



March 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

The European Union has officially initiated [membership negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) on 22nd of March, marking an important moment in the Western Balkans' path towards EU integration. This step is a recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina's dedication to fulfilling EU standards, emphasizing the country's commitment to democratic governance, the rule of law, human

rights, and economic reform. It represents a significant advancement towards a unified future within the European community, showcasing Bosnia and Herzegovina's determination to become a part of the EU bloc.

In tandem with efforts towards political integration, the Western Balkans is experiencing substantial infrastructural growth, by a collaborative effort between the European Investment Bank (EIB) Global and the European Union. For example, EIB Global's €100 million loan is [revitalising Albania's 120 km railway from Vorë to border crossing with Montenegro](#), with additional support from a €126 million EU grant and a €98.75 million loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Simultaneously, North Macedonia is advancing an 89 km EU-backed railway project from [Kumanovo to the Bulgarian border](#) to enhance regional economic and transport links.

Finally, The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) recently celebrated the ["Women Entrepreneurs of the Year for 2023"](#) in Sarajevo, acknowledging six distinguished women for their entrepreneurial achievements across various sectors. Selected from a pool of over 250 candidates, awardees exemplify the diverse and dynamic business landscape in the Western Balkans. This recognition, reinforced by the RCC's Women Economic Empowerment Agenda and supported by the European Union, underscores the determining contribution of female entrepreneurs to the region's prosperity, driving further innovation and societal change.

Happy reading!

The WeBalkans.eu team.

News highlights



23/03/2024

A historic moment for Bosnia and Herzegovina's path toward EU membership

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19/03/2024

North Macedonia's new railway link: A step towards EU integration and economic revitalization

[Read more](#)



20/03/2024

EIB backs Kosovo's transition to clean energy with major solar plant

[Read more](#)



12/03/2024

€10 Million Boost for Brčko Port: A New Era for Bosnia and



13/03/2024

Winners of the Western Balkans Women Entrepreneurs



21/03/2024

EIB Global boosts Albania's railway transport: €100 million

Herzegovina's
Infrastructure

of year 2023
announced

for the EU-financed
Vorë-Hani i Hotit
railway line

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Don't miss these opportunities

- ✓ [Opportunity to shape the future of the Western Balkans with the WeLead: EU Scheme for Young Professionals!](#)
- ✓ [ARTICLE 19's Ethical Journalism Awards 2024 in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia](#)
- ✓ [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](#)



YEA's Empowering Youth Voices

Concluding this month's newsletter, a meeting took place on 27th of March, at Europe House Tirana, where Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) discussed with Isabel Santos, the European Parliament's Rapporteur for Albania. This gathering highlighted the active role of youth in Albania's EU accession efforts. The YEAs, including energetic Daniela Kortoçi and Ema Meçaj, discussed Albania's EU journey and the importance of conveying the value of EU integration to the youth. This event reflects the vibrant participation of the younger generation in the EU accession process, emphasizing their key role in advocating for a united and progressive future within the European community. For more information, click on the [link](#).

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