

Albania - North Macedonia Power Interconnection

Clean energy
Flagship 5 - Transition from coal

The European Commission supports the Western Balkans partners to decrease their dependence on fossil fuels, accelerate decarbonisation and market integration, and improve the energy security of the region.

Performant electricity transmission lines are a key enabler for the energy transition. With EU financial assistance, Albania and North Macedonia are building the missing link of the East-West electricity transmission corridor. The new high-voltage system will complete the connection with the wider region and improve the capacity and reliability of the power supply system in both countries.

€135.3m estimated total investment	€83.4m Albania
	€51.9m North Macedonia
€33.3m EU grants approved	€19.4m Albania
	€13.9m North Macedonia
Co-financiers: KFW 	

October 2024



This power interconnection is part of the European Commission's initiative to establish an East-West electricity transmission corridor between Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Italy, and it is a Project of Energy Community Interest (PECI). The corridor is essential for cross-border energy exchange, more efficient use of existing and planned power capacities, and better load flow balancing in the region.

The EU co-funds the investments under the **Connectivity Agenda** for the Western Balkans. In 2015-2020, the EU allocated **€1 billion** in grants from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) to harness investment for improving transport and energy infrastructure in the region. The success of the Connectivity Agenda was the first step towards the flagship investments of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.



Results and benefits

- 225 km** of 400 kV overhead transmission lines built from Fier (Albania) to Bitola (North Macedonia)
- Fier and Bitola substations upgraded, new Elbasan and Ohrid substations built and operational
- Regional cross-border electricity transmission capacity increased by **1,000 MW**
- Albanian and North Macedonian power transmission systems integrated into the European energy market
- Balanced power markets and efficient management of reserve and emergency capacities in the region and Greece
- Secure power supply by eliminating overloads and reducing outages in the system
- Reduced transmission losses and less expensive energy supply to residents and businesses
- At least **380 jobs** created for the duration of building works

EU supported investments



- ### Albania
- Fier – Elbasan – Qafe-Thane (border with North Macedonia) 400 kV overhead transmission line**
Length: 130 km
Status: under construction
 - Fier substation upgrade to 400/220 kV**
Status: under construction
 - Elbasan 3 new 400/220 kV substation**
Status: under construction

- ### North Macedonia
- Bitola – border with Albania 400 kV overhead transmission line**
Length: 95 km
Status: under construction
 - Ohrid new 400/110 kV substation**
Status: under construction
 - Bitola 2 substation upgrade to 400/110 kV**
Status: under construction

* 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.