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 €432 million in 2018
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.9 billion in 2018

In 2018
- 75% in exports to the EU
- 60% in imports from the EU

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Support (€)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Funding</td>
<td>649.4 million</td>
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<td>EU FUNDING</td>
<td>The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania</td>
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<td>→ €1.24 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020</td>
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<td>→ €135 million for sector budget support programmes</td>
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<td>→ €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999</td>
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<td>→ €124.8 million in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants since 2009, leveraging investments estimated of € 2 billion</td>
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<td>→ €14.9 million in disaster relief after the 2015 floods</td>
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**MOBILITY & EMPOWERMENT**
- Democracy and governance
- Rule of law and fundamental rights
- Environment and climate action
- Transport
- Competitiveness and innovation
- Education, employment and social policies
- Agriculture and rural development
- Territorial cooperation and regional cooperation

**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 the Stabilisation and Association Agreement

- **JUNE 2014**
  - EU candidate country status granted

- **APRIL 2018**
  - Commission recommends the opening of accession negotiations

- **JUNE 2018**
  - The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations

- **OCTOBER 2019**
  - Council decided to discuss Enlargement before May 2020 Zagreb Summit

Source: EU data