PROJECT FACTSHEET

Funded by the European Union

EU for Prespa - EU for Infrastructure Improvements in the Prespa area

Duration: 09.04.2024 - 09.10.2027

Countries:
North Macedonia

EU contribution: € 10 602 500

Total budget: € 10 947 500

Implementer:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Project description:

The “EU for Infrastructure Improvements in the Prespa Area” project contributes to the wider EU for Prespa programme and supports the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in the transboundary Prespa Lake basin. It is designed to promote environmental protection, sustainable local development, and stronger cross-border cooperation between North Macedonia and Greece, in line with the principle of leaving no one and no region behind.

The intervention focuses on reducing environmental pollution and improving ecosystem health in the Prespa Lake area through targeted infrastructure investments in the Municipality of Resen. These include the construction of six decentralised wastewater treatment systems, expansion of solid waste collection services to rural and underserved areas, remediation of illegal dumpsites, and improvements to landfill management systems. Together, these measures aim to significantly reduce untreated wastewater discharge and solid waste pollution, thereby addressing eutrophication pressures on the lake.

In addition to environmental investments, the project strengthens the institutional and operational capacities of the Municipality of Resen and the public utility company 'Proleter', to ensure sustainable service delivery. A key strategic component is the construction of a new border crossing at Markova Noga between North Macedonia and Greece,

Expected results:

• The ecological condition of the Prespa Lake area is improved through reduced pollution from untreated wastewater and poorly managed solid waste, leading to better water quality and reduced eutrophication.
• Pollution from human activities is significantly reduced through the construction and operation of six decentralised wastewater treatment plants, expanded sewerage and waste collection coverage, and remediation of illegal dumpsites in the Municipality of Resen.
• Municipal infrastructure and service delivery systems for wastewater and solid waste management are strengthened through improved technical, financial, and operational capacities of the Municipality of Resen and the public utility company 'Proleter'.
• Cross-border cooperation, mobility, and regional connectivity are enhanced through the construction and operationalisation of the new Markova Noga border crossing between North Macedonia and Greece, contributing to tourism and local economic development.