The EU is North Macedonia’s biggest trading partner. The EU’s Foreign Direct Investment in North Macedonia reached €42.3 million in 2020. Volume of trade in goods with the EU was €10.8 billion in 2021.

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).

The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to North Macedonia.


€984 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999.

€421 million in grants provided since 2009 in Western Balkans Investment Framework, to leverage investments of estimated €2.55 billion.

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.

Supporting transformation.

In 2021:

79% in exports

46% in imports

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.

Support for key sectors:

- €633 million 2014-2020:
  - Democracy and governance: 7%  
  - Rule of law and fundamental rights: 26%  
  - Environment, climate action and energy: 17%  
  - Transport: 19%  
  - Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development: 9%  
  - Education, employment and social policies: 22%

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. To date over 4.7 million doses of vaccines have been donated by EU Member States or financed by this grant, which by Summer 2021 had 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. In addition, COVAX has provided almost 2.8 million doses, making a total of almost 8 million doses of vaccines received via Team Europe and via COVAX. The Commission also has a project of over €7 million jointly with WHO, which has helped to support readiness for vaccination efforts and resilient health systems in the Western Balkans.

Source: EU Data