperation Council | Opening speech by RCC Secretary General Majlinda Bregu at the Western Balkans Coordination Meeting “Revolve to Evolve - Go Circular”](#)

Circular Economy – resources

[Squaring the Circle: Policies from Europe’s Circular Economy Transition \(worldbank.org\)](#)

World Bank’s report examining Europe’s experience in furthering the CE agenda, with problems, solutions, and lessons learned:

[The EIB Circular Economy Guide](#)

European Investment Bank (2023)

[Best Practices in developing Circular Economy Strategies in Europe \(eib.org\)](#)

JASPERS (2022): Best practices in developing CE strategies in Europe

[European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

The platform is developed and used to bring together stakeholders active in the field of the broad Circular Economy in Europe.

[Circular City Funding Guide](#)

Information and support on the funding of CE projects and activities in urban context.

[European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#)

EU funding programs for Circular Economy financing.

[Financing Circularity: Demystifying Finance for the Circular Economy – United Nations Environment – UNEP FI](#)

UNEP FI publication on financing CE projects, exploring strategies and actions that the financial institutions can take to manage related risks and opportunities.

Green budgeting – references, guidelines and principles

[Green budgeting in the EU - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Green budgeting in EU: and overview, with links to surveys, explanations on green and brown budgetary items, and publications.

[europa.eu - Green Budgeting Reference Framework](#)

Download the document: EU Green Budgeting Reference Framework.

[Green Budgeting in OECD Countries 2024](#)

Access the OECD iLibrary for the OECD publication: green budgeting in OECD countries 2024

[Green Budget Tagging | OECD](#)

Find the introductory guidance & principles of OECD green budget tagging.

