

SALAR International 

A part of the Swedish Association
of Local Authorities and Regions

Call for applications

SUPPORT TO PILOT MUNICIPALITIES

Project:
Sustainable Municipal
Waste Management Services
in North Macedonia



Intention of the Brochure

The intention of this brochure is to make information available to the municipalities from South-west and Pelagonija planning regions interested to apply for pilots in the Sustainable Municipal Waste Management Services Project. The brochure includes information on the project, the scope and content of the assistance provided, and how and when municipalities can apply.

What does the project offer?

The project will support the municipalities through:

- Development of waste management Local Action Plans (LAP) and implement actions/ activities from the Operational Regional Waste Management Plan (ORWMP)
- Development of various analyses, studies and other documents meant to support practical implementation of waste management activities
- Improved resource mobilisation for waste-related initiatives and projects
- Improved outreach, inter-municipal coordination, policy dialogue and awareness raising
- National, regional, or international study visits and exchange of ideas on sustainable waste management practices.

Partners of the project

The project is implemented in partnership between SALAR International, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), Ministry of Local Self Governments (MLS) and the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government (ZELS) which are principal stakeholders in respective areas of waste management, local service delivery, local governance advocacy and coordination. The project aims to achieve sustainable change through influence of knowledge and behaviour of individuals, influence on laws and policies, institutional development and implementation of locally led waste management planning processes.

SALAR International

The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) is a large local government association with a long history of supporting Swedish municipalities to provide better and more efficient service delivery to its citizens. SALAR International is the international agency of SALAR and one of Sweden's leading organizations in the field of local democracy institutional strengthening and public administration reform. With unique access to concrete expertise and knowledge from Swedish local governments, SALAR International can deliver results in the field of environmental protection and sustainable waste management through a holistic and participatory approach.



The Sustainable Municipal Waste Management Services Project



The Sustainable Municipal Waste Management Services Project is being implemented in North Macedonia from 2022-2027, on the initiative of SALAR with funding from the Swedish Government through Sida. The overall aim is to improve municipal waste management services in North Macedonia with a view to full compliance with EU standards, thus improving environmental sustainability and quality of life for all inhabitants.

At local level, the main focus of the project will be to work with selected pilot municipalities, local utilities and inhabitants on planning and delivery of waste services in line with EU guidance and the new national legislation and strategic plan on waste. The main expected outcome from this project component is to improve *waste management planning practices and strengthen the ability of partner municipalities to deliver inclusive and sustainable waste management services.*

The project will work closely with six pilot municipalities in the South-west and Pelagonija planning regions that together form one waste management region in line with the country's new regional waste management system. Three pilot municipalities will be selected from each region and should together form a representative composition of municipalities reflecting urban and rural settings, and their respective needs and capacities. The remaining 12 municipalities not selected for piloting will also have the opportunity to benefit through development of Local Action Plans (LAP), shared best practices and introduced models for better inter-municipal cooperation and coordination.

The project adopts a deliberative, inclusive, and human rights-based approach in supporting targeted municipalities to improve municipal performance in waste management and help create a clean and safe environment for the people. Human rights and gender specific consideration will ensure services reach different categories of people in both rural and urban settings.

Introduction to waste management

A sustainable waste management system has to be built following a holistic perspective including long term planning, involvement of all stakeholders, rising public awareness and taking the whole chain of operations into consideration: sorting, collection, transport, treatment, recycling, and disposal. Consequences of poorly managed waste impacts both health and environment through polluted ground and drinking water, soil and air pollution and contributes to global climate change through methane generation. Unsustainable waste management is also a breeding ground for disease vectors, low quality of life and loss of resources. Operating this essential municipal service requires integrated systems that are cost-effective, functional, and sustainable.

Municipalities in the country are now grappling with the problems of high volumes of waste, the costs involved, the disposal technologies and methodologies, and the impact of the waste on the local environment. The Regional Waste Management System (RWMS) that is being developed will be one important step to improve the situation. As part of the RWMS, municipalities will retain the overall responsibility for waste management planning and implementation and oversight of public utility companies. They will also play an important role in promoting prevention, recycling and reuse of waste. For the management of the regional landfills, inter-municipal waste management utilities will be established by the inter-municipal waste management boards.



Q&A about the project and selection of municipalities

1 What is the focus of the SMW Project?

The project will work with the selected pilot municipalities, local utilities and the residents on planning and delivery of waste management services in line with the EU guidance as well as the new national legislations and strategic plan on waste. Adopting a holistic approach, the project will focus primarily on developing capacities of the waste management sector, promoting inter-municipal cooperation and collaboration, as well as supporting the targeted municipalities in the operationalization and implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan. Furthermore, the project will support the targeted municipalities to reach out to the citizens and stakeholders to increase awareness, develop communication and adopt behavior changes vis-à-vis sustainable waste management.

2 Where is the project implemented?

The project targets specifically two regions of the country – South-west and Pelagonija. Given the overall outlook of the development of the regional waste management system, these regions have been selected to receive the needed assistance in consolidating and improving their waste management practices complying with the system's requirements.

3 What is the scope of the project and who are its main partners?

The scope of the project covers both national and local level. At the national level, the project will work in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), The Ministry of Local Self-Government (MLS), the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (ZELS) as well as other national and regional actors and will seek to improve multi-level coordination and promote inter municipal cooperation, thus promoting capacities to support local authorities in implementing waste standards.

At the local level, the project will work with municipal administrations, local public utility companies and inhabitants in pilot municipalities to improve waste management planning and strengthen municipalities' ability to deliver inclusive and sustainable waste services as part of the newly established waste management region for Pelagonija and South-west planning regions, thus helping to enhance the viability of necessary investments in regional and local facilities.

4 How will the municipalities benefit from the project?

The project is designed based on the rich experience of SALAR international as well as the needs of the municipalities established during the inception phase of the project. Using the vast knowledge base, and with the support of local and international experts, the municipalities will have a reliable partner in the project team to support:

- Development of waste management Local Action Plans (LAP) and implement actions/activities from the Operational Regional Waste Management Plan (ORWMP)
- Development of various analyses, studies and other documents meant to support practical implementation of waste management activities
- Improved resource mobilisation for waste-related initiatives and projects
- Improved outreach, inter-municipal coordination, policy dialogue and awareness raising.

Furthermore, there will be opportunities for national, regional, or international study visits and peer learning to exchange ideas on sustainable waste management practices.

5 What is the duration of the support to pilot municipalities?

The support to the pilot municipalities will extend over a period of approximately 40 months during 2023-2026.

6 Who is eligible to apply?

All municipalities in the South-west and Pelagonija regions are welcome to apply. This implies that the applicant municipality is motivated to work towards meeting the objectives and targets of the ORWMP and thereby express its consent to commit to project efforts in delivering sustainable results.

7 What are the requirements to become a pilot municipality?

Interested municipalities are requested to submit a filled in and duly signed Application Form including the Letter of Commitment, and provide satisfactory answers to all the required questions.

8 How will municipalities be selected?

Municipalities will be selected for pilots following an effective and transparent process designed by the project. The technical assessment of the applications will be made by the project team in consultation with, and endorsed by, the project partners. A broader perspective and representation of different municipalities will be taken into consideration during the evaluation of the applications.

9 How many municipalities will be supported as pilots?

Six municipalities in total (three municipalities from each region) will be selected as pilots. These pilot municipalities will be the recipients of the technical assistance in waste management provided by the project team and its experts. The remaining 12 municipalities not selected for piloting will also have the opportunity to benefit through shared best practices and introduced models for better inter-municipal cooperation and coordination.

10 When and how can a municipality apply?

The application process is open from 26 April 2023 until 18 May 2023. The last day to receive applications will be 18 May 2023 at 23:59 local time.

All the application to be submitted to the following email address:
emil.angelov@salarinternational.se

11 What are the application timelines?

26 April	Invitation to apply to all municipalities in the targeted regions
26 April – 12 May	Period open to questions from municipalities in support to the application process
3 May at 10:00	Online Info session with municipalities (follow the LINK for the online meeting)
18 May	Final day for submission of applications
18-25 May	Assessment by the project and endorsement by partners
30 May	Information to municipalities
5 June	Signed agreement with the pilots

12 What type of assistance will be provided by the project during the application process?

During the application period the project team will be readily available to offer support to any applying municipality upon their request. An info session is planned for 3 May where the application process and the form will be explained and specific questions can be raised. Any inquiries should be sent by email to emil.angelov@salarinternational.se

13 What are the obligations of the selected municipalities?

The selected municipalities will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SALAR International, for the joint implementation of the project. The roles and responsibilities of each party will be described in the MoU that will be agreed to by the parties before the start of the pilot activities.

14 What are some of the commitments a pilot municipality needs to adhere to?

Throughout the project, the partner pilot municipality is expected to commit to the following:

- To establish a multidisciplinary project group consisting of representatives from relevant sectors and units in the municipality, including members from Council Committee on Environmental Protection and the Committee on Equal Opportunities between women and men.
- To be present in all meetings and workshops organized by the project in support of developing local Action Plans and capacity building activities.
- To embed the project in political and administrative management practices in the municipality.
- To commit to implementing actions from the ORWMP in order to meet the goals of the plan.
- To consider recommendations from the project and implement them in relevant plans and projects.
- To continuously provide relevant information in support of successful project implementation.
- To adopt and engage proactively in inter-municipal cooperation mechanism and practices as part of the newly established waste management region for Pelagonija and South-west planning regions.

15 What are some of the commitments the project will adhere to?

The project will commit to the following:

- Provision of expertise, advise and support in relevant actions related to development and operationalization of local Action plans and Regional Waste Management Plan.
- To generate greater attention to the municipality on a national and local level (communications, specialists, ministries) and provide support in awareness raising and outreach for social behavior changes vis-à-vis waste management practices .
- Support in building capacities and awareness in waste management practices, systems as well as improve recycling and sorting by sources.
- Ensure opportunities for national, regional or international study visits and peer learnings.
- Support and jointly advocate for mobilization of funding for the implementation of local action plans.
- Promote inter-municipal coordination mechanisms and practices with the support of engaged municipalities.
- Provide advice and assistance in gender mainstreaming and human-right based approaches for local policy and planning as well as waste management practices.
- Support in the processes related to the creation and functioning of a regional utility company focused on waste management.

Application Form

The application to be filled in consist of the following parts:

- Municipality Commitment, part of the Formal Criteria (Section 1);
- Municipality Profile (Section 2); and
- Municipality administrative capacities, part of the Selection Criteria (Section 3)

The application should be filled out and submitted in Macedonian language or in one of the official languages of the applicant municipality.

The application process is open from **26 April 2023 until 18 May 2023**. The last day to receive applications will be **18 May 2023 at 23:59 local time**.

All the application to be submitted to the following email address:
emil.angelov@salarinternational.se

All questions regarding the application procedure should be submitted via email, by 12 May 2023 at the latest.

