



Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans - 2 NEAR/2022/EA-RP/0081

REGIONAL

Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for the Modernisation of Priority Green Lanes Border Crossing Points in the Western Balkans

The subject sub-project is still ongoing. The description that follows is for information purposes only and subject to the sub-project's completion.

Partners:

- The World Bank Group
- The Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community
- CEFTA Secretariat
- Ministries of Transport in the Western Balkans
- Customs administrations in the Western Balkans
- Ministries of Interior (Border Police) in the Western Balkans
- Other Border Crossing Point/Common Crossing Point relevant institutions, directorates and agencies from the Western Balkans
- All BCP relevant institutions in the following EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary and Romania
- EU Delegations/Offices in the Western Balkans

Budget of Technical Assistance:

- Euro 897,225

EU contribution¹:

- As above (100%)

Technical Assistance provided by:

- CONNECTA 2
(Technical Assistance to Connectivity in the Western Balkans - 2)

The EU-Western Balkans Green Lanes Border Crossing Points Modernisation initiative is a flagship regional project supporting the implementation of the *Comprehensive Roadmap for Enhancing Green Lanes, Improved Customs Cooperation and Modernisation of Border/Common Crossing Points* endorsed by the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Brussels in 2024. Building on the successful Green Lanes initiative introduced at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the project aims to modernise priority border crossing points/common crossing points (BCPs/CCPs) across the Western Balkans by improving infrastructure, streamlining border/crossing procedures, and introducing smart border technologies to facilitate faster, safer, and more efficient movement of goods and passengers.

The CONNECTA 2 assignment covers eleven priority BCPs/CCPs (ref. Roadmap's *Pillar 3*) strategically selected based on their location on the extended TEN-T network, traffic volumes and regional importance. These crossings represent the principal gateways between the Western Balkans and the European Union, where reducing delays and improving border operations will strengthen regional connectivity, enhance trade competitiveness and support economic growth throughout the region.

To support these modernisation efforts, CONNECTA 2 is providing technical assistance for the preparation of investment-ready documentation under the Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme (SSTP), financed through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) and the World Bank. The assignment is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 focuses on feasibility studies, advanced preliminary designs, operational assessments, traffic analysis, economic appraisal, and environmental and social screening. Phase 2 will build on these findings through the preparation of detailed engineering designs, technical specifications, environmental and social documentation, bills of quantities, and procurement-ready tender documents.



The assignment will ensure that all proposed investments comply with EU and World Bank requirements while integrating smart border technologies, digital customs solutions, climate-resilient infrastructure, and energy-efficient design principles. By preparing mature, investment-ready projects, CONNECTA 2 will help accelerate implementation of the Green Lanes Roadmap, strengthen cooperation between Western Balkan partners and neighbouring EU Member States, and support the progressive integration of the region into the European transport network.

Results to be achieved:

- Feasibility Studies and Advanced Preliminary Designs
- Detailed Design packages
- Technical specifications and Bills of Quantities
- Environmental and Social documentation, where required
- Procurement-ready tender documentation
- Updated cost estimates and implementation phasing
- Investment-ready documentation supporting SSTP and World Bank financing

Transport

¹EU contribution concerns only Technical Assistance services for project development

Start date: June, 2026

Duration:

Phase 1 (10 months)

Phase 2 (9 months)



Key recommendations – further actions:

(to be updated after the sub-project is completed)

Benefits expected due to Technical Assistance:

- **Investment Readiness:**
 - Preparation of complete feasibility, design and procurement documentation
 - Delivery of investment-ready projects for SSTP and World Bank financing
- **Operational Efficiency:**
 - Optimised layouts and streamlined border procedures
 - Integration of smart border technologies and digital customs systems
- **Regional Coordination:**
 - Improved cooperation between Western Balkan partners and neighbouring EU Member States
 - Harmonised planning and implementation of Green Lanes investments
- **Regulatory Alignment:**
 - Compliance with EU acquis, World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, and national legislation
 - Flexible infrastructure prepared for future EU accession and Schengen scenarios

Impacts anticipated:

- **Enhanced Border Crossing Performance:**
 - Reduced waiting times for freight and passenger traffic
 - Improved efficiency, safety and security at priority Border Crossing Points
- **Accelerated Investment Delivery:**
 - Mature projects ready for implementation and procurement
 - Increased confidence of international financing institutions
- **Regional Connectivity and Trade:**
 - Stronger integration along the extended TEN-T network
 - Improved cross-border cooperation and trade facilitation across the Western Balkans
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development:**
 - Climate-resilient and energy-efficient border facilities
 - Stronger foundation for future EU integration and continued implementation of the Green Lanes Roadmap