



### Genesis and background of the project:

EU accession is the goal of all six countries in the Western Balkans (WB6). To support the accession process dynamics, the so-called “Berlin process” was initiated in 2014 with the focus on deepening regional integration in the WB6. In 2017 the six governments agreed on a Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area.

#### Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area

Trade

Investments

Mobility

Digital Integration

One initiative in the process was the establishment of the Chamber Investment Forum (CIF) as an umbrella organization of all Western Balkan Chambers, which represents the interests of the private sector.

Despite positive developments in recent years, the economy in the Western Balkans continues to face administrative and technical trade barriers, inefficient and politicized public administration, a lack of legal certainty, a high level of emigration, and thus a slow improvement of the economic situation. Strong national chambers of commerce and their closer regional cooperation have the potential to improve the regional competitiveness.

**This is where the Western Balkans Chamber Partnership comes into play and supports the partner chambers in strengthening themselves and their network.**

#### What are the WB6?

The WB6 refers to the six Western Balkans countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

#### What is a chamber partnership?

Chamber partnerships aim at promoting sustainable economic development by supporting the private sector and its organizational structures.

#### Project goals:

The overall project goal is to support the chambers of commerce in contributing to the implementation of the Regional Economic Area (REA).

This should be facilitated by:

- Improving the organizational capacity and impact of the WB6 chambers of commerce
- Deepening political dialogue to improve the economic environment
- Strengthening the chambers’ regional network and their umbrella organization Chamber Investment Forum (CIF)
- Harmonizing economic framework conditions and establishing joint representation of the region as an economic area

## Project partners:

The German project partner DIHK cooperates with the six partner chambers in the Western Balkans & the umbrella organization "Chamber Investment Forum".



## Project activities:

A broad variety of activities is planned for the 3-year project (Sept. 2019 – Sept. 2022).

Establishing exchange formats	Developing new products	Capacity building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public private dialogue</li><li>- Regional working groups</li><li>- Regional round tables</li><li>- B2B meetings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regional representation at international trade fairs</li><li>- Regional investment platform</li><li>- Studies and analyses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Methodology training</li><li>- Community building</li><li>- Organizational development</li></ul>

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