

# EU for Prespa

support the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in the transboundary Prespa lake area, focusing on the pillars of biodiversity, toxic-free environment and greening the agriculture and local business

# Prespa Area

- Prespa Lake Park consists of two interlinked lakes - Micro and Macro Prespa in a region shared between North Macedonia, Albania and Greece
- International Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Region signed in 2010 between the three countries and the EU officially entered into force in May 2019
- The Prespa Agreement between Greece and North Macedonia, signed on 17 June 2018



# Catchment area – protected areas

## **North Macedonia**

Ezerani Strict Nature Reserve (natural wetland entirely within the Prespa basin; Emerald site)

Galichica National Park (included in the boundaries of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region; UNESCO World Heritage List)

Pelister National Park (Emerald site, Important Plant Area and Prime Butterfly Area)

## **Albania**

Prespa National Park

## **Greece**

Prespa National Park (large share designated as NATURA 2000 site)

## **Transboundary Prespa Park**

Micro and Macro Prespa lakes declared Ramsar sites

Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

# Catchment area – population and economy

Population of the Transboundary Prespa Park area reaches 24,000 inhabitants (about 16,000 located in North Macedonia; 9,000 in Resen)

Administrative area: 23% agricultural land (arable); 2% urban areas; 27% protected area within the National Parks; 48% forests and pastures outside the National Parks

Businesses: around 500 (food processing, textile industry, tourism, trade)

Economy: agriculture (apple, cereals, potatoes, peppers, onion, garlic)  
forestry  
fishing

# EU commitment

- To cooperate with the national authorities to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area through
  - Investments:
    - preserve the natural capital and restore the damaged ecosystem of Macro Prespa Lake to good ecological status
    - fight pollution of water and soil, protect endangered species and encourage the sustainability of the local economic and agricultural practices
    - put in operation systems for collection and treatment of waste waters and solid waste
    - local communities with knowledge and tools to contribute to the protection of environment
  - Measures:
    - conservation, restoration and management of the habitats in most endangered areas of the Prespa park
    - on sustainable food and tourism (reduce the use of chemicals in agriculture; promote affordable healthy food; sustainable tourist products with a low environment footprint)
- The action will actively promote the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency through all infrastructure-related measures (addressing climate change objectives). The measures on composting and local reuse of biodegradable materials will allow the local communities to gradually embrace the concept of the circular economy.
- EU Contribution: EUR 18 000 000 (total estimated cost: EUR 21 726 000)

# The project

Impact	<p>To promote the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in the transboundary Prespa lake area in line with the "no persons and regions left behind" principle.</p>	Ecological and chemical status of water in the Prespa Lakes
		Number of full-time equivalent green jobs (sex and age-disaggregated data) in Resen municipality.
		Number of unemployed people
		Percentage of young residents in Resen (sex-disaggregated data) (under the age of 45)
Outcome 1	<p>The ecological system in Prespa lake area preserved and improved</p>	Percentage of solid waste separated collection (100 * separated collection/total collection)
		Tons of compost distributed per year
		Ecological status of the Macro Prespa Lake in North Macedonia @ water body 1 (littoral); water body 2 (pelagic zone); tributaries of Lake Prespa (Ezerani Waste Water Treatment Plant & Golema river)
		Chemical status of the Macro Prespa Lake in North Macedonia @ water body 1, water body 2 and @ tributaries of Lake Prespa
		Tons of collected hazardous waste per year (Packaging from Fertilizers and Pesticides)
		Number of Hectares of potential Natura 2000 sites with Standard Data Form
Outcome 2	<p>Sustainable economic activities in Prespa area boosted</p>	Number of people visiting the Galichica Park (sold tickets)
		Number of overnights in the hotels and rented houses
		Number of Tourists
		Number of farms registered to provide agritourist services
Outcome 3	<p>Enhanced cross-border cooperation</p>	Strategic priorities for the development of Prespa area agreed internationally (qualitative indicator: Yes/No)
		Number of people taking part in new CBC initiatives focused on the preservation and development of the Prespa area