

FACTSHEET - TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA: THE ADRIATIC BELTWAY

Transport is essential in the relations between



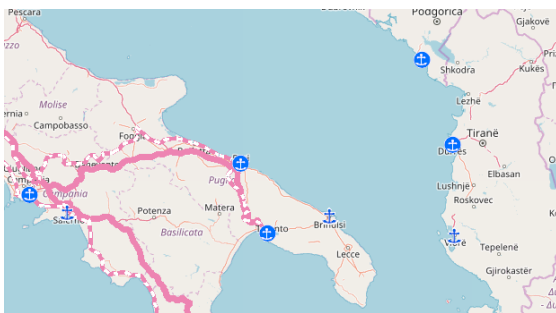
104 Bilateral Agreements between **Albania** and **Italy** in 2019  

- 15 of the agreements cover **Transport** (or 1 out of 7)



48 Bilateral Agreements between **Albania** and **Montenegro**  

- 10 of the agreements cover **Transport** (or 1 out of 5)



Puglia ports of Bari, Brindisi, Lecce and Taranto: The South Adriatic Gates to TEN-T

They play a strategic role of connecting the Eastern shores of Adriatic Sea, Durres in Albania and Bar in Montenegro, with the **TEN-T Scandinavian - Mediterranean**.

The South Adriatic Area: Puglia, Montenegro and Albania



These coasts are very dense in **trade exchanges, people-to-people** mobility and other economic and business relations.



SAGOV Findings on Governance assessment in transport connectivity in the SA:

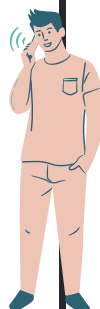
- 1 High territorial fragmentation of transport infrastructure at bilateral or multilateral
- 2 Low interoperability
- 3 Need for better coordination amongst countries of development objectives
- 4 Need for shared vision and political commitment of countries to the Connectivity Agenda
- 5 Changing priorities for the beneficiaries of connectivity projects
- 6 Low level of communication amongst stakeholders

Challenges to the functioning of the new regional institutional cross-border joint initiatives

1 A detachment between policy-making level and technical level

2 Need for joint vision, better planning, efficient coordination, responsive fund-raising, synergies among different connectivity coordination platforms

3 Continuous institutional building and support for the improvement of skills and capacities of public and private transport actors



EU Initiatives

Berlin Process is an initiative aiming to structure WB6 countries' cooperation in their path to EU. According to the EUSAIR "Connecting the Region" covering Transport networks, EUSAIR governing structures also decided to promote a synergic interaction with the "Berlin process".



Connectivity Agenda is one of the main EU assistance mechanisms to support economic growth in the Balkan countries and to speed up the economic convergence with EU MS. Since 2014, CA has been linked to connecting physical infrastructure and energy systems" within the region and of the region with the EU.

WBIF is a joint initiative of the EU, SEE6, International Financial Institutions and bilateral donors that provides financing and technical assistance to strategic connectivity projects in the region.



MAIN TRANSPORT PROJECTS PER COUNTRY

ALBANIA

Major projects in Core / Comprehensive TEN-T extension

- The Adriatic Ionian Corridor
- Reconstruction of Quays 1 and 2, Western Terminal of the Port of Durrës
- Rehabilitation of Railway Tirana-Durrës with a new railway link to TIA



Box of recommendations

As Albania is about to start the EU negotiations process, this moment requires a commitment of all the Albanian structures in setting up the investment priorities in line with European priorities and Connectivity Agenda. The tasks ahead require focus on updating the NSPP list and preparing the pipeline projects, as well as increased attention on the evaluation of unitary costs and of risk-distribution during the planning and tendering of PPP contracts.

MONTENEGRO

Major infrastructure projects

- The Bar - Boljare highway
- Adriatic Ionian Expressway
- Rehabilitation of Volujica quay and extension of Volujica quay, Port of Bar



Box of recommendations

Coordinate plans and establish agreements with neighboring countries, with respect to the commitment of both sides in developing and / or upgrading common corridors. Seeking joint processes and financing schemes for projects expanding in both sides of the borders would increase sustainability to the connectivity process.

ITALY - APULIA REGION

Railway doubling of Section Bari S. Andrea - Bitetto

BARI SUD (Bari Centrale - Bari Torre a Mare)

Naples-Bari route: Apice - Orsara doubling section



Box of recommendations

Give more attention to the south-north traffic flows and to the connections with the countries opposite to the Adriatic shore and to the Balkan area whose economy is growing;
Strengthen the role of ports as an interconnection point between maritime transport and other transport modes and restoring the role of Adriatic ports as natural access points to the east and west;
Reduce the distances by ensuring the connection to the main corridors of the TEN-T network.