



February 2024

This newsletter brings you the latest news, stories and opportunities – all you need to know about the European Union and the Western Balkans.

#EUandYOU

On the last day of February, Tirana was the focal point for Western Balkans leaders and EU Commissioner Oliver Várhelyi to discuss the region's economic enhancement through the [EU's Growth Plan](#). The plan aims for closer integration with the EU's single market, spotlighting initiatives like SEPA for fee-free transactions, Green Lanes 2.0 for smoother trade, Wifi4WB to

expand internet access, and Digital Innovation Hubs to boost digital skills.

Earlier in January, President Ursula von der Leyen, alongside Prime Ministers Mark Rutte and Andrej Plenković, visited Sarajevo to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession path, following the EU's readiness for opening negotiations once the criteria are met in December 2023. They engaged with key officials and held a press conference with Chairwoman Borjana Krišto, aiming to align the country more closely with EU standards, and concluded with meetings highlighting the EU's commitment to integration.

Additionally, the European Commission and Montenegro in January signed an agreement allowing Montenegro to enter the [EU4Health programme](#), enhancing Montenegro's health system's capacity for immediate and long-term healthcare needs. This agreement enables Montenegro to access EU funding, joining others in the region in health system strengthening.

Happy reading!

The WeBalkans.eu team.

Featured stories



[MONTENEGRO'S GREEN TRANSITION](#)

EU energy support package fuels sustainability and economic growth in Montenegro.

[Read story](#)



[PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SARAJEVO](#)

An EU funded projects is supporting the NGO in Sarajevo on promotion of cultural and traditional heritage.

[Read story](#)

News highlights



29/02/2024

The Growth Plan in Motion: EU reinforces commitments to the region's integration and economic growth

[Read more](#)

12/02/2024

Serbia's Green Revolution

[Read more](#)

04/03/2024

Montenegro Joins EU Health Program, Initiating a Healthcare Transformation in the Western Balkans

[Read more](#)

Don't miss these opportunities

- ✓ [Call for project proposals under the EU Civil Society and Media Programme for Western Balkans and Türkiye](#)
- ✓ [Digital Europe Programme: Launch of Innovation Hub Proposal Opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Launch of the award in the Western Balkans and Türkiye: Most Roma Friendly Mayor Award 2024](#)
- ✓ [2024 call for Creative Europe Networks open](#)
- ✓ [Call for proposals for innovative solutions for the green transition of the Serbian economy](#)
- ✓ [Culture Moves Europe call for artists opens again](#)



[Call for proposals for innovative solutions for the green transition of the Serbian economy.](#)

Discover all opportunities



YEAs Empowering Change on Hate Speech

Young European Ambassadors are now more prepared to spread the message of equality and respect in their communities, standing at the forefront of

combating hate speech on social media platforms. All thanks to the three-day training session on "Promoting Equality, Non-Discrimination, and Combating Hate Speech" organised at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary, by the Council of Europe and co-funded by the European Union. This program has equipped them with essential knowledge on human rights, anti-discrimination strategies, and the effective use of social media in their anti-hate campaigns. For more information, click on the [link](#).

#YEStoYEA

You can learn more about the Council of Europe by following their Social Media accounts:



Stories

Do you have a story about an EU funded project you want to see shared on our WeBalkans page? Drop us a line!

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Opportunities

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