

EBRD makes innovative €40 million green loan to UniCredit Leasing Serbia

- **€40 million package is first loan under the Western Balkans Green Outcomes-Linked Debt Financing Framework (WB GOLD)**
- **Innovative green finance instrument introduces outcome-based incentives to stimulate green lending**
- **Programme will support SMEs with sustainable investments and boost competitiveness**

Belgrade, July 16th 2025 – The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will lend up to €40 million to UniCredit Leasing Serbia under the newly created Western Balkans Green Outcomes-Linked Debt Financing Framework (WB GOLD).

The facility will mainly support leasing solutions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), helping them grow their business while stimulating them to increase their investments in environmentally sustainable assets.

WB GOLD is an innovative green finance instrument that introduces outcome-based incentives to stimulate the financial sector to increase green financing for SMEs and mid-cap companies. It is designed to help improve standards for green lending practices while supporting the general financing needs of SMEs.

The framework aligns with the EBRD's dual mission in the Western Balkans: of supporting economic growth through private-sector development and accelerating the transition to greener, more resilient economies. By empowering local businesses to invest in sustainable technologies – from energy-efficient machinery to renewable energy systems – WB GOLD aims to create direct environmental benefits while boosting competitiveness.

Matteo Patrone, EBRD Vice President for Banking, said: *"We are glad to partner with UniCredit Leasing Serbia to channel this innovative green financing into the heart of Serbia's SME and mid-cap sector. This project exemplifies how the WB GOLD framework translates finance into real-world environmental outcomes and sustainable growth."*

Nikola Vuletić, President of the Management Board of UniCredit Bank, said: *"Through this initiative, we provide small and medium-sized enterprises in Serbia with access to more favorable financing for green investments - from energy-efficient equipment to renewable energy sources. UniCredit Leasing Serbia thus contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of the domestic economy and accelerating the green transition. By using specific financial instruments, our clients get more flexible access to modern technologies that bring long-term benefits for the environment."*

The EBRD is the leading institutional investor in [Serbia](#), having invested more than €10 billion through 382 projects. The Bank's focus in Serbia is on private-sector competitiveness, the green economy transition and sustainable infrastructure.

About the EBRD: The EBRD is a multilateral bank that promotes the development of the private sector and entrepreneurial initiatives in 36 economies on three continents. The bank is owned by 75 countries, as well as the EU and the EIB. The EBRD's investments aim to make the economies in its regions competitive, inclusive, well-governed, green, resilient and integrated.

UniCredit is a pan-European Commercial Bank with a unique service offering in Italy, Germany, Central and Eastern Europe. Our purpose is to empower communities to progress, delivering the best-in-class for all stakeholders, unlocking the potential of our clients and our people across Europe.

We serve over 15 million customers worldwide. They are at the heart of what we do in all our markets. UniCredit is organized in four core regions and three product factories, Corporate, Individual and Group Payments Solutions. This allows us to be close to our clients and use the scale of the entire Group for developing and offering the best products across all our markets.

Digitalization and our commitment to ESG principles are key enablers for our service. They help us deliver excellence to our stakeholders and creating a sustainable future for our clients, our communities, and our people.