

Porto Romano Hydrogen-Ready Adriatic Energy Hub

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Submitted by IA-SEE GmbH*

The gap. The Forum's discussion of the Trans-Balkan route and strategic interconnectors does not cover the Ionian-Adriatic axis. Kosovo and Montenegro have no connection to the European gas network. TAP crosses Albania for some 215 km, yet no Albanian network takes gas from it: Vlora TPP has never received TAP gas and has stood almost idle for years, and Albania receives no transit fee on TAP flows, although it is not an EU Member State. IA-SEE estimates the forgone transit revenue at some USD 80-100 million a year. It is time for the EU and TAP to compensate Albania with gas infrastructure.

The project. Porto Romano, north of Durrës, is where Italy, TAP, the planned Ionian-Adriatic Pipeline (IAP) and Corridor VIII meet. From this node the hub would connect Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro to the European network: the IAP north to Montenegro and Croatia, the Albania-Kosovo interconnection (ALKOG) east to Kosovo, and a dedicated onshore spur of 120 million m³ to Vlora TPP. A hydrogen-ready Adriatic link to Bari and Brindisi would connect the hub to Italy, able to carry gas in either direction and, in time, Albanian renewable hydrogen to the Italian and European networks. All new infrastructure would be hydrogen-ready from the outset and follows the shortest and most economical of the available routes.

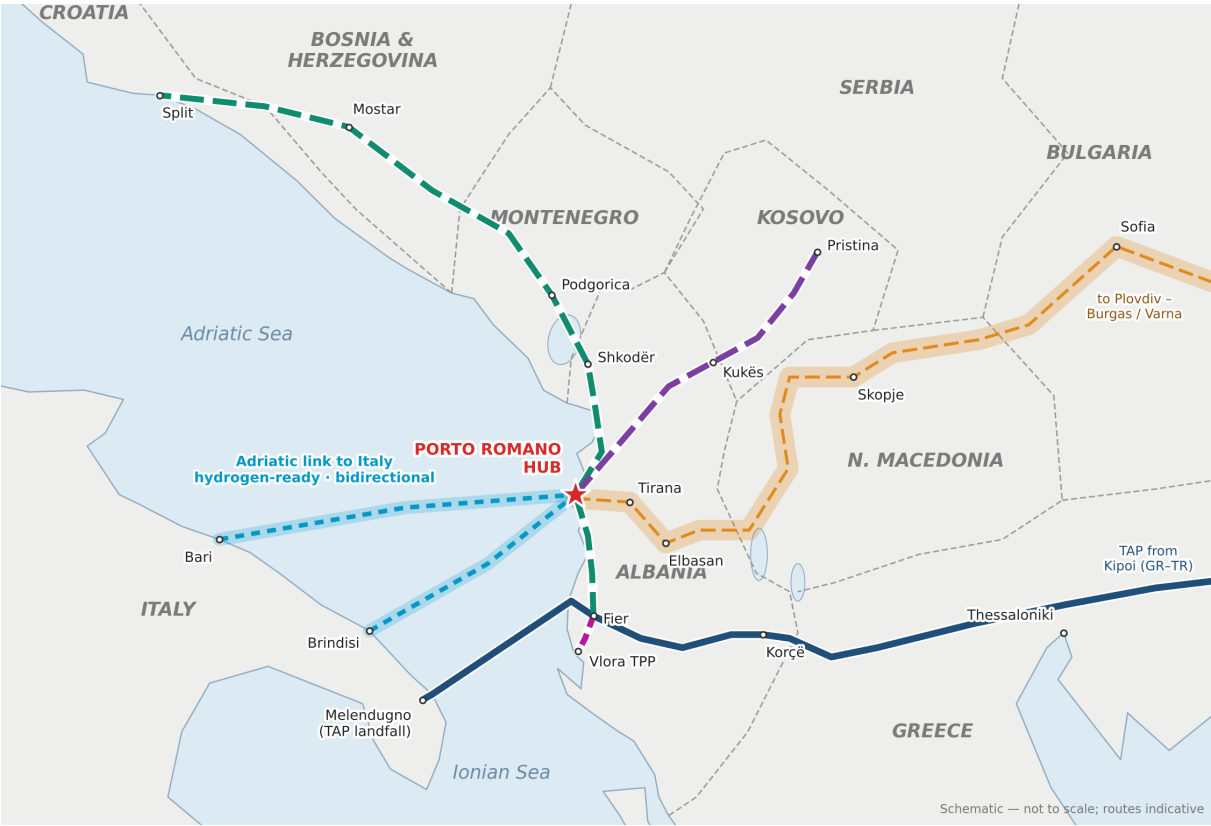
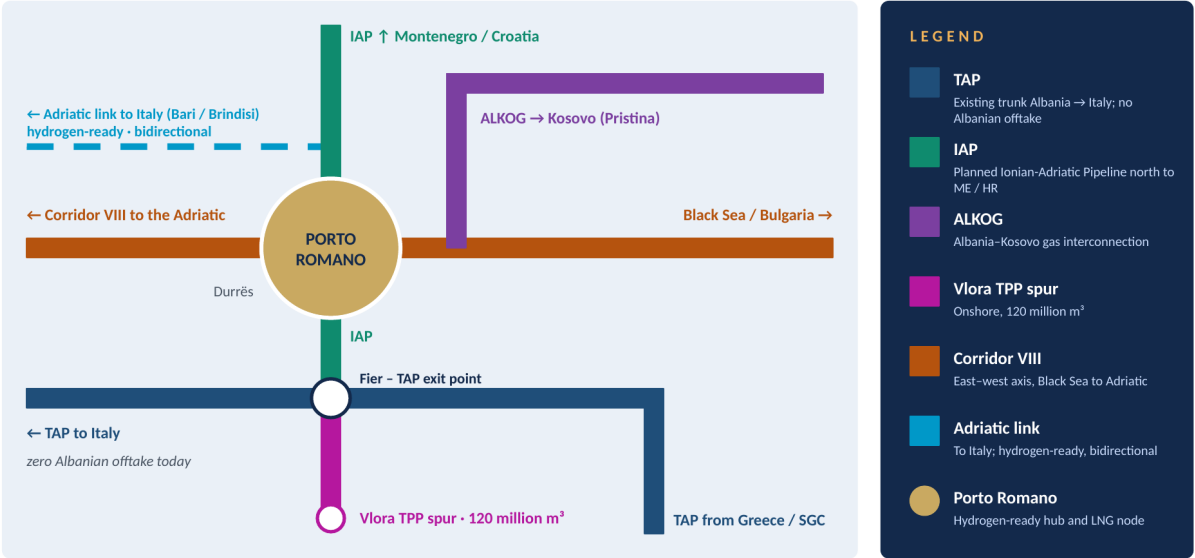
Why it matters to the Energy Community. The project addresses security of supply, the N-1 standard and third-party access in three Contracting Parties that today have no alternative supply. It supports diversification in line with the EU acquis and does not depend on bilateral arrangements. It places new energy infrastructure in an existing port and industrial area, away from protected coastline and tourism areas.

Status. A submission under the EU Projects of Mutual Interest (PMI) process will be filed by 30 September 2026. The project has been presented to DG ENER, the Energy Community Secretariat and the governments of the region.

Request. We ask that the Ionian-Adriatic axis be reflected in the Forum's conclusions and in the Secretariat's future work on regional interconnection, and that Porto Romano be shown on the map of projects at the intersection of Corridor VIII, TAP, the IAP, the Vlora TPP spur and ALKOG; and that the EU and TAP support the compensation of Albania's forgone transit revenue through gas infrastructure, starting with the Porto Romano network.

Annex: corridor schematic and map of the routes converging at Porto Romano (page 2).

Annex - Corridors converging at Porto Romano



- TAP (operational)
- ALKOG – Albania-Kosovo (planned)
- Pan-European Corridor VIII
- Porto Romano Hub
- IAP – Ionian-Adriatic Pipeline (planned)
- Vlora TPP spur, 120 million m³
- Adriatic link to Italy (hydrogen-ready)

Schematic illustrations; routes are indicative and not to scale.