



January 2025

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

#EUandYOU

[North Macedonia inaugurated the Kriva Palanka – Dlabochica – Stracin](#)

expressway, marking a significant leap in regional infrastructure. The €36.7 million project, **funded by the EU**, World Bank, and national sources, reduces travel time between Stracin and Kriva Palanka from 30 to just 10 minutes. Stretching 23 kilometres as part of Corridor VIII, the expressway connects

Albania's Adriatic port of Durres to Bulgaria's Black Sea port of Varna.

Additionally, **the European Union in Albania** kicked off the year with a significant project aimed at supporting the country's EU accession. The [EU4Digital Justice initiative, backed by €7.5 million](#), seeks to modernise Albania's justice system by digitising case management and enhancing the Information Technology Centre for the Justice System.

The WeBalkans.eu Team

## Featured stories



## [EU supports regional cooperation for sustainable development](#)

The 5th EU-Western Balkan Fund (WBF) call for projects highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in the WB6, focusing on cultural cooperation, education & scientific exchanges, and sustainable development to enhance community well-being.

[Read story](#)



## [Beyond stage mastery: Building connections and transforming theatre behind the scenes](#)

Through technical mastery and cultural exchange, the Beyond Stage Mastery program is transforming theatre professionals across the Western Balkans into catalysts for creativity and connection.

[Read story](#)



**28/01/2025**

Kosovo secures funding for energy efficiency in public buildings

[Read more](#)



**24/01/2025**

EIB Global strengthens partnership with Albania

[Read more](#)



**14/01/2025**

EU-funded initiatives drive inclusive social care in Albania

[Read more](#)

## Don't miss these opportunities

- ✓ [Creative Europe 2025 – Media literacy](#)
- ✓ [Western Balkans Fund: 7th Annual Call for Proposals](#)
- ✓ [New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025](#)
- ✓ [Support for Civil Society in Kosovo: Human Rights in the Digital](#)

[Age](#)



[Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Youth – Western Balkans](#)



[RAPTOR Programme – EIT Urban Mobility 2025](#)



[Creative Europe to support literary translation projects in 2025](#)

[Discover all opportunities](#)

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**YEA Blog**





## [A day of innovation – Our visit to STIKK with the EU Ambassador](#)

**Fatbardh Kabashi**, Young European Ambassador from Kosovo

Discover how innovation is shaping Kosovo's future! Read about Fatbardh Kabashi's inspiring visit to STIKK, where startups are revolutionizing industries with cutting-edge technology, from AI to agricultural drones. Learn how the EU is empowering young innovators and creating opportunities for a brighter tomorrow.

[Click here to explore the full story.](#)

[Click here to watch the reel!](#)

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[Transforming Luka Brčko – A gateway to regional growth and connectivity.](#)

**Armin Poljak**, Young European Ambassador from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Explore how EU investments are transforming Bosnia and Herzegovina! Join YEAs Ademir and Armin as they visit Luka Brčko, the largest river port in the country, and discover how modernisation projects are boosting trade, creating jobs, and connecting local communities to international markets.

[Click here to read more and see the impact of the EU's support in action.](#)

[Click here to watch the reel!](#)



## Stories

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

[Share story](#)



## Opportunities

Do you know of an EU funded opportunity that you want to promote via WeBalkans? Drop us a line!

[Share opportunities](#)

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