



NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUnlargement



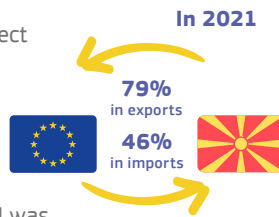
Key milestones

- 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**
The Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- APRIL 2018**
The Commission repeats its unconditional recommendation to open accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**
The members of the European Council endorse the Council's decision 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



Trade & investment

- The EU is North Macedonia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €288.8 million in 2021
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €10.8 billion in 2021



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia
- The EU is supporting the socioeconomic 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 2021-2027, IPA III funding for the whole enlargement region is **€14.162 billion***. It is based on EU thematic priorities rather than pre-defined country envelopes. This will allow the instrument to reward performance, progress towards key priorities and have increased flexibility to respond to evolving needs
- The Annual Action Plan 2021 for North Macedonia of **€90.45 million** focusses on supporting actions in rule of law & anti-corruption, fight against organised crime, trade, environment & clean air, green economy and the green agenda

- Rule of Law, fundamental rights and democracy
- Good governance and neighbourly relations
- Green agenda and sustainable connectivity
- Competitiveness and inclusive growth
- Territorial and cross-border cooperation

* IPA assistance is based on EU thematic priorities rather than pre-defined country allocations, hence the global amount for the enlargement region.



Human capital & innovation

- The EU pays special attention to youth, education and innovation and is helping the Western Balkans implementing Youth Guarantee schemes to support youth employment
- 11,600+ participants from North Macedonia in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult learning and youth under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- €24.3 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

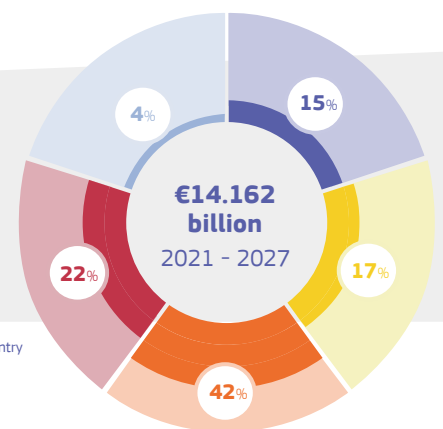


Economic & Investment Plan

Over the next seven years, the EU will mobilise up to **€30 billion** in cooperation with international financial institutions through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans launched in 2020. The following EIP projects for North Macedonia were endorsed in 2022:

- **Sustainable transport:** North Macedonia – Bulgaria Corridor VIII Rail Interconnection
- **Clean energy:** Oslomej 1 Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant, Oslomej 2 and Bitola Photovoltaic Power Plants
- **Environment and climate:** Skopje Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The Annual Action Plan 2022 for North Macedonia amounts to **€72.5 million** and focuses on enhancing the EU accession process and supporting the country's reforms in the areas of border and migration management, public administration, environment, health, social protection and gender equality.
- In the Framework of the Energy Support Package of **€1 billion** adopted for the Western Balkans (500 million in grants and 500 million in soft loans & guarantees), the Annual Action Plan for 2023 for North Macedonia is €80 million.
- For 2014 - 2020, IPA II funding allocated for North Macedonia amounted to **€633 million**
- Over €1 billion** provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999



Last updated: 03/2023