



NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement



Key milestones

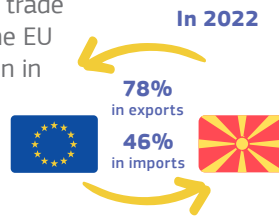
- MARCH 2004**
Application for EU membership
- APRIL 2004**
Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force
- DECEMBER 2005**
European Council grants candidate status
- OCTOBER 2009**
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**
Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**
European Council decides to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States
- JULY 2022**
Intergovernmental Conference on accession negotiations (IGC)

Start of the screening process

Source: EU Data

Trade & investment

- The EU is North Macedonia's biggest trading partner.
- The EU Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €519.6 million in 2022.
- Total volume of trade in goods with the EU was €13.8 billion in 2022.



Source: Eurostat

EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia.
- The EU is supporting the socio-economic development and reforms in the enlargement region, including in North Macedonia, with financial and technical assistance through the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)**.
- For 2021-2023, the IPA III funding for national programmes amounts to **€265 million** for North Macedonia. This includes the dedicated **€80 million from the 2023 Energy Support Package**

Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education, and innovation. It helps the Western Balkans in implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment.
- 34,500+ participants took part in exchanges between the EU and North Macedonia in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020).
- The EU has provided around €42 million in support to civil society (2014-2023).
- The city of Skopje was awarded the title of the European Capital of Culture 2028.

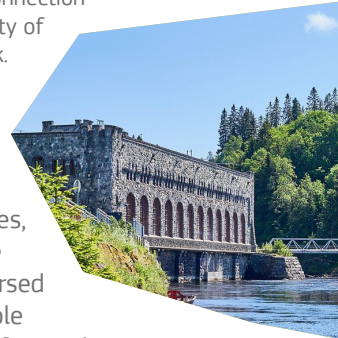
Economic & Investment Plan

Launched in 2020, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Western Balkans aims to mobilise up to €30 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP for North Macedonia, the EU has already mobilised **€1.6 billion** in investments, out of which €566 million in grants. For instance, the investments help:

- construct Kriva Palanka – Stracin express road of Corridor VIII: North Macedonia-Bulgaria rail interconnection
- increase the capacity of Bogdanci Wind Park.

immediate measures, 90% of which have already been disbursed to support vulnerable families and SMEs facing the rising energy prices. The actions are also aimed at supporting policy measures to accelerate the energy transition.

- Since 1999, the EU has provided **€1.2 billion** in loans to North Macedonia through the European Investment Bank.



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