

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	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.	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	The ecological system in Prespa lake area preserved and improved	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	Sustainable economic activities in Prespa area boosted	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	Enhanced cross-border cooperation	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