



April 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

A significant milestone was achieved for the Western Balkans with the European Parliament and member states reaching a political agreement on the Growth Plan, committing a record €6 billion to aid Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia in their integration into the European Union. This agreement not only promises

financial assistance but also demands rigorous reforms and governance improvements from the Western Balkans, ensuring a mutual effort towards a more rapid and efficient accession process.

The European Commission honored mayors from the Western Balkans and Türkiye with the ["Most Roma Friendly Mayor"](#) awards, recognizing their exemplary dedication to championing the rights and inclusion of Roma communities. Presented by Valentina Superti, Director for the Western Balkans at the European Commission's DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement, the awards underscored the crucial role of local leaders in advocating for equality and enhancing social inclusion.

We're thrilled to introduce the [YEA Blog](#), a new section in our newsletter! Don't miss the first post by our very own Young European Ambassador, Lazar Simić, featured at the end of this issue.

Happy reading!

The WeBalkans.eu team.

Featured stories



[LEPETIT.APP: HEARTFELT STORIES AND SPEECH THERAPY FOR CHILDREN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA](#)

Where stories speak to hearts, cultivating a love for learning in every child.

[Read story](#)



[THE YEAST GROWS, THE BUSINESS THRIVES: HOW DRAGANA'S BAKING BUSINESS SUPPORTS HER RETURNEE FAMILY REINTEGRATION](#)

How Regional Returnee Reintegration Project, implemented by UNDP and funded by the EU is helping vulnerable returnees build a better future back home.

[Read story](#)

News highlights



29/04/2024

EU commits to unlocking €750 million in funds to boost small businesses in the Western Balkans

[Read more](#)



05/04/2024

EU commits record €6 billion to Western Balkans for growth

[Read more](#)



01/04/2024

YEAs AL meet with MEP Isabel Santos

[Read more](#)

Don't miss these opportunities

- ✓ [Culture Moves Europe call for artists opens again](#)
- ✓ [Youth4Regions – The Programme for Aspiring Journalists](#)
- ✓ [Call for proposals for innovative solutions for the green transition of the Serbian economy](#)

Discover all opportunities

Our first YEA Blog



The Western Balkans have to make it circular

Author: Lazar Simić, Young European Ambassador from Serbia

How often did you think you were making one big endless circle? For example, school/faculty – job – free time and then again and again? If that seems familiar to you, then you know what circularity is, but have you heard of the circular economy and its main principles?

My name is Lazar, and I am a Young European Ambassador from Serbia. I will do my best to share the most important insights from the World Circular Economy Forum 2024 and not get too bureaucratic as if the event took place in Brussels (it did!). Read the full blog on the [link](#).

#YEStoYEA



Stories

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



Opportunities

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