ALBANIA
ON ITS EUROPEAN PATH

SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS 2014-2020
(€658 MILLION)

EU FUNDING
The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
➔ €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
➔ €484 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
➔ €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, leveraging investments of estimated €2.3 billion
➔ €115 million EU grants for the post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction of Albania after the 2019 earthquake

TRADE & INVESTMENT
➔ The EU is Albania’s biggest trading partner
➔ The EU’s contribution to total Foreign Direct Investment in Albania was €567.8 million in 2019
➔ Volume of trade with the EU was €4.94 billion in 2019

76.6% in exports to the EU
63.9% in imports from the EU

MOBILITY & EMPOWERMENT
➔ Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
➔ In 2015 - 2019 5552 participants in student, academics and youth exchanges under Erasmus+
➔ €25 million in support to the civil society for 2014 – 2020

SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATION
➔ Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
➔ Reforming public administration
➔ Strengthening competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development
➔ Education, employment and social policies

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
From IPA 2014-2020, €50.7 million in bilateral assistance for Albania to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 provided regionally for an economic reactivation package. In addition, €180 million was proposed by the Commission in Macro-Financial Assistance for Albania and the European Investment Bank is providing a €1.7 billion package of assistance to the region

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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 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

MAY 2019
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations

MARCH 2020
EU decides to open accession negotiations

Source: EU data