

## Initiative Enabling Better Schools for All Kicks Off a New Chapter in Montenegrin Education Sector

**Podgorica, Montenegro, 24 February 2026** – Under the European Investment Bank (EIB Global) and UNOPS project “Enhancing School Infrastructure in Montenegro”, a nationwide assessment of 813 pre-school, primary, and secondary school facilities in Montenegro has officially begun. Experts have launched the first site visits in Podgorica, marking the start of a comprehensive effort to check the quality, safety, and inclusiveness of education facilities and ensure modern learning environments for pupils and teachers across the country.

Funded by EIB Global with €2.3 million under its Economic Resilience Initiative, the project is implemented by UNOPS, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation. The initiative “Better Schools for All” builds on the EIB’s long-standing support under Team Europe approach for Montenegro’s education sector, with over €55 million mobilised to date through loans and EU grants under the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

“Strong, modern schools are the foundation of a resilient, knowledge-driven economy and a better future for the people of Montenegro. With this project, we are helping ensure that every child in the country can learn and thrive in a safe, modern environment that meets the highest education standards”, said Davor Kunc, Head of EIB Representation to Montenegro.

The assessment conducted by a team of 25 engineers and architects will examine whether school buildings meet national and international standards covering safety, accessibility, energy efficiency, water and sanitation, ventilation, lighting, gender-responsive design, and inclusion of children with disabilities. It will also review urban planning documentation and evaluate unused school facilities, offering recommendations for their potential future use.

“Quality education begins with safe, functional, and inclusive school facilities. This assessment will provide us with reliable data and clear priorities, enabling smarter investments for better learning conditions for all children in Montenegro. Through this initiative, we strengthen our commitment to accessible, equitable, and high-quality education, and reaffirm a long-term vision for the country’s education system”, highlighted Andjela Jaksic Stojanovic, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation.

The project also aims to strengthen national capacity for data-driven planning and investment in education infrastructure.

“This project transforms data into action, both strengthening institutional capacity for managing education infrastructure and ensuring that future actions deliver safer schools, better learning environments, and long-term impact”, emphasised Michela Telatin, Director of the UNOPS South East Europe Multi-Country Office.

The collected data will be entered into the Montenegro Education Information System, further strengthening the Ministry’s ability to analyse infrastructure needs at both individual school and system-wide levels. The assessment will result in school-level recommendations, as well as a strategic report identifying short, medium, and long-term investment priorities. In addition, the project will also support the Ministry in preparing technical designs for priority school investments, increasing readiness for future financing.

## Background information

### About the EIB and EIB Global

The EIB is the long-term financing institution of the European Union, owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals. The EIB supports projects in four priority areas: infrastructure, innovation, climate and environment, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). EIB Global is the EIB Group's specialised arm devoted to increasing the impact of international partnerships and development finance, and a key partner of [Global Gateway](#). It aims to support €100 billion of investment by the end of 2027 – around one-third of the overall target of this EU initiative. Within Team Europe, EIB Global fosters strong, focused partnerships alongside fellow development finance institutions and civil society. EIB Global brings the EIB Group closer to local people, companies and institutions through its [offices around the world](#).

### About the EIB in Montenegro

The EU bank has been an active partner of Montenegro, providing almost €1.1 billion in loans to the country, mostly in support of SMEs, education and transport infrastructure. For more information on EIB projects in Montenegro, visit <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/regions/enlargement/the-western-balkans/montenegro/index.htm>. For detailed information on the EIB's activities [www.eib.org/en/publications/the-eib-in-the-western-balkans](http://www.eib.org/en/publications/the-eib-in-the-western-balkans).

### About the Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI)

The Economic Resilience Initiative, which backs the grant awarded, was established by the EIB in 2016 to channel donors' resources to impactful projects in the Southern Neighbourhood and Western Balkans to help meet the challenges posed by forced displacement and migration. ERI has measurable economic, social and environmental outcomes that contribute to sustainable development goals relating to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, and sustainable cities and communities. 98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg - [www.eib.org/press](http://www.eib.org/press) – [press@eib.org](mailto:press@eib.org)

### About UNOPS

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, such as the European Union, its Member States and financial institutions like the European Investment Bank, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org)

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