



Orient/East-Med Corridor (R10): the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Kosovo* – Serbia Rail Interconnection

Partners:

- Kosovo Railways JSC (InfraKos Sh. A.)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Finance, Kosovo

EU contribution:

- €38.5 million (48% of investment cost)
- €7.54 million (project preparation and implementation support)

Estimated total investment:

- €80.9 million

Estimated EBRD loan:

- €19.2 million

Estimated EIB loan:

- €19.2 million

The Orient/East-Med Corridor (R10) crosses Kosovo from the north to the south, from the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the one with Serbia, and constitutes Kosovo's sole connection to the wider region by rail. The entire track is in poor condition, with serious structural limitations that do not allow for traffic in excess of 60km/h and in some areas 20 km/h.

This route is part of the Core Network Corridors of the Trans-European Transport network (TEN-T) extension into the Western Balkans and South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO)'s Comprehensive Network. It is thus part of the long-term sustainable development plans of the European Union and its partners.

This investment project¹ will enable outdated switches, tracks and trackbed, culverts, bridges and tunnels along the Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje – border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia route to be replaced or renovated.



Freight transport on Route 10.

Results:

- Railway network in Kosovo integrated into the Orient/East-Med Corridor, connecting the Western Balkans to Austria, Greece and Bulgaria.
- Railway transport systems in Kosovo interconnected to those in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.
- Approximately 64 km of railway track fully rehabilitated.



Passenger transport on Railway Route 10, close to Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje.

¹ Subject to a final decision by the budgetary authorities.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

EBRD grant:

- €0.8 million (project implementation support)

Estimated Start Date:

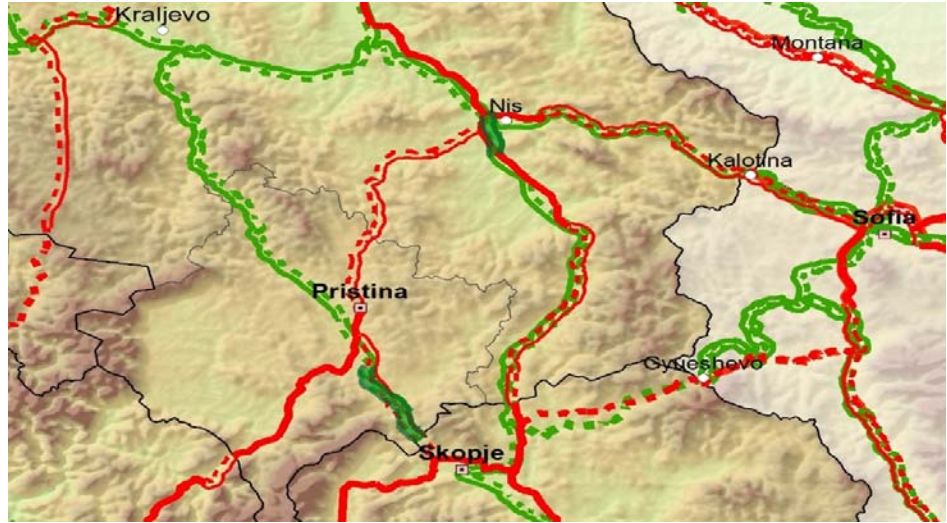
- Last quarter 2015

Estimated End Date:

- End of 2017

Estimated Loan Repayment Period:

- 17 years



Map of the Orient/East-Med Corridor (R10).

The Orient/East-Med Corridor (R10) is 256 km long, out of which 148 km are in Kosovo. It connects Kraljevo (Serbia) to Pristina (Kosovo) and Gorce Petrov (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The first railway tracks were built in 1936 and the route was regularly maintained until the 1990s. No major investment has been made since then.

The rail connection with Serbia is no longer in operation (Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje – Podujevë/Podujevo) since the Merdare tunnel, on the border, was demolished in the 1990s, cutting cargo and passenger links from Pristina to Belgrade.

The route will be renovated in three phases:

- Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje–border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje – Mitrovica/Mitrovicë
- Mitrovica/Mitrovicë – border with Serbia.

All three sections are due to be completed by 2020.

This investment project concerns phase 1 only. With connections to the Orient/East-Med Corridor, passenger numbers on this railway route in Kosovo could reach one million and freight 206.8 million tonnes/year by 2040.

This project will give rise to an interoperable railway route in Kosovo providing safe transport services to people and businesses in the region and wider Europe.

The feasibility study and preliminary designs for the project have been completed. The new development will not have significant social or environmental impacts as the new facilities will be built on the route of the existing rail track. Detailed designs are being prepared and are due to be completed in the first quarter of 2016. Construction could start in the last quarter of 2016 and be finalised by the end of 2020.

Benefits

- Secure and efficient rail transport for approximately 50% of the population of Kosovo.
- An investment of €80.9 million that is expected to bring at least double that amount into the local economy in the medium to long term.
- Passenger and cargo rail capacity and travel time significantly improved.
- Reduced CO2 emissions.