



ALBANIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

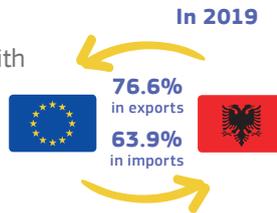


Key milestones

- APRIL 2009**
Application for EU membership
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
- MARCH 2020**
EU decides to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

Trade & investment

- The EU is Albania's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in Albania reached €567.8 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €4.94 billion in 2019



Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2010
- In 2015–2020: over 9,835 participants from Albania in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- €25 million in support to civil society in 2014 – 2020

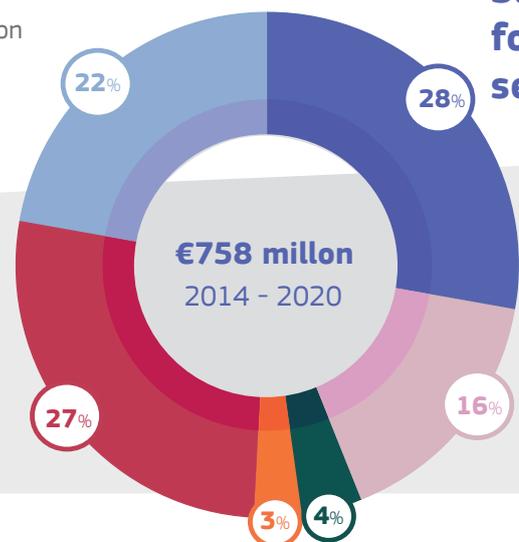
EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Albania
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €464 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €143.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.3 billion
- €115 million EU grants for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Albania after the 2019 earthquake

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

From IPA 2014-2020, €50.65 million in bilateral assistance for Albania to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €180 million was approved by the Commission in Macro-Financial Assistance for Albania and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region. In December 2020 the Commission adopted a €70 million package to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines.