



NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUenlargement



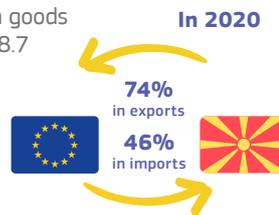
Key milestones

- 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
- 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
- OCTOBER 2020**
Commission proposes Economic & Investment Plan to support and bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU



Trade & investment

- The EU is North Macedonia's biggest trading partner
- The EU's Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €25.28 million in 2020
- Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €8.7 billion in 2020



EU funding

- The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia
- €1.25 billion in EU pre-accession funds (2007-2020)
- €940 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999
- €186.2 million in grants provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework, to leverage investments of estimated €2.1 billion



Mobility & empowerment

- Visa-free travel to the EU since December 2009
- Over 11,600 participants from North Macedonia in higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult learning and youth under ERASMUS+ (2014-2020)
- Pre-accession support has modernised sections of the Pan-European Corridor X motorway and railway Corridors VII and X
- €24.3 million in support to civil society (2014-2020)

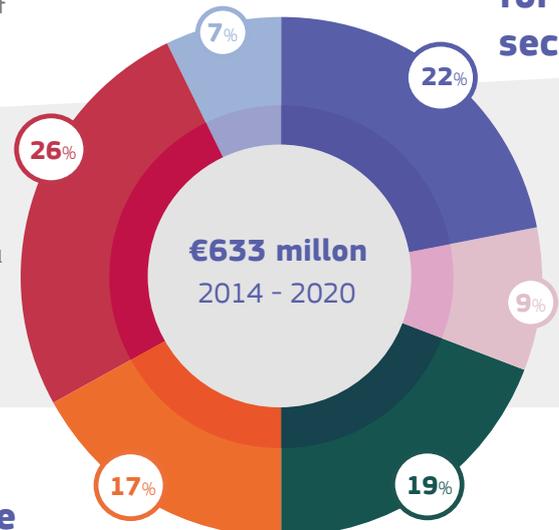


Supporting transformation

- 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

In December 2020, the Commission adopted a **€70 million** package of grants to help fund the access of Western Balkans partners to COVID-19 vaccines. A part of these grants covered the delivery of 650,000 doses of BioNTech/ Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to all the Western Balkans - funded by the EU and facilitated by Austria - between May and August 2021. In February 2021, the Commission launched a project of over €7 million jointly with WHO, to support readiness for vaccination efforts and resilient health systems in the Western Balkans.

Last updated: 10/2021