





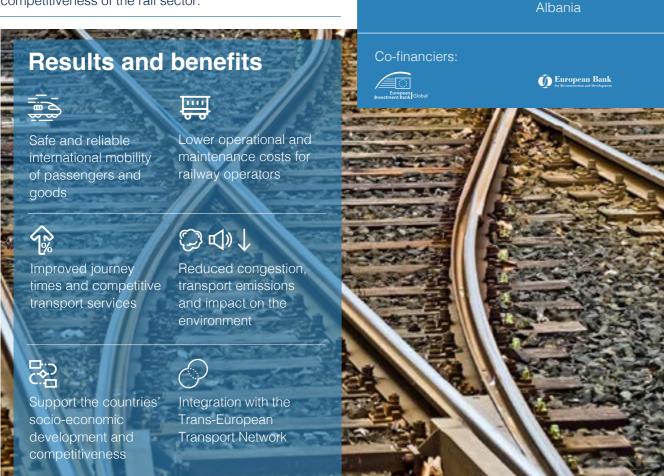
Rail Corridor VIII

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 Invest**ment 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.



€2bn

€367m

EU grants

593 km

estimated total

**Gateway 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.

March **2024**

€1.6bn

€0.4bn

Albania

€302m

€65m

Albania

North Macedonia

North Macedonia

414.9 km

North Macedonia

261.1 km

153.8 km

EU supported length

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.

EU supported sections



North Macedonia

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 Rrogozhinë – border with North Macedonia

Length:120.3 km

Status: under preparation

7 Durrës – Rrogozhinë

Length: 33.5 km

Status: under preparation