

THE EBRD IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Results snapshot

#EBRDimpact



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

Overview

The EBRD has been active in North Macedonia since 1993. During that time, the Bank has focused its activities on supporting transition in the infrastructure, financial, energy, corporate and agribusiness sectors. Over the past three decades, the Bank has implemented more than 170 projects and realised investments of €2.5 billion. The year 2022 was a landmark one for Bank engagement in North Macedonia, with investment commitments exceeding €250 million, among the EBRD's highest annual investment levels in the country to date.

The EBRD's strategic focus in North Macedonia is on:

- ▶ a competitive private sector and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) growth
- ▶ sustainable infrastructure and regional integration
- ▶ green economy transition.

The EBRD is also engaged in significant policy dialogue activities aimed at strengthening institutions, the investment climate and governance.

EBRD results highlights for North Macedonia, 2017-22

First large-scale solar plant

North Macedonia's first large-scale solar plant, financed with the support of the EBRD, has started to produce clean electricity. The 10MW plant is built on the same site as a spent lignite coal mine and the Bank is now financing additional solar capacity on the sites of former coal mines in Oslomej and Bitola.

SME growth

Over half of all SMEs advised by the EBRD increased their productivity and over two-thirds increased their turnover, generating €160 million of additional turnover and €74 million of additional exports.¹

More efficient toll stations

The EBRD supported the installation of an electronic toll collection system on the Corridor VIII and X motorways and is supporting the installation of solar panels on all toll stations nationwide. These are expected to reduce wait times by two minutes per vehicle per day and reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 3,000 tonnes per year.

Energy saved

EBRD investments in energy efficiency are estimated to save over 850,000 GJ per year of primary energy, the equivalent of the final energy consumption of North Macedonia's agriculture and forestry sector in 2018.

The EBRD in North Macedonia

Total* 2017-22

€2.49 billion €684 million

Net cumulative investment

171 71

Number of projects

48%

Private sector share of cumulative investment

€733 million €290 million

Green economy financing commitments

Our policy engagement

- ▶ Recommending policies to mitigate the impact of **Covid-19** on the labour market and social protections
- ▶ Supporting the development and launch of **renewable energy** tenders
- ▶ Helping the energy regulator to introduce **performance-based incentives** to the tariff methodology
- ▶ Working with the Macedonian Stock Exchange to enhance corporate governance and **environmental, social and governance (ESG)** reporting guidelines
- ▶ Developing the **energy efficiency** legal framework to encourage investment

[Read](#) the latest country strategy for North Macedonia



* Data in this snapshot are as of December 2022.

¹ Within one year of the advisory project ending.

North Macedonia in context

North Macedonia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to less than 3 per cent in 2022 due to the adverse global macroeconomic environment. Amid rising food and energy prices, inflation reached decade highs of 20 per cent year-on-year in October 2022 before starting to moderate. The government introduced two sizeable fiscal support packages to shield the economy from rising prices. The International Monetary Fund approved a two-year Precautionary and Liquidity Line worth €530 million in 2022. The EBRD forecasts GDP growth of 2.3 per cent in 2023, with downside risk lying in the country's persistently high prices, tighter financing conditions and the likely slowdown in European Union (EU) export markets.

Transition gaps in North Macedonia are most acute with regard to competitiveness (uneven application of regulation, high informality and weak corporate management), integration (slow implementation of transport and energy infrastructure projects) and green transition (high energy intensity and vulnerability to climate change). The prospect of EU approximation is a key structural reform anchor; the EU and North Macedonia held their first intergovernmental conference, formally opening accession negotiations, in 2022.



Key economic indicators	North Macedonia (2016)	North Macedonia (2022)*	OECD comparators (2022)*
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$)	15,553.44	16,464.34	48,692.66
CO ₂ emissions (kg per 2017 PPP \$ of GDP)	0.23	0.24	0.17
Energy intensity level of primary energy (MJ/\$ 2017 PPP GDP)	3.49	3.39	3.70
Domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)	48.98	56.88	144.39
Bank non-performing loans to total gross loans (%)	6.29	3.26	3.16

Our approach and operational delivery

The EBRD supports the development of the private sector through a combination of investment, policy dialogue, technical assistance and business advice. We offer a range of financial instruments, both directly and through partner financial institutions. We provide business advisory services and technical assistance to help improve institutional capacity and enhance the competitiveness of our clients. In our policy engagement work, we address a range of factors to help shape initiatives that create favourable conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

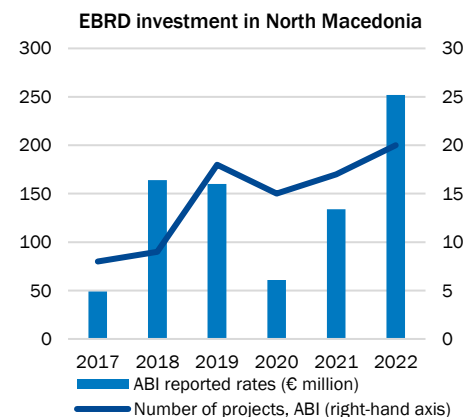
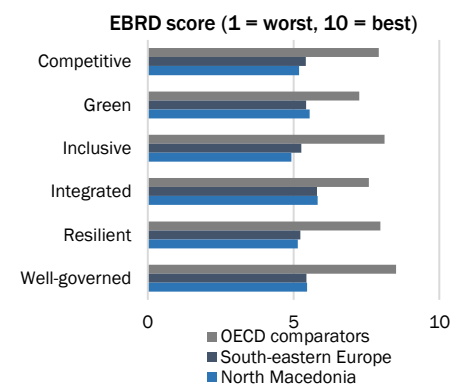
In 2017-22, the Bank invested more than €680 million in over 70 different projects, with large investments in the infrastructure and financial sectors. The former included big-ticket projects such as the Skopje-Kosovo border motorway, while the latter included on-lending programmes to support individual businesses, such as the SME Competitiveness Support Programme and the Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF). The EBRD signed a memorandum of understanding with the government in 2020 to boost the country's EU accession drive. It identifies three areas of enhanced collaboration through a mix of policy engagement, technical assistance and investment: strengthening private-sector competitiveness and inclusive growth; sustainable infrastructure, the green economy and just transition (including regional connectivity priorities); and strengthening the investment climate and governance.

*Or latest available World Development Indicators. OECD comparators are Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Japan, France, Cyprus and Canada. South-eastern Europe comprises the average score for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

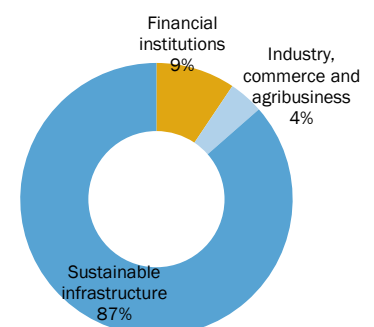
We seek to help countries transition towards democratic and sustainable market economies. We finance projects that strengthen the private sector in economies undergoing transition to a well-functioning market system. Our investment decisions are guided by six "transition qualities", which focus on making economies competitive, well-governed, green, inclusive, resilient and integrated.



For more detail on our transition qualities visit www.ebrd.com/qualities



EBRD portfolio in North Macedonia by sector



The EBRD in

NORTH MACEDONIA

A competitive private sector and SME growth

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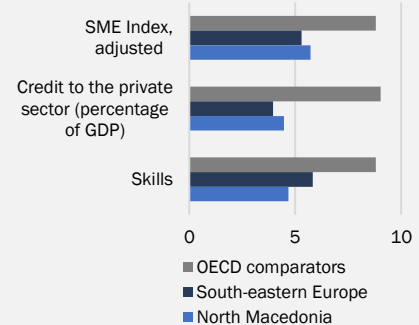
The EBRD helps SMEs to become more competitive

SDG alignment



Despite notable economic and policy successes over the years and relatively strong performance – propped up by foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows – North Macedonia’s private sector still faces a range of obstacles to doing business. These include the large informal economy and burden it places on legitimate businesses, weak regulatory enforcement and low administrative capacity. A lack of access to finance is also an issue for many firms, particularly as non-bank sources of finance are largely undeveloped. A dearth of skills and the country’s relative underperformance in cross-country educational tests point to mismatches in the labour market and contribute to high levels of youth unemployment and emigration. SMEs dominate the economy, but the environment for small businesses is often difficult.

EBRD score (1 = worst, 10 = best)



How we work

The EBRD works to enhance competitiveness by promoting the private sector, improving skills, accelerating digitalisation, enhancing the business environment through policy dialogue and supporting the growth of private firms. We seek to increase SME productivity by improving access to finance through debt and equity financing, dedicated credit lines, risk-sharing facilities and local-currency financing. Our work includes targeted programmes, such as the Financial Intermediaries Framework, Women in Business, and SME Competitiveness Support Programme, as well as advisory services such as Advice for Small Businesses. As part of our Covid-19 crisis response measures, the Bank provided short-term liquidity support and policy advice.

The EBRD in North Macedonia

Total	2017-22
€851 million	€153 million
Net cumulative investment in the financial sector	
€267 million	€47 million
Net cumulative investment in industry, commerce and agribusiness	
341	
Number of SME clients receiving business advice (2017-2022)	

Quick links

- ▶ [SME Competitiveness Support Programme](#)
- ▶ [EBRD Star Venture](#)
- ▶ [Women in Business](#)
- ▶ [Legal Transition Programme](#)

Through the [Small Business Initiative](#), we provide loans and investments to SMEs and offer advice to help them innovate and grow. We also work with policymakers to create a business environment in which SMEs can succeed.



EBRD achievements and results in North Macedonia: A competitive private sector and SME growth

We have supported entrepreneurship by:

- ▶ providing direct finance to SMEs and larger companies
- ▶ committing more than €47 million to partner banks to support investments in competitiveness, technology and meeting EU standards through the SME Competitiveness Support Programme
- ▶ providing advisory services to help small businesses innovate and grow through our Advice for Small Businesses programmes, including our flagship programmes such as Star Venture, Blue Ribbon, Women in Business and Youth in Business
- ▶ connecting women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with finance and advice via the Women in Business programme.

We have enhanced corporate governance and the business environment by:

- ▶ working with clients to develop and implement corporate governance action plans and introduce new standards of corporate governance
- ▶ strengthening the capacity of the independent competition authority to improve efficiency and transparency
- ▶ supporting the Inspections Council in streamlining inspection processes across the country and making them more transparent, risk-based and digitalised.

We have helped the country respond to the Covid-19 induced economic crisis by:

- ▶ providing €35 million to support the urgent working capital and liquidity needs of firms during the Covid-19 pandemic via two partner banks
- ▶ assessing the impact of Covid-19 on the labour market and social protections and advising on ways to mitigate disruptive impacts
- ▶ working with partner banks and committing €10 million to facilitate SME investment in modern and sustainable technologies, helping them to “reboot” their businesses following the pandemic-induced slowdown.

Access to finance

More than 200 MSMEs have received access to finance worth over €47 million to improve competitiveness and meet EU standards under the SME Competitiveness Support Programme.

More women’s entrepreneurship

More than 200 women-led businesses were supported through the EBRD Women in Business programme, with over €3.3 million in loans disbursed.

Job creation

In the period 2017-2022, over 300 SMEs were supported with EBRD advisory services. More than half hired more people, expanding the number of employees by a median 19 per cent.*

SME growth

Over half of all SMEs advised by the EBRD increased productivity and over two-thirds increased turnover, generating €160 million of additional turnover and €74 million of additional exports.*

Meeting consumer demand

A client in the food industry quadrupled its storage capacity and improved product shelf-life to meet growing demand and expand its business.

Enhancing skills

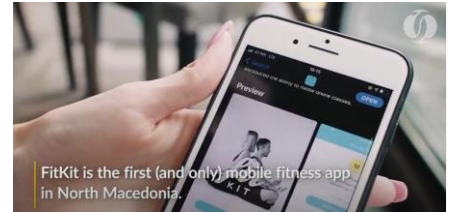
An EBRD client in the confectionery sector launched an accredited training academy to develop skills and human capital in an underserved region. As of 2022, more than 40 people had completed training in management, baking or machinery. More than 400 students had completed educational classes or creative workshops offered by the academy.

Strengthening corporate governance

The Securities and Exchange Commission and Macedonian Stock Exchange (MSE) updated the Corporate Governance Code to enhance the key corporate governance practices of listed firms and monitor their disclosure. The MSE also published ESG reporting guidelines for the first time.

Mitigating the impact of Covid-19

In response to a joint EBRD-International Labour Organization recommendation, the Government of North Macedonia extended its unemployment benefit scheme to cover more people affected by the pandemic.



FitKit is the first (and only) mobile fitness app in North Macedonia.

[Watch](#) how the EBRD’s Star Venture programme helped start-ups in Jordan and North Macedonia to embrace the digital wave and harness technology for growth.

“Before COVID-19, we only offered in-person classes in studios. After the pandemic hit, we were really worried that our business might not survive. With our project with EBRD, we successfully managed to change the business model. With the help of the Star Venture Programme, we developed new digital services that were essential to our users and associates.”

Angelina Blazheska, Co-founder of FitKit

[Read](#) about how a small construction company was able to reduce its carbon footprint and maintenance costs, improve health and safety, and meet a variety of EU standards as a result of the SME Competitiveness Support Programme.



Meet the women growing the car industry of North Macedonia. [Watch](#) how a second-hand car dealership in Skopje grew with the support of the EBRD Women in Business programme.



[Read](#) about the MSE’s new ESG reporting guidelines for listed firms and why they matter for sustainability, as well as the updated [Corporate Governance Code](#).

The EBRD in

NORTH MACEDONIA

The EBRD supports regional infrastructure connectivity

Sustainable infrastructure and regional integration

#EBRDimpact

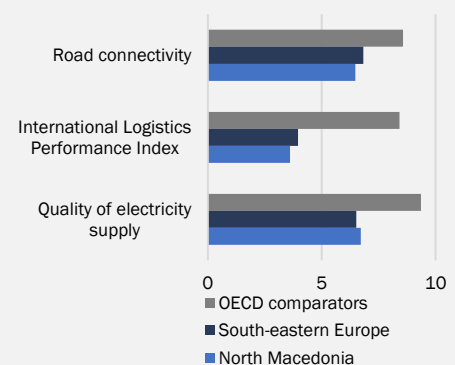
SDG alignment



North Macedonia has been among the strongest supporters of regional integration in the Western Balkans in recent years. It is an active participant in the trilateral “Little Schengen” initiative between Serbia, North Macedonia and Albania, recently renamed the “Open Balkans” area. The country also enjoys relatively open trade, with tariff-free access to both the EU and neighbouring Western Balkans-6 countries under the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). Further progress is needed, however, to reduce non-tariff barriers.

Additional investments are needed to rehabilitate and improve domestic and cross-border transport infrastructure, particularly railways and roads. While energy integration with neighbours has been strengthened in recent years, the energy crisis has resulted in extreme energy prices and created issues with supply reliability. Major renewable investments are expected in the short and medium term to foster a green transition. Such infrastructure projects have historically been slow to implement and administrative capacity-building to help carry out key public works would be beneficial.

EBRD score (1 = worst, 10 = best)



How we work

The EBRD supports connectivity in the Western Balkans through a combination of strategic investments, technical assistance and policy dialogue. We support the development of key transport infrastructure, such as roads, railways and air navigation, as well as work to improve energy networks, contributing towards regional market integration for greater connectivity.

We also help to improve municipal services, such as water, wastewater, solid waste and public transport. We add value beyond financing, such as promoting transparency, accountability, open procurement, and environmental and social issues.

EBRD in North Macedonia

Total	2017-22
€980 million	€328 million
Net cumulative investment in the transport sector	
€140 million	€118 million
Net cumulative investment in the municipal and environmental infrastructure sector	

Quick links

► [EBRD and municipal and environmental infrastructure](#)

Our vision for the region is for safe, secure, sustainable and greener [transport systems](#), which embody market principles, balance economic, environmental and social needs, catalyse on global de-carbonisation initiatives, build on technological innovations and are responsive to the needs of industry and the individual.



EBRD achievements and results in North Macedonia: Sustainable infrastructure and regional integration

We have supported regional connectivity by:

- ▶ financing the construction of international road corridors, such as a section between the capitals of North Macedonia and Kosovo, which aims to improve road safety and provide faster and easier trade connections
- ▶ building electricity interconnectors to develop regional markets, improve energy reliability, and allow for connections to new renewable energy sources
- ▶ financing the construction and rehabilitation of the Corridor VIII eastern section railway, which, once completed, will link North Macedonia and Bulgaria and become part of the Trans-European Transport Network; the EBRD is also partially rehabilitating Rail Corridor X
- ▶ assisting with the preparation of a public-private partnership (PPP) tender for a hydrogen-ready national gas distribution system to promote gasification in the country and exploring a hydrogen-ready gas interconnection to promote a diversified and secure gas supply and support the transition from coal.

We have improved road and vehicle transport by:

- ▶ constructing and rehabilitating roads throughout the country, improving transportation links and road safety
- ▶ supporting the preparation and development of associated road infrastructure, including solar-powered toll stations and electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- ▶ improving public transportation.

We have promoted regional business cooperation by:

- ▶ promoting cross-border business cooperation and investments, including through our support for the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum, a regional platform for chambers of commerce
- ▶ hosting the biennial Western Balkans Investment Summit, which brings together government representatives, entrepreneurs and investors to highlight potential business opportunities and promote regional connectivity. The inaugural summit took place in 2014, bringing together all of the region's prime ministers for the first time.

More power connections

Design and tenders have been finalised and construction work has started on the first electricity interconnection with Albania, which is expected to complete the east-west 400kV electricity connection between Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania and Italy. The section between North Macedonia and Bulgaria, also financed by the EBRD, was fully completed in 2018.

Greener vehicles

A study commissioned by the EBRD on the effect of plug-in electric vehicles on the transmission grid found that the existing grid could handle up to a 40 per cent electric fleet by 2040 with no additional grid investment. The Bank is now supporting North Macedonia with the development of a national e-mobility strategy (and action plan) for the deployment of an electric vehicle fleet and charging infrastructure.

More efficient toll stations

The EBRD supported the Public Enterprise for State Roads in implementing an electronic toll collection system and control centre on the Corridor VIII and X motorways and is also supporting the installation of solar panels on all toll stations nationwide. These are estimated to result in a decrease in wait times of two minutes per vehicle per day, as well as an estimated decrease in CO₂ emissions of over 3,000 tonnes per year.

Better public transit

33 new buses financed by the EBRD and that run on compressed natural gas were delivered to Skopje. The EBRD is also supporting an ongoing bus restructuring study to make bus transportation in the city more efficient.

Promoting regional investment

The EBRD supported the establishment of a regional portal of business registries, centralising comparable financial and statutory data from over 1.5 million companies on five different registries in the Western Balkans. This one-stop information point improves transparency and access to information for regional businesses and potential investors.

“With the construction of the Corridor VIII motorway in North Macedonia, the pan-European corridor will be complete, meaning better connectivity between North Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and the other European countries. This will open up new markets for companies in North Macedonia, improving their competitiveness and enabling sustainable economic growth.”

Fatmir Besimi, Minister of Finance of North Macedonia



[Read](#) more about the planned new section of the motorway between Skopje and Pristina and its expected regional benefits.



[Read](#) about the launch of the online Regional Investment Platform, which provides a one-stop shop for foreign investors interested in the Western Balkans. Developed by the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum with EBRD support, the platform can be [viewed here](#).



[Read](#) our President Odile Renaud-Basso's opening address at the fifth Western Balkans Investment Summit, hosted by the EBRD in 2022, along with her priorities for the region in the years to come.

The EBRD in NORTH MACEDONIA

The EBRD supports residential green technologies

Green economy transition

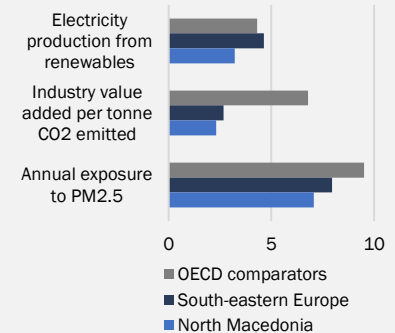
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SDG alignment



North Macedonia submitted its enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC2) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat in April 2021. The NDC2 is aligned with the goals of the “green” scenario of the National Strategy for Energy Development. However, the country currently obtains a large proportion of its electricity from outdated, low-efficiency, coal-fuelled thermal power plants. A significant percentage of the country’s existing power plants are scheduled to close in the coming years, meaning that other renewable energy sources, such as hydro, wind and solar, will need to play a larger role in the energy mix. North Macedonia is also one of the most energy-intensive economies in the region. Energy efficiency upgrades, including those targeting energy-intensive local industries, poorly insulated buildings and inefficient electrical appliances, are therefore needed to sustainably meet rising energy demand. Skopje is the country’s only large city with a developed district heating system. Other green transition priorities include addressing air quality concerns, improving water and wastewater treatment services, and climate change adaptation.

EBRD score (1 = worst, 10 = best)



How we work

The EBRD supports the green transition through investment and policy dialogue to build low-carbon and resilient economies. We invest directly in renewables, energy-efficient technologies and resource efficiency. We also provide policy advisory services to promote green energy solutions, such as renewable energy auctions. In addition to direct lending, the Bank provides green credit lines via partner banks, including our GEFF. The EBRD Green Cities Framework offers more than €3 billion of EBRD and donor support to cities to address environmental challenges through targeted infrastructure investments, policy actions and capacity building. Skopje joined EBRD Green Cities in 2019.

EBRD in North Macedonia

Total	2017-22
€733 million	€290 million
Green economy financing commitments	
€253 million	€38 million
Net cumulative investment in the energy sector	

Quick links

- ▶ [EBRD Green Cities](#)
- ▶ [Green Economy Financing Facility \(GEFF\)](#)
- ▶ [EBRD and energy](#)
- ▶ [Just Transition Initiative](#)

[The Green Economy Transition](#) (GET) approach is the EBRD’s approach to helping build green, low-carbon and resilient economies. Through the GET approach, the Bank will increase green financing to more than 50 per cent of its annual business volume by 2025.



EBRD achievements and results in North Macedonia: Green economy transition

We have supported renewable energy by:

- ▶ providing direct finance to new renewable energy projects to help limit North Macedonia's reliance on coal
- ▶ supporting the development of renewable energy tenders, including advising on legal and regulatory aspects, to encourage further private investment in renewable energy
- ▶ providing financing, both directly and through risk-sharing facilities, for small renewable energy projects
- ▶ engaging in policy dialogue with government authorities and other stakeholders to advance the green energy transition in a just and inclusive way.

We have promoted energy efficiency by:

- ▶ reducing household and business energy losses through high-performing technologies as part of our GEFF programme; financing for more than 3,700 sub-projects, amounting to over €31 million, has been offered by partner banks under the programme since 2017
- ▶ providing technical assistance to further develop the energy efficiency legal and regulatory framework to encourage further investment.

We support Green Cities by:

- ▶ identifying key environmental challenges and prioritising green investments and policy actions through EBRD Green City Action Plans (GCAPs)
- ▶ supporting greener public transit, such as replacing old diesel buses in Skopje with buses that run on compressed natural gas
- ▶ expanding municipal environmental infrastructure services, including improving water and wastewater services.

Greener energy

The Bank's investments in North Macedonia since 2017 are expected to result in 46 MW of new renewable energy, as well as over 100,000 tonnes of CO₂e emission reductions per year, the equivalent of 52 per cent of the CO₂ emissions of the country's commercial and public services in 2018.

First large-scale solar plant

North Macedonia's first ever large-scale solar plant, financed with EBRD support, has started to produce clean electricity. The 10MW plant is built on the same site as a spent lignite coal mine, and the Bank is now financing and preparing tenders for an additional 30MW of solar capacity on the sites of former coal mines in Oslomej and Bitola.

Investing in renewables

The EBRD provided technical assistance to support the introduction of renewable energy auctions. This facilitated the launch of new solar tenders – the first in the region to be developed with exposure to wholesale power prices – with a combined installed capacity of 162MW.

Just transition

The EBRD and the EU supported the government in completing the first "just transition" diagnostic and action plan in the Western Balkans region. The diagnostic seeks to advance the transition to green energy while identifying opportunities for economic diversification and reskilling in coal-dependent regions.

Energy saved

EBRD investments in energy efficiency are estimated to save over 850,000 GJ per year of primary energy in North Macedonia, the equivalent of the final energy consumption of the country's agriculture and forestry sector in 2018.

More energy efficiency

The EBRD supported the development of a new energy efficiency law and related secondary legislation, helping to encourage further investment in improving energy efficiency.

Cleaner cities

Skopje adopted a GCAP that identifies priority policy actions and investments to support green development, including new wastewater treatment services for most of the capital. This project is being financed with the support of the EBRD and procurement has been finalised with works expected to start soon.



[Read](#) more about the EBRD's investments and technical cooperation to promote solar power in North Macedonia.



[Watch](#) how a family were able to make their home more energy efficient, reduce CO₂ emissions, improve sound insulation and save on electricity bills with the support of the EBRD's GEFF programme.



[Read](#) Skopje's Green City Action Plan, which outlines the city's vision, strategic objectives, priority actions and investments to address pressing environmental challenges.



[Read](#) more about our project with the city of Skopje to reduce pollution and improve ecosystems in the Vardar River.

The EBRD in North Macedonia: Selected achievements and results

SME competitiveness in North Macedonia

Between 2017 and 2022, over 300 SMEs were supported with EBRD advisory services. More than half of them hired more people, expanding the number of employees by a median 19 per cent. Over half of all SMEs advised by the EBRD increased productivity and over two-thirds increased turnover, generating €160 million of additional turnover and €74 million of additional exports. More than 200 MSMEs have received access to finance worth over €47 million to improve competitiveness and meet EU standards under the SME Competitiveness Support Programme.

Strengthening corporate governance

The Securities and Exchange Commission and Macedonian Stock Exchange (MSE) updated the Corporate Governance Code to enhance the key corporate governance practices of listed firms and monitor their disclosure. The MSE also published ESG reporting guidelines for the first time.

Cleaner city of Skopje (1)

EBRD helped the city of Skopje develop and adopt a Green City Action Plan that identifies priority policy actions and investments to support green development, including new wastewater treatment services for most of the capital. This project is being financed with the support of the EBRD and procurement has been finalised with works expected to start soon.

The first Macedonian large-scale solar plant in Oslomej (2)

The country's first ever large-scale solar plant, financed with EBRD support, has started to produce clean electricity. The 10MW plant is built on the same site as a spent lignite coal mine, and the Bank is now financing and preparing tenders for an additional 30MW of solar capacity on the sites of former coal mines in Oslomej (2) and Bitola (5).



Power connections in Ohrid (3)

Design and tenders have been finalised and construction work has started on the first electricity interconnection with Albania, which is expected to complete the east-west 400kV electricity connection between Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania and Italy. The section between North Macedonia and Bulgaria, also financed by the EBRD, was fully completed in 2018.

Better regional connectivity (4)

EBRD is financing the construction and rehabilitation of the Corridor VIII eastern section railway (4), which, once completed, will link North Macedonia with Bulgaria and become part of the Trans-European Transport Network.

Better public transit in Skopje (1)

33 new buses financed by the EBRD and that run on compressed natural gas were delivered to Skopje. The EBRD is also supporting an ongoing bus restructuring study to make bus transportation in the city more efficient.

Partnerships

The EBRD supports the transition process by taking a holistic approach combining investment, risk mitigation, capacity building and policy dialogue with local and central governments, regulators, financial institutions and representatives of civil society. Partnership with donors is critical in this

process to address transition challenges, affordability constraints, improve market outcomes in the presence of significant externalities and steer investments towards improved sustainability and transition impact across the EBRD's regions. With a focus on sustainable and inclusive private-sector development,

donor funds also play a key role in building low-carbon economies and mitigating climate risks. The EBRD has worked with donors since its creation and currently manages relations with a broad and varied donor community of up to 50 different partners, primarily governments and multilateral organisations.

Our partnerships in action

- ▶ The EBRD works closely with the EU and bilateral donors of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), providing financing and technical assistance for strategic investments in the energy, environment, transport and digital infrastructure sectors.
- ▶ North Macedonia's first electricity interconnection with Albania (which, once finished, is expected to complete the 400kV electricity connection between Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania and Italy) is supported by a blended finance initiative from the EBRD and the EU (via the WBIF).
- ▶ The Bank promotes investments in high-performing, energy-efficient technologies through the GEFF, supported by the EU, bilateral donors through the WBIF and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance.
- ▶ In response to a joint EBRD-International Labour Organization recommendation, the government extended its unemployment benefit scheme to cover more people affected by the pandemic.
- ▶ The EBRD has partnered with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) to co-finance investments in the Solid Waste Management system of the Polog region. In parallel, SECO is supporting the development of institutional arrangements for the three future waste management systems, as well as a new department dedicated to solid waste to be established within the Regulatory Commission for Energy and Water Services.
- ▶ Together with the EU and partner banks, the EBRD helps SMEs to become more competitive and meet EU standards through the SME Competitiveness Support Programme.
- ▶ The EBRD's business advice to small and medium-sized enterprises is currently funded by the EU, Luxembourg, Sweden, the EBRD Small Business Impact Fund and the EBRD Shareholder Special Fund.
- ▶ The EBRD and the EU (through the WBIF) are partnering to complete the second phase of the Corridor VIII railway project between Beljakovce and Kriva Palanka. Once fully completed, the Corridor VIII railway will link Albania in the west with Bulgaria in the east.
- ▶ The EBRD and the EU supported the government of North Macedonia in completing the first "just transition" diagnostic and action plan in the Western Balkans.

Work with us

Financing

Loans
Equity
Guarantees (including to local banks for trade finance)

Advice

Expand
Improve processes and governance
Meet standards
Navigate regulatory environment
Train workers

Goods and services

Procurement
Careers

Participate

NGO roundtable
Have your say on EBRD policies and strategies

Contacts

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New business enquiries

Business Development department
Tel: +44 20 7338 7168
Email: newbusiness@ebrd.com

Shareholding

21 April 1993

Joined the EBRD

1993

EBRD started investing

€17.62 million

North Macedonia's capital subscription

Caspar Veldkamp

EBRD Board Director for North Macedonia

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