



NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement

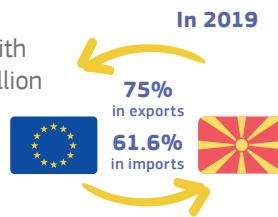


Key milestones

- MARCH 2004**
Application for EU membership
- APRIL 2004**
Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- DECEMBER 2005**
EU candidate country status granted
- OCTOBER 2009**
First recommendation to open accession negotiations
- DECEMBER 2009**
Entry into force of visa liberalisation
- APRIL 2018**
Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**
EU decides to open accession negotiations
- JULY 2020**
Presentation of the draft negotiating framework to the Member States

Trade & investment

- The EU is North Macedonia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €44.16 million in 2019
- Volume of trade with the EU was €10 billion in 2019



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds 2007-2020
- €818 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €181.8 million provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework grants, to leverage investments of estimated €2.1 billion

Mobility & empowerment

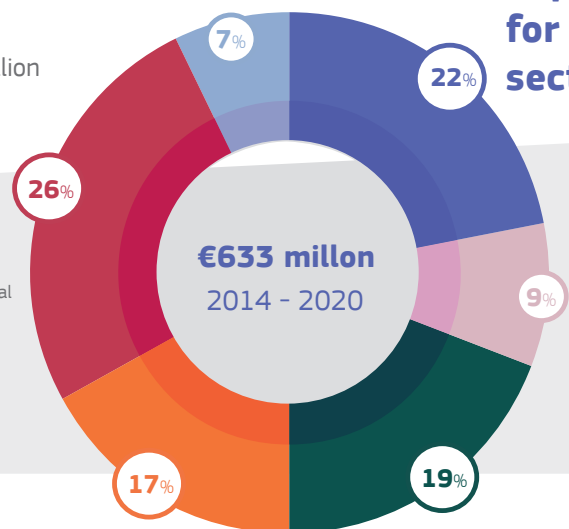
- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- In 2015–2020: over 3,111 participants from North Macedonia in student, academic and youth exchanges under ERASMUS+
- Pre-accession support has modernised sections of the Pan-European Corridor X motorway and railway Corridors VII and X

Supporting transformation

- Strengthening democracy: rule of law, justice and fundamental rights
- Reforming public administration
- Fostering competitiveness and supporting business development
- Working towards a cleaner environment and safer food supply

Support for key sectors

- Democracy and governance
- Rule of law and fundamental rights
- Environment, climate action and energy
- Transport
- Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development
- Education, employment and social policies



COVID-19 response

From IPA 2014-2020, €66 million in bilateral assistance for North Macedonia to cover urgent health needs and economic and social recovery, and €455 million for regional economic reactivation package. In addition, €160 million was approved by the EU in Macro-Financial Assistance for North Macedonia and the European Investment Bank is providing €1.7 billion to the region. In December 2020 the Commission adopted a €70 million package to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines.