



# ALBANIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

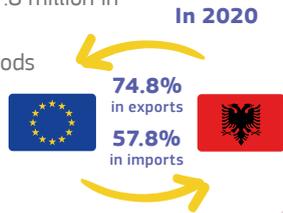


## Key milestones

- APRIL 2009**  
Application for EU membership  
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
- MARCH 2020**  
EU decides to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**  
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

## Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €567.8 million in 2019
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €4.82 billion in 2020



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.3 billion
- €115 million EU grants for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Albania after the 2019 earthquake

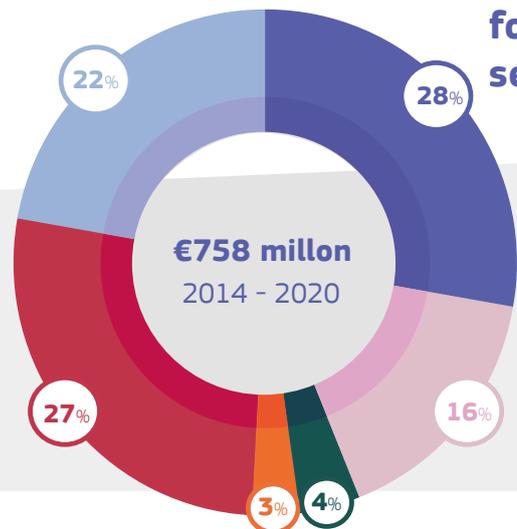
## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015–2020: over 9,835 participants from Albania in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- €25 million in support to civil society in 2014 – 2020

## Supporting transformation

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

## Support for key sectors



## COVID-19 response

In December 2020, the Commission adopted a **€70 million** package of grants to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines. The conclusion of agreements facilitated by Austria for the delivery of 651,000 doses of BioNTech/Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, covered by part of these grants, to all the Western Balkans was announced in April. In February 2021, the Commission launched a project of over €7 million jointly with WHO, to support readiness for vaccination efforts and resilient health systems in the Western Balkans.

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