



# MONTENEGRO

on its European path

#EUenlargement



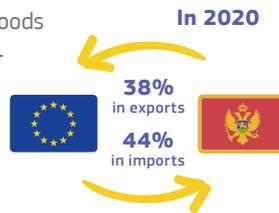
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## Key milestones

- DECEMBER 2008**  
Application for EU Membership
- MAY 2010**  
Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- DECEMBER 2010**  
EU candidate country status granted
- JUNE 2012**  
EU decides to open accession negotiations
- OCTOBER 2020**  
Commission proposes Economic & Investment Plan to support and bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU

## Trade & investment

- The EU is Montenegro's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Montenegro reached €87.5 million in 2020
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €1.1 billion in 2020



## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Montenegro
- €504.9 million in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €804 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €194.9 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €1.8 billion

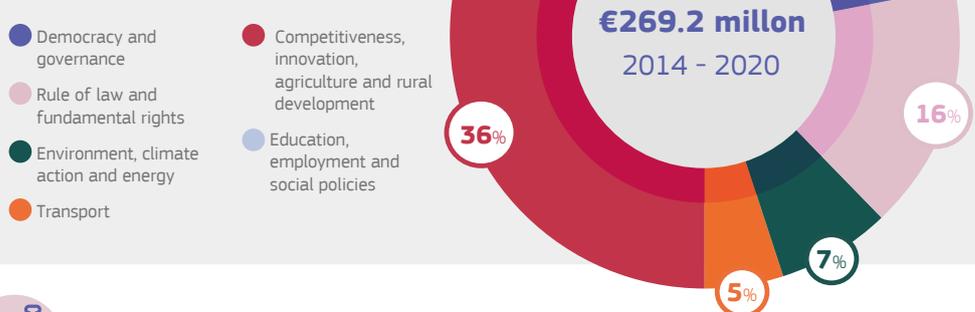
## Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- Over 4,153 participants from Montenegro in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- Reforms of the social welfare and child-care systems implemented with EU support
- €14.4 million in support to civil society (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. A part of these grants covered the delivery of 650,000 doses of BioNTech/ Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to all the Western Balkans - funded by the EU and facilitated by Austria - between May and August 2021. 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.

Last updated: 10/2021