

# Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Corridor: Route 4, Bar - Vrbnica Railway Line

**Sustainable transport**  
Flagship 2 - Connecting North to South

The European Commission supports the Western Balkans in bringing the region's core and extended core transport network up to EU standards.

The Bar-Vrbnica railway line, as a part of the **Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Corridor**, is the backbone of the Montenegrin railway system. With EU financial assistance for project preparation and investment co-financing under the **Economic and Investment Plan**, Montenegro is upgrading the infrastructure on this line to create a multimodal maritime-rail transport route from the port of Bar to the wider region.

**€405 m** estimated total investment  
**€191 m** EU grants approved

**168 km** EU supported length

Co-financiers:



October 2024

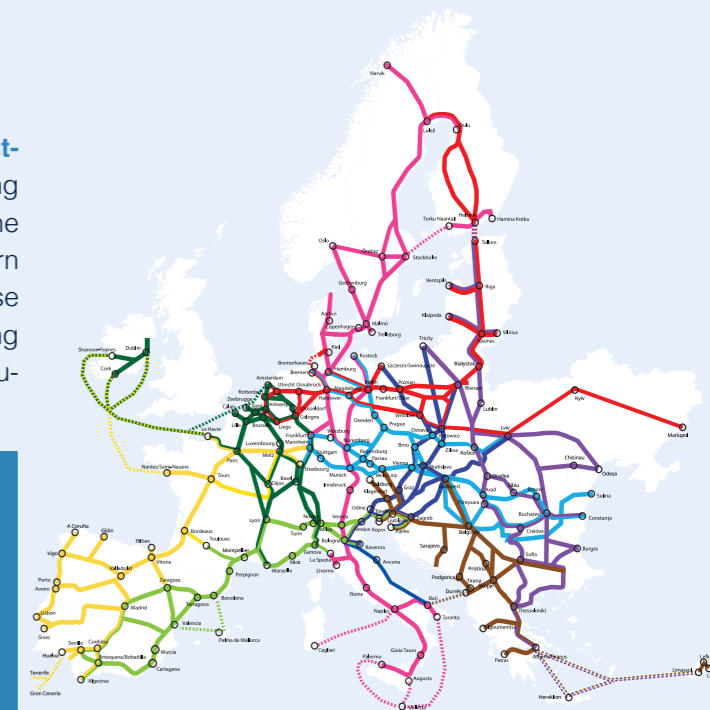
## Results and benefits

- Multimodal maritime-rail transport route** from the port of Bar to the wider region
- Improved mobility for **1.4 m** passengers annually
- Freight carrying capacity increased from **1.2 m to 1.5 m** tonnes/year
- Maximum speed increased to **120 km/h**
- Seamless, safe and sustainable mobility of passengers and goods
- Integration with the Trans-European Transport Network

## Fast and efficient transport links with the EU

Rail Route 4 is part of the **Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean European Corridor**, connecting central European Member States with the ports of the Adriatic and East Mediterranean Seas via the Western Balkans. The corridor fosters the development of those ports as major multimodal logistic platforms, improving the connections of key economic centres in Central Europe to the coastlines and Cyprus.

The WBIF investments in rail systems in the region support multimodal solutions to shift as much cargo as possible from roads to rail, and ensure the better use of inland waterways and maritime ports. These will boost business, make the air cleaner and roads safer.



## EU co-funded investments



- 1 Rehabilitation of 10 steel bridges and 8 tunnels**  
Length: 5.1 km  
Status: under preparation
- 2 Rehabilitation of 8 tunnels**  
Length: 2.8 km  
Status: under construction
- 3 Rehabilitation of 24 concrete bridges**  
Length: 2.9 km  
Status: completed
- 4 Rehabilitation of 6 slopes impacted by landslides**  
Length: 3 km  
Status: completed
- 5 Rehabilitation of Lutovo – Bioče section and 3 steel bridges, overhaul and equipping of workshops in Bar, Podgorica and Nikšić**  
Length: 20.2 km  
Status: under preparation
- 6 New signalling systems at Podgorica major railway junction**  
Status: completed
- 7 Reconstruction of Bar – Golubovci section**  
Length: 39.6 km  
Status: under preparation

\* 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.