



KOSOVO

on its European path

#EUenlargement

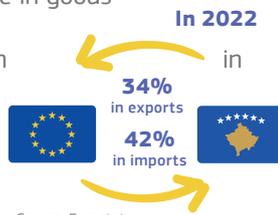


Key milestones

- MARCH 2011**
EU facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade starts
- APRIL 2016**
Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force
- MAY 2016**
Commission proposes visa-free travel for Kosovo
- OCTOBER 2016**
First meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council
- JULY 2018**
Commission confirms that Kosovo has fulfilled all outstanding visa liberalisation benchmarks
- DECEMBER 2022**
Application for EU membership
- MARCH & APRIL 2023**
Council and Parliament adopt regulation paving the way for visa liberalisation to start on 1 January 2024

Trade & investment

- The EU is Kosovo's biggest trading partner.
- The EU Foreign Direct Investment in Kosovo reached €344 million in 2022.
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €2.7 billion in 2022.



Economic & Investment Plan

Launched in 2020, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans aims to mobilise up to €30 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP for Kosovo, the EU has already mobilised **€940 million** in investments, out of which €312 million in grants. For instance, the investments help:

- renovate and upgrade Pristina-Merdare highway section
- solar energy as one of the sources for Pristina district heating network.

EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Kosovo.
- The EU is supporting the socioeconomic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Kosovo, with financial and technical assistance through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**.
- For 2021-2023, the IPA III funding for national programmes amounts to over **€231 million** for Kosovo. This includes the dedicated **€75 million from the 2023 Energy Support Package** immediate measures, 90% of which

have already been disbursed to support vulnerable families and SMEs facing the rising energy prices. The actions are also aimed at supporting policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

- Since 1999, the EU has provided **€338 million** in loans to Kosovo through the European Investment Bank.



Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education, and innovation. It helps the Western Balkans in implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment.
- 5,500+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and Kosovo in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).
- The EU has provided €34 million in support to civil society (2014-2023).
- 364 'Young Cells Scheme' grants have been awarded to public administration scholars.
- 4,000+ young and disadvantaged people received employment and entrepreneurship training.

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