

# Rail Corridor VIII

 **Sustainable transport**  
 Flagship 1 · Connecting East to West

The European Commission supports the Western Balkans in developing and modernising the region's railway transport network.

Rail Corridor VIII forms the east-west hinterland connection between the Black and the Ionian Seas, passing through Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Albania.

With EU financial assistance for project preparation and investment co-financing under the **Economic and Investment Plan**, North Macedonia and Albania are upgrading the existing lines and constructing the missing links along the corridor to remove bottlenecks, shorten physical distances, increase connectivity and shift more passengers and freight to sustainable modes of transport. Reform measures accompany these investments to improve the competitiveness of the rail sector.

<b>€2bn</b> estimated total investment	<b>€1.6bn</b> North Macedonia
	<b>€0.4bn</b> Albania
<b>€367m</b> EU grants approved	<b>€302m</b> North Macedonia
	<b>€65m</b> Albania
<b>593 km</b> total length (North Macedonia and Albania)	<b>414.9 km</b> EU supported length
	<b>261.1 km</b> North Macedonia
	<b>153.8 km</b> Albania
Co-financiers:	
	

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The Global Gateway is delivered through a **Team Europe approach**, which brings together the EU and EU Member States with their financial and development institutions.

## Connectivity that transforms economies and societies

The eastern stretch of Corridor VIII, which interconnects North Macedonia with Bulgaria, is part of the indicative extension of the Trans-European Transport Network and a flagship project of the **EU's Global Gateway**.

The Global Gateway strategy connects countries and regions worldwide by encouraging public and private investment in a global network of transportation and supply chains, green energy, modern telecommunications, education and research. In the transport sector, it promotes infrastructure investments that create sustainable, smart, resilient, inclusive and safe modes of transport and supports networks providing connectivity with the Trans-European Transport Network.

### Results and benefits

-  Safe and reliable international mobility of passengers and goods
-  Lower operational and maintenance costs for railway operators
-  Improved journey times and competitive transport services
-  Reduced congestion, transport emissions and impact on the environment
-  Support the countries' socio-economic development and competitiveness
-  Integration with the Trans-European Transport Network



### EU supported sections



**North Macedonia**

- 1 Kriva Palanka – border with Bulgaria**  
Length: 23.4 km  
Status: design-build procurement
- 2 Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka**  
Length: 34 km  
Status: under construction
- 3 Kumanovo – Beljakovce**  
Length: 30.8 km  
Status: under construction
- 4 Skopje – Kičevo**  
Length: 102.6 km  
Status: under preparation
- 5 Kičevo – border with Albania**  
Length: 70.3 km  
Status: under preparation

**Albania**

- 6 Rogozhinë – border with North Macedonia**  
Length: 120.3 km  
Status: under preparation
- 7 Durrës – Rogozhinë**  
Length: 33.5 km  
Status: under preparation

**Legend**

-  Rail Corridor VIII
-  Core Railway Network

\* 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.