



# ALBANIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

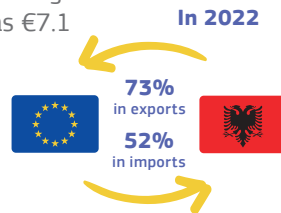
## Key milestones

- APRIL 2009**  
Application for EU membership  
Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force
- JUNE 2014**  
European Council grants candidate status
- APRIL 2018**  
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**  
Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**  
European Council decides to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**  
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States
- JULY 2022**  
Intergovernmental Conference on accession negotiations (IGC)  
Start of the screening process

Source: EU Data

## Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner.
- The EU Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €388 million in 2022.
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €7.1 billion in 2022.



Source: Eurostat

## EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania.
- The EU is supporting the socio-economic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in Albania, 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 close to **€250 million** for Albania. This includes the dedicated **€80 million from the 2023 Energy Support Package** immediate measures, 90% of

## 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 Albania, the EU has already mobilised **€1.4 billion** in investments, out of which €470 million in grants. For instance, the investments help:

- rehabilitate the railway section Vorë-Hani i Hotit, including its train stations, signalling system and other safety improvements
- install the floating solar photovoltaic power plant at Vau i Dejës.



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.

- Following 2019 earthquake, the EU provided **€115 million** in grants for rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Since 1999, the EU provided **€569 million** in loans to Albania 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.
- 11,500+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and Albania in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).
- The EU has provided close to €33 million in support to civil society (2014-2023).
- The EU is supporting the establishment of the new College of Europe campus in Tirana.

Last updated: 12/2023