



Thematic
analysis/diagnosis:
**Transport
infrastructure**

Executive Summary

The transport infrastructure provides transport networks and services on which the economy of North Macedonia depends. The transport sector is a key driver of economic growth and trade. An efficient transport infrastructure system facilitates individual mobility and movement of goods, ensuring equal and secure access to employment and services such as healthcare, education and promoting economic activity.

The basic transport infrastructure of the Republic of North Macedonia is relatively well established and can be considered as a good basis for further development and modernization. Additional development of the transport sector will contribute to the competitiveness of the national economy and sustainable balanced regional development.

The new approach to the preparation of the National Development Strategy (NDS) for the transport sector integrates broader social, economic and political priorities. This approach has better prospects for sustainability and more potential to reduce the uneven distribution of revenues and costs from the management of means of transport and other related resources in the geographical, social and generational context. In order to achieve sustainable mobility for all, the structural framework for efficient management of the transport sector requires sufficient resources, a functional institutional structure and the application of effective regulatory and control methods.

This report, which comprises six parts, from the conducted analysis of the transport sector, presents an overview of some of the main aspects related to the management of the transport sector and the transport infrastructure that should be part of the NDS development process. The analysis was performed in line with the modern approaches to integrated management of transport infrastructure assets, key principles of good governance, environmental protection, transport infrastructure resilience to climate change, and improved safety. In the first and second part, the analysis report addresses the context, the strategic environment, the main stakeholders and the main challenges of the five transport sub-sectors, as follows:

- road transport infrastructure;
- railway transport infrastructure;
- air transport and operators; and
- water – lake transport and
- urban transport.

To be specific, the strategic goals throughout the five sub-sectors of the transport sector are mainly focused on improved access and security of the connections with the neighboring countries through upgrading and modernization of the transport infrastructure along the comprehensive network Southeast Europe Transport Observatory SEETO, as part of the TEN-T network (Corridors VIII, X and branch X g). These activities are in line with the standards of the European Union and are essential for improving the quality of life of the people and for achieving sustainable economic development of the country.

The first parts of the report present the institutional set-up and the key stakeholders, their roles in the transport system, their roles and contributions to the development of the NDS. Furthermore,

this section includes an overview of the relevant national policies, strategic documents, which serve as good basis for the NDS development process for the transport sector. Moreover, the Report addresses the main challenges in transport infrastructure management, based on the reviewed documents and the available data, which can be used as a basis for an overview of the current state of the transport infrastructure, and for defining the general indicators for monitoring the results and the goals set for sustainable development.

The final section of the report provides an overview of the key cross-cutting themes: Risk management and infrastructure resilience, Gender equality and inclusion, Social inclusion, Environment, Health, Good governance, Digitalization and innovation, and a human rights-based approach. Finally, the report provides general conclusions from the analysis, as grounds for general recommendations for the process of future development of the NDS for the transport sector.