

Orient/East-Med Corridor: North Macedonia – Bulgaria CVIII Road Interconnection, Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair Section

Project Financing

WBIF	Grant	WB-IG03-MKD-TRA-02	€ 2,520,400
EBRD	Loan		€ 10,000,000
National Contribution	Own Contribution		€ 1,000,000
EBRD SSF	External Grant		€ 200,000
Total			€ 13,720,400
Total Grants			€ 2,520,400
Total Loans			€ 10,000,000

Project Description

This investment project concerns the rehabilitation and expansion to three lanes of a 13.2 km-long single two-lane carriageway road section on the Orient/East-Med Core Network (Corridor VIII) in North Macedonia, from the town of Kriva Palanka to the Deve Bair border crossing point with Bulgaria.

Travel conditions on the existing road are poor, with a maximum speed of 50 km/h along most of its length, inappropriate drainage and rest areas, as well as several sharp curves.

The works involve both rehabilitation and reconstruction, expanding the road to add a third lane, including on three existing bridges. This will allow for more efficient and safer driving for the people living along the Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair route as well as for those transiting to and from Bulgaria.

The section to be rehabilitated and expanded under this project is part of the Government's plan to modernise fully the route, with works close to completion and/or already planned on a significant part of Corridor VIII (e.g. Kumanovo – Rankovce road rehabilitation, Rankovce – Kriva Palanka expressway, Ki?evo – Ohrid motorway).

The project is at implementation stage, with detailed design, urban, environmental and construction permits already secured. An environmental and social impact assessment report has also been developed as well. Land ownership issues have been addressed and a stakeholder engagement plan and a resettlement action plan have been prepared, in accordance with EBRD requirements.

The WBIF co-finances the investment costs with a €2.47 million EU grant under the 2018 [Connectivity Agenda](#) package.

Links

Results and Benefits

- 13.2 km-long motorway section rehabilitated, including a new third lane, a rest area, road marking and signalling as well as drainage;
 - Substantial decrease in travel time along the Kriva Palanka – Deve Bair route;
 - Reduction in accident rate and vehicle operating costs for more than 2,000 people working and/or living along the route as well as for almost 3,000 people who daily cross the border;
 - More than 144 jobs created during construction as well as operation and maintenance periods;
 - Improved trade flows with countries in the region and thus a positive impact on the broader economy of North Macedonia.
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- **Countries:** North Macedonia
 - **Code:** PRJ-MKD-TRA-013
 - **Sector:** Transport
 - **Lead IFI:** EBRD
 - **Status:** Completed
 - **Beneficiary:** Public Enterprise for State Roads

Related Documents

- [Albania – North Macedonia Power Interconnection: Grid Section in North Macedonia](#)