



## Culture and tourism

### Protecting the charm of Skopje's old city

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

*Now, the Bazaar is a walking zone only as it should be. The Bazaar is visited by numerous tourists who enjoy strolling the alleys that breathe with the spirit of the past. Here everyone discovers something to delight in. Thus, protected from the noise and pollution of vehicles, the Bazaar has increased the pleasure and the comfort of the visitors.*

Muhedin Brava, President of the Association of Old Bazaar Skopje – "Esnaf"



### Facts and Figures

- The Skopje Old Bazaar is the largest bazaar in the Western Balkans and a protected national landmark.
- Start date: 23/12/2010
- End date: 22/03/2011
- The value of the project is: € 120,000

### Context

In recent years, the number of vehicles in the old city of Skopje significantly increased. The vehicles are a danger to pedestrians, damage old stone paving and destroy the beauty of the old town, one of the few remnants of old Skopje to survive the 1963 earthquake. The European Union financed the installation of hydraulic and static bollards in eight different entrances to control vehicle access to the old town. The circulation of vehicles is limited, but emergency service vehicles still have easy access to the area. The old town streets became safer and the Old Bazaar, a cultural and historic monument from the 10th century, gained some of its charm back.

### Objectives

- Protect the old town in Čair by limiting the circulation of vehicles.

### Impact

- Rising and static bollards installed in eight different access points of the old town of Skopje, complete with electricity distribution boards and remote controls. These limit the circulation of vehicles, but allow easy and fast access for ambulances, fire engines and police cars.
- The old stone paving is no longer threatened by heavy circulation. The history and beauty of the Old Bazaar are protected.
- The old town streets are safer to pedestrians.