

CLIMATE SUPPORT FACILITY (CSF)

Western Balkans Plus (WeBa+) Program



ALBANIA COUNTRY BRIEF

The WeBa+ program has helped Albania advance its green transition by supporting renewable energy development, energy efficiency, air quality and extreme heat management, sustainable waste and wastewater management, and climate-informed government service delivery. These efforts have strengthened institutional capacity, informed larger World Bank investments, and laid the groundwork for more resilient, low-carbon economic development.

The Western Balkans Plus (WeBa+) Program under the World Bank's Climate Support Facility (CSF) is exclusively supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) and has the objective to advance climate and green growth priorities in the Western Balkans and other countries in Europe and Central Asia. Since its inception in December 2020, the WeBa+ Program supported 41 grants representing a total commitment of US\$ 8.8M. By being linked to World Bank lending, Program funding supports critical phases of operational readiness including upstream analysis, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Austria's contribution to the WeBa+ Program has helped inform US\$ 791M in World Bank financing in the region.¹

This Country Brief summarizes ongoing and closed activities under the WeBa+ Program aimed at supporting climate and green growth priorities in Albania.

WeBa+ Program Support to Albania at a Glance

7**Number of grants
(active and closed)****US\$ 933K****Funding (active and closed)****US\$ 138K****Funding (active)****US\$ 193M****World Bank lending informed**

Grant Title	Approval Date	Status	Amount	Linked World Bank Lending Operation
Resilient Cities and Urban Heat	Dec 2023	Active	US\$ 38K ²	N/A
Boosting Energy Efficiency through Green Public Procurement	Oct 2023	Active	US\$ 100K	Albania Second Resilience and Green Development – Development Policy Loan (US\$ 120M)
Climate Informed GovTech	Nov 2023	Closed	US\$ 150K	Albania Improving Equitable Access to High Standard Policy Services through GovTech (US\$ 65M)
Low-Carbon Response to the Energy Crisis in the Western Balkans	Jan 2023	Closed	US\$ 83K ³	Albania First Resilience and Green Development DPL (US\$ 120M)
Greening Motorization Phase 1	July 2021	Closed	US\$ 55K ⁴	N/A
Blue Economy Development	Feb 2022	Closed	US\$ 500K	Albania CARE4BlueSea Project (US\$ 80M)
Stakeholder Engagement Platform and Social Dimensions of Green Growth Analysis in the Western Balkans	Dec 2021	Closed	US\$ 7K ⁵	N/A

FOCUS ON IMPACT

"Championing cleaner coastal waters and ecosystems"

Through the *Albania Blue Economy Development* grant (US\$ 500K, closed), the WeBa+ Program supported blue economy development with a focus on cleaner coastal waters and ecosystems. The grant helped promote integrated and circular approaches to waste management and reducing water pollution and enhance nature-based solutions. Grant activities supported: (1) the identification of an integrated set of sanitation solutions for the municipality of Përmet, (2) enhanced public education and better communication around sustainable waste management and sanitation practices, (3) a satellite mapping of waste leakage hotspots and recommendations for waste management improvement, and (4) an assessment of municipal wastewater discharge into the Vjosa River and its tributaries.

The implementation of the [Albania CARE4BlueSea Project](#) (US\$ 80M) will build upon grant activities by advancing integrated water and landscape management and deepening institutional capacity. The project will further operationalize the technical solutions and institutional frameworks piloted under this grant, ensuring a coherent and sustained approach to pollution reduction and blue economy development in Albania. The CARE4BlueSea project is expected to result in a net emissions reduction of around 100,000 tons of CO₂e over its economic lifetime. It is also expected to result in an 80 percent increase in safely treated wastewater flows from urban agglomerations, close to 52,000 people with access to improved sanitation services, an additional 1,300 tons per year in municipal waste recycled, and an additional 200 hectares of land area under sustainable landscape management practices.

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- 2 This grant totals US\$ 150K and is split among Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia.
3 This grant totals US\$ 500K and is split among the 6 Western Balkans countries.
4 This grant totals US\$ 330K and is split among the 6 Western Balkans countries.
5 This grant totals US\$ 40K and is split among the 6 Western Balkans countries.

GRANT SUMMARIES

Resilient Cities and Urban Heat (US\$ 38K, active)

A [methodology](#) for modeling the cascading impacts of climate hazards and the costs and benefits of potential adaptation interventions accompanied the [Western Balkans Country Climate and Development Report](#). The work done through this grant is brought to completion via the publication of the [Unlivable: How Cities in Europe and Central Asia Can Survive and Thrive in a Hotter Future](#) flagship report on extreme heat in cities in the region, which points to steps cities can take to minimize negative impacts from rising temperatures and integrate these in development planning. Extreme heat mapping was carried out in Tirana, Shkodra and Vlore in [Albania](#) in close conjunction with mayors, community leaders and universities and resulted in a widespread understanding of the problem of extreme heat.

Boosting Energy Efficiency through Green Public Procurement (US\$ 100K, active)

The grant supports the implementation of energy efficiency through public procurement including developing efficiency testing protocols based on EU procedures. The grant has delivered a manual on utilization of a life cycle costing tool, an excel-based tool for estimating life-cycle costs for 15 energy efficiency technologies, a report on green public procurement including a market survey and life-cycle cost analysis, and a training workshop on the use of life-cycle cost in procurement in Tirana. Grant activities informed a policy reform in the linked policy lending operation on increasing energy efficiency in the public sector, which ensures application of energy efficiency standards in all public procurement procedures. Through this reform, annual energy consumption in public sector buildings is expected to decrease from a baseline of 242 GWh in 2022 to a target of 218 GWh in 2026.

Climate Informed GovTech (US\$ 150K, closed)

This grant aimed to make government service delivery more climate sensitive by supporting the climate-smart implementation of a service delivery/GovTech lending operation. The grant closed successfully having supported diagnostic work for an integrated life event on flood disaster on the e-Albania portal, along with work for 20 climate-change related services, and just in time assistance to ensure that all ICT purchases and upgrades supported by the linked PforR lending operation are done with energy efficient technologies.

Low-Carbon Response to the Energy Crisis in the Western Balkans (US\$ 83K, closed)

Two energy challenges converged in the region in 2021-2022: aligning the COVID-19 recovery with the transition to a low-carbon energy sector, and the other, mitigating the ongoing energy crisis. The grant supported a range of analytics to assist the Western Balkans countries in developing and implementing policy and investment responses in a programmatic manner towards a more sustainable and less carbon-intensive energy mix. In Albania, activities such as a review of renewable energy auctions informed several policy reforms in the linked policy lending operation, namely amendments to the renewable energy law to promote the development of the renewable energy market, the introduction of energy trading through the organized wholesale market, and the introduction of energy efficiency measures in the public sector.

Greening Motorization Phase 1 (US\$ 55K, closed)

The grant aimed to identify policy and regulatory measures to mitigate the impact of motorization on air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The grant supported [an analysis](#) of vehicle, fuel, and electricity markets and institutional frameworks, backed by stakeholder consultations across Western Balkans countries. It delivered recommendations for environmental improvements in road vehicle fleets that are informing pipeline lending operations in the region.

Stakeholder Engagement Platform & Social Dimensions of Green Growth Analysis (US\$ 7K, closed)

This grant was one of the first supported by the Program and was developed in the midst of the green recovery agenda from the COVID pandemic. The activity addressed best practices in policy and governance to help manage just transitions across industries/sectors and places by identifying transition pathways and a typology of policy responses. It was complemented by case studies of transitions management in three countries: Italy, Spain and South Korea.