



# NORTH MACEDONIA

on its European path

#EUnlargement



## Key milestones

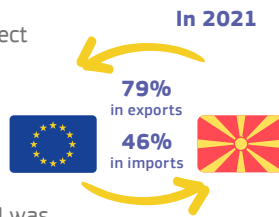
- MARCH 2004**  
Application for EU membership
- APRIL 2004**  
Entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
- DECEMBER 2005**  
EU candidate country status granted
- OCTOBER 2009**  
The Commission recommends opening of accession negotiations
- APRIL 2018**  
The Commission repeats its unconditional recommendation to open accession negotiations
- JUNE 2018**  
The Council sets out the path towards opening accession negotiations
- MARCH 2020**  
The Council decides to open accession negotiations and endorses its decision
- 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

Source: EU Data



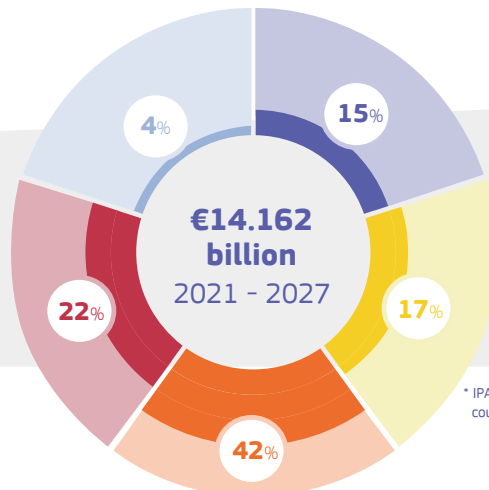
## Trade & investment

- 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 responds to thematic priorities



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



## 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 2021 for North Macedonia foresees a budget of **€90.45 million** supporting actions in rule of law & anti-corruption, fight against organised crime, trade, environment & clean air, green economy and the green agenda
- For 2014 - 2020, IPA II funding allocated for North Macedonia amounted to **€633 million**
- €984 million provided in European Investment Bank loans since 1999



## 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)

Last updated: 10/2022