

Supporting the reforms in Forestry in North Macedonia**Duration:** 09.03.2023 - 08.07.2025**Countries:**
North Macedonia**EU contribution:** € 1 255 100**Total budget:** € 1 108 758**Implementer:**
PARTICIP GMBH**Project description:**

The 'Supporting the reforms in Forestry in North Macedonia' project contributed to the modernisation of the forestry sector by aligning national policies and practices with EU standards for sustainable forest management. It focused on strengthening the legal, institutional, and operational framework while introducing digital tools and improved governance mechanisms.

Through targeted technical assistance, the project supported reforms led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, including the development and implementation of updated legislation and strategic documents. It also advanced institutional restructuring by preparing the groundwork for establishing a Forest Agency and improving the efficiency of public forest management.

A key achievement is the development of the Integrated Forest Information System (IFIS), which enhances transparency and enables better monitoring of forest resources and wood tracking, helping to address illegal logging. In parallel, the project promoted sustainable forest management practices, including biodiversity protection and forest certification. Overall, the initiative strengthened environmental performance and supported the country's alignment with EU forestry and environmental standards.

Expected results:

- A completed and improved legal and strategic framework for forestry, with stronger implementation and monitoring.
- Prepared foundations for institutional reform, including the establishment of a Forest Agency and restructuring of public forest management.
- Operational digital systems, including the IFIS platform, support efficient forest management and the prevention of illegal logging.
- Enhanced tools, capacities, and practices for sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.
- Increased forest areas under certification, contributing to improved environmental standards and EU alignment.