The EU companies are the biggest investors in the Western Balkans: over €10 billion of Foreign Direct Investments in the past five years.

Western Balkans is a market of some 18 million consumers.  
Future potential: fast growing economies with high domestic demand.

The EU is the Western Balkans’ largest trading partner: €43 billion of total trade between the EU and the Western Balkans in 2016.

**OVERVIEW OF THE EU RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN BALKANS**

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** - Potential candidate  
  Submitted application to join the EU in February 2016.

- **Montenegro** - Candidate country  
  Opened chapters - 30  
  Provisionally closed chapters - 3

- **Albania** - Candidate country  
  Commission recommends Council to decide that accession negotiations be opened in light of progress achieved.

- **Serbia** - Candidate country  
  Opened chapters - 12  
  Provisionally closed chapters - 2

- **Kosovo** - Potential candidate  
  In April 2016, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force.

- **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** - Candidate country  
  Commission recommends Council to decide that accession negotiations be opened in light of progress achieved.

**PROVIDING THE FINANCIAL MEANS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ACCESSION**

The Instrument for Pre-Accession supports the Western Balkans in their preparation for accession and facilitates regional and cross-border cooperation.

**€8.9 BILLION**  
Invested during 2007 - 2017

**€1.07 BILLION**  
Forecast for 2018

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance funding will be even more tailored to the needs of the countries. The implementation of this strategy will require increased funding.

*Kosovo - This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the “Kosovo” declaration of independence.*