



Further support
in the implementation
of the reforms in the water sector



Funded by
the European Union

INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION FOR STRONGER WATER SERVICES

**SUPPORTING MORE EFFICIENT,
SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE WATER
SERVICES IN NORTH MACEDONIA.**

What is clustering?

Clustering refers to cooperation between municipalities to improve the efficiency and sustainability of water services. By sharing infrastructure, technical expertise and resources, utilities can operate at a more efficient scale while maintaining local ownership and responsibility.

Municipal cooperation may include physical integration of systems and infrastructure, joint management of water services at a regional level, or sharing operational, financial and technical capacities.

Benefits of clustering



Efficiency

Stronger and more financially sustainable utilities.



Water resource protection

Improved use and protection of water resources.



Investment capacity

Greater ability to prepare and implement investment projects.



EU alignment

Easier compliance with EU environmental legislation and sector policies.

WHAT WE DO

The EU funded project supports the development of municipal clustering in the water sector through several key activities. These include conducting detailed clustering studies in three pilot areas, developing a national clustering strategy, preparing a legal toolbox for inter-municipal cooperation, drafting model agreements to support clustering, and strengthening the capacity of Association of utility service providers of the Republic of North Macedonia and Association of the Units of Local Self-government of Republic of North Macedonia.

HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN COOPERATE

MUNICIPAL COOPERATION CAN TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS DEPENDING ON LOCAL NEEDS AND EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Indicative clustering map of North Macedonia


In 2017, the **Strategy for Reorganization of Municipal Drinking Water and Wastewater Services** identified **eighteen potential clustering areas** for inter-municipal cooperation in water service provision.



Examples include:

- Joint procurement of equipment and services
- Shared technical expertise such as leak detection or laboratory services
- Integrated digital monitoring systems for water networks
- Coordinated planning of infrastructure investments across several municipalities

In some cases, municipalities may establish a jointly owned water utility responsible for managing services and coordinating investments across several municipalities. This may involve separating water services from other public utility activities and creating a joint public enterprise dedicated to water supply and wastewater services.

 www.reformizavodamk.com

Implemented by:



International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube Region

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