



North Macedonia's waste reform

Two steps forward,
one step back

Author

Evgeniya Tasheva

Cities Campaign Leader

CEE Bankwatch Network

evgeniya.tasheva@bankwatch.org

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Introduction

In early 2026, municipal solid waste management in North Macedonia is poised for a complete overhaul, transitioning from decades of reliance on unmanaged dumpsites to modern, EU-aligned regional waste management systems. For this reform to succeed, however, the availability of international financing must be matched by the rapid take-up of new administrative, technical and social capacities to run a modern waste system. As construction of the first new regional landfill is set to begin, the livelihoods of informal waste collectors remain uncertain.

Meanwhile, biowaste – the largest component of household waste and a major source of methane emissions – is being overlooked. This omission seriously undermines North Macedonia’s climate and waste commitments.

This briefing contains the conclusions from a five-day fact-finding mission in February 2026 to Skopje and Novaci, North Macedonia, which gathered first-hand perspectives from 10 different stakeholders regarding the state of waste management modernisation in the country.

Regional Solid Waste Project

Back in 2012, a study by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia led to a draft plan to close and remediate some 50 non-compliant landfills and around 1000 ‘wild’ dumpsites across the country.¹

Planning has far outpaced implementation, however. In order to comply with EU accession prerequisites, North Macedonia has been undergoing a major transformation of its national waste management framework. Significant changes in legislation are already in place, but implementation is lagging behind by almost a decade. In early 2026 – 14 years after the 2012 dumpsite clean-up plan – tangible improvements in waste management in North Macedonia remain few and far between.

North Macedonia’s transition to EU compliance is primarily financed by international sources. Between 2015 and 2017, over EUR 5 million in grants from the EU’s Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) were spent on preparing detailed technical documentation for regional waste management systems. This included feasibility studies, regional waste management plans, cost-benefit analyses, engineering designs, and environmental impact assessments.

Between 2018 and 2023, similar preparatory work on waste management in the Polog region was carried out with the support of the Swiss government.² The aim of this project was to address the dire health and

¹ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, [Capacity building for implementation of EU-landfill directive – closure of non-compliant landfills and inspections](#), 2012.

² State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, [Solid Waste Management in Polog Region, North Macedonia](#), last updated 5 December 2024.

environmental impacts of the Rusino landfill, a site identified as a high-risk dumpsite in the initial 2012 study and the subject of repeated local community protests.

In 2023, North Macedonia signed the Regional Solid Waste Project, a EUR 92 million financial package led by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).³ The project aims to modernise waste infrastructure for one million citizens across four of the country’s five waste management regions: Polog, Pelagonia and Southwest (treated as one region), Vardar, and the Southeast.⁴

The package consists of a EUR 55 million loan from the EBRD, which must be repaid by the state, as well as over EUR 35 million in grants and technical assistance from the following sources:

- **EUR 22.5 million** from the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) to co-fund waste infrastructure;⁵
- **EUR 9 million** from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) for waste infrastructure in the Polog region (subject to approval) and institutional support for the national waste tariff reform (phase II);⁶
- **EUR 2.5 million** for technical assistance to build the capacity of local authorities and public utility enterprises, provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and SALAR International.

Since the beginning of 2026, project activities have finally started to become visible on the ground. In addition, new bins and trucks have been purchased for the Pelagonia and Southwest waste management region, where implementation is most advanced.⁷

Novaci municipality, Pelagonia and Southwest region



³ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, [Regional Solid Waste Project](#), accessed 13 March 2026.

⁴ For more detailed information on the project, see: Eko-vest, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation, [Shadow Report on Chapter 27 – 2023](#), 2024.

⁵ Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, [2026-2030 Fiscal Strategy of the Republic of North Macedonia](#), 31, April 2025.

⁶ State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, [Solid Waste Management North Macedonia Phase II](#), last updated 5 December 2024.

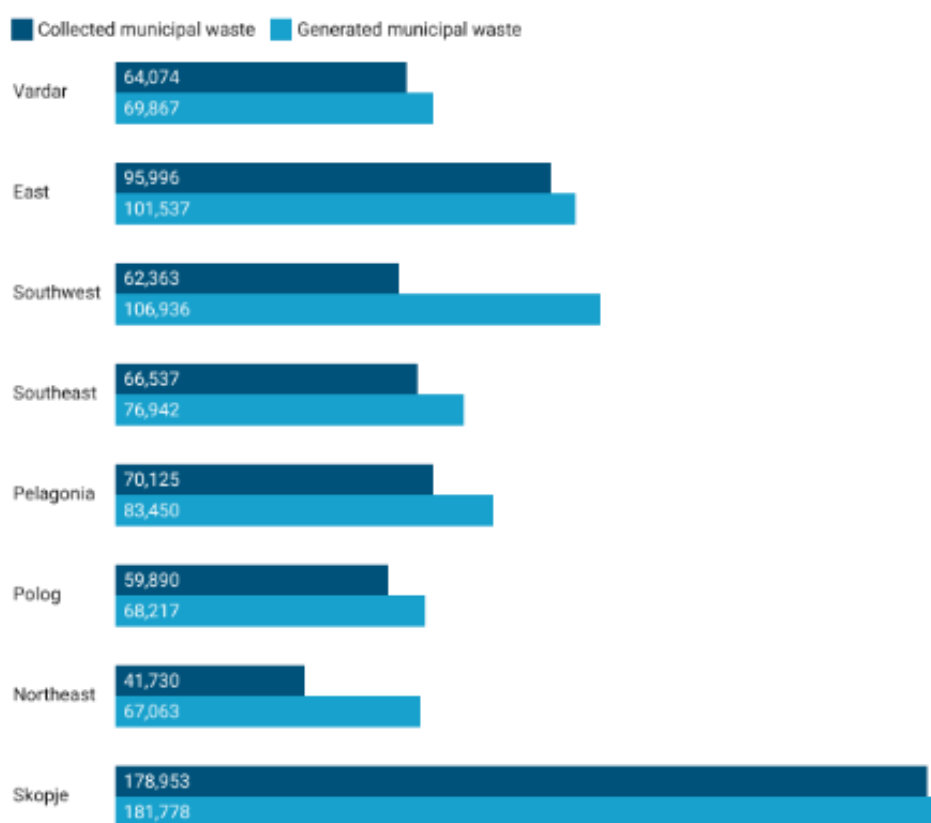
⁷ Western Balkans Investment Framework, [Regional waste management model in North Macedonia moves forward with new selection equipment](#), 22 January 2026.

The sparse coverage of waste collection in rural areas across North Macedonia is clearly reflected in national statistical data, which reveals a significant discrepancy between waste generated and waste collected. For example, Pelagonia achieves an 84% collection rate, whereas the neighbouring Southwest region manages barely 58% (Figure 1).⁸

On the ground, this regulatory gap translates into a multitude of scattered, illegal dumpsites leaking waste into the environment, compounding the issues already caused by the unsanitary official dumping grounds currently used by municipalities.

In 2024, the formal waste systems in the Pelagonia and Southwest region combined failed to collect nearly 60,000 tonnes of municipal waste, an omission that accounts for almost 40% of all uncollected waste across the entire country.

Figure 1. Municipal waste collected and generated in North Macedonia by region in 2025.⁹



Source: State Statistical Office • Created with Datawrapper

The municipality of Novaci will serve as the hub for the Pelagonia and Southwest waste management region, hosting a modern regional landfill situated in a depleted section of the Suvodol lignite mine.

⁸ State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, [Municipal waste, 2025](#), 22 April 2026.

⁹ Ibid.



Suvodol coal mine (photo: Kiril Simeonovski).



Road to the existing non-compliant dumpsite near the village of Meglenci.

The project infrastructure also includes transfer stations, waste storage systems, facility space for bulky waste collection, and the formal closure of the existing, non-compliant Novaci dumpsite.

During Bankwatch's meetings with local authorities and ministry officials, concerns were raised over the intensified heavy goods vehicle traffic expected to accompany the regionalisation of waste treatment and disposal, which is set to increase reliance on a transport network that includes many narrow country roads. The Mayor of Novaci, Stevcho Stevanovski, noted that the central government has committed to funding the construction of a new dedicated access road to mitigate these impacts.

While a local waste action plan is currently in force, implementation of its scheduled activities is lagging behind by

approximately two years.¹⁰ Nevertheless, a newly established inter-municipal management board is already laying the groundwork for coordination between local authorities and their respective public utility enterprises, a process actively supported by SALAR International.

Main observations

Institutional roles and cooperation

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is the direct beneficiary and implementing entity hosting the project implementation unit. The Ministry is tasked with drafting national plans and legal frameworks, issuing permits, monitoring compliance, and collecting waste data, which is currently still managed in paper form.

The future regional waste centres, comprising both landfills and pre-treatment facilities, are to be managed by specialised regional public enterprises that have yet to be established. Meanwhile, municipal administrations will retain responsibility for the practical organisation of waste collection and transportation, executed through their respective municipally owned public utility enterprises.

The regional waste management model necessitates close coordination between local authorities and public utility enterprises to manage these new shared assets effectively. This transition requires a considerable operational shift from the single-stream collection of mixed waste to a far more complex system – one that involves additional processing steps, separate waste streams, and the gradual expansion of the geographical coverage of waste services.

To facilitate these efforts, SALAR International is actively building capacity among local administration and public utility enterprise staff, supporting the deployment of new separate collection bins and vehicles, and preparing personnel to monitor and manage service performance.

The European Commission's November 2025 assessment of North Macedonia's progress on environmental harmonisation (chapter 27) directly attributes the lack of progress in waste management reforms to a 'lack of ownership and commitment from local authorities, and weak interinstitutional relations and decision-making'.¹¹ This conclusion mirrors the findings of a 2022 SALAR International baseline study on waste management in the Pelagonia and Southwest region,¹² and was echoed in numerous conversations with local stakeholders during our fact-finding mission. These institutional bottlenecks have undoubtedly contributed to the protracted delays in project execution.

¹⁰ Novaci Municipality, [Локален акциски план за управување со отпад на Општина Новаци за 2024-2025](#), 6 December 2023.

¹¹ European Commission, [Commission Staff Working Document | North Macedonia 2025 Report](#), 86, 4 November 2025.

¹² The full study, which is not available online, was obtained directly from the authors. For a summary, see: Salar International, [Sustainable municipal waste management services in North Macedonia](#), June 2023.

Waste tariffs

The financial viability of the new regional waste systems is strictly dependent on a long-awaited waste tariff reform designed to provide sustainable cost coverage. The rationale behind the reform is simple: public behaviour is most effectively influenced by combining legal requirements and accessible, user-friendly infrastructure with financial incentives that promote adoption of the ‘polluter pays’ principle.

Given North Macedonia’s current low waste fees¹³ and the higher operational costs expected from the new waste infrastructure, the reform will inevitably increase local service charges for waste generators. The anticipated rise in costs will be most acutely felt by households, which generate 84% of the country’s municipal solid waste, with commercial entities accounting for the remaining 16%.¹⁴

To insulate mayors from this sensitive issue, the Energy, Water Services and Municipal Waste Management Regulatory Commission has been tasked with determining the new regional waste tariffs. For two consecutive years, the Commission’s annual plans (2025 and 2026¹⁵) have included provisions for establishing these new tariffs – a process that involves adopting necessary legislative amendments, arranging staff training, and developing specific cost models for each waste management region. However, according to local stakeholders, a finalised national methodology and guidance are not expected until 2028. More than any new landfill, it is this regulatory shift that will mark the definitive launch of waste reform by leveraging economic incentives for waste generators.

Ultimately, a self-sustaining system must rely on a dual funding model: local waste fees paid by households and commercial entities based on the specific volume of mixed waste they generate, combined with financial or operational support through extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes. These schemes must channel resources back to local authorities to cover the collection and processing of specialised waste streams, including packaging, e-waste, batteries, and textiles.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for packaging and e-waste

Several EPR organisations specialising in packaging waste operate in North Macedonia. Collective EPR schemes are also legally established for other specific streams, including e-waste, batteries, textiles, motor oils, end-of-life vehicles, and waste tyres. Annual reports from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning indicate that most EPR schemes manage to achieve their collection and recycling targets.¹⁶ However, national waste data reporting remains paper-based, as the National Waste Management

¹³ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, [Environmental Performance Reviews | North Macedonia | Third Review](#), 100, 31 May 2019.

¹⁴ State Statistical Office of The Republic of North Macedonia, [Municipal waste, 2025](#), accessed 23 April 2026.

¹⁵ Energy, Water Services and Municipal Waste Management Regulatory Commission of the Republic of North Macedonia, [План за работа на Регулаторната комисија за енергетика, водни услуги и услуги за управување со комунален отпад на Република Северна Македонија за 2026 година](#), 3, 29 December 2025.

¹⁶ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia, [Reports and Decisions on the Establishment of Annual National Targets](#), accessed 14 April 2026.

Information System is not yet fully operational, despite EUR 1 million in IPA financing allocated in 2024 to improve EPR reporting.¹⁷

The deployment of street containers for separate packaging collection is still heavily restricted and concentrated in urban centres. In Skopje, there are only 350 separate collection points. Even if emptied weekly, these provide roughly three times less capacity than the estimated volume of potentially recyclable packaging generated by households. Moreover, rural areas – which are already severely underserved by basic mixed waste collection – remain largely excluded from EPR infrastructure, further widening the regional disparity in public access to waste collection.



An exception to the rule: EPR containers for glass and textiles in front of Novaci municipal hall.

To bridge this gap, the Swiss government has provided EUR 3 million in continued support to Pakomak,¹⁸ the country's largest packaging EPR organisation with a 48% market share.¹⁹ This funding is directed, among other initiatives, towards piloting a quasi-deposit–return scheme²⁰ utilising 70 reverse vending machines installed at shopping centres across 15 cities, including Skopje, Bitola, and Tetovo. Users returning PET bottles and metal cans through these reverse vending machines earn bonus points via the Ecomak mobile application.²¹

While these electronic platforms and reverse vending machines are user-friendly, they risk excluding less digitally literate populations, such as older people. This concern was confirmed during our interview with

¹⁷ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia, [Поддршка за спроведувањето на законодавството за управување со отпад и шемата за проширена одговорност на производителот](#), accessed 14 April 2026.

¹⁸ State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, [Solid Waste Management North Macedonia Phase II](#).

¹⁹ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia, [Извештај за проширена одговорност на производителите](#), June 2025.

²⁰ State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, [Solid Waste Management in Polog Region, North Macedonia](#).

²¹ Pakomak, [EKOMAK APPLICATION](#), accessed 13 March 2026.

Pakomak’s director, who noted that the vast majority of the 15,000 active users of the application are young people aged between 20 and 35.



Despite these targeted investments and 15 years of packaging EPR operations, the European Commission’s assessment at the end of 2025 concluded that the EPR framework in North Macedonia ‘has not yielded the anticipated improvements and continues to face a range of persistent challenges’. The report explicitly warns that ‘without sufficient supervision it may seriously jeopardise market functioning and undermine achievement of the national targets’.²²

Indeed, official data indicating that an average of just 45 kg of packaging waste is generated annually per capita in North Macedonia raises serious red flags, given that the EU average stands at 178 kg per capita per year.²³ This massive discrepancy casts doubt on the veracity of data reported by producers regarding packaging placed on the market – a structural flaw similarly observed in several established EPR schemes within the EU.²⁴

Reverse vending machine in a Skopje shopping centre.

Currently, the contribution of EPR schemes to the overall national recycling rate is limited to around 8%,²⁵ representing roughly 50,000 tonnes per year, while at least an equivalent volume of recyclable packaging is lost directly to mixed waste landfills. Resolving this issue requires far tighter structural integration between municipal public utility enterprises and producer responsibility organisations to deliver high-performance, door-to-door separate collection systems that consistently yield a high quality and quantity of recyclable materials.

Finally, EPR schemes must be legally mandated and financially incentivised to integrate informal waste collectors into their formal operations. This would facilitate a smoother transition from informal scavenging to formalised recyclable waste handling and secure income generation, while simultaneously improving overall national recycling performance. Crucially, such structural integration will ensure that official municipal solid waste statistics finally reflect the significant contribution of informal waste workers, which currently remains unrecorded in national data.

²² European Commission, [Commission Staff Working Document | North Macedonia 2025 Report](#), 87.

²³ Eurostat, [Plastic packaging waste in the EU: 35.3 kg per person](#), 22 October 2025.

²⁴ European Court of Auditors, [Special report 12/2023: EU supervision of banks’ credit risk – The ECB stepped up its efforts but more is needed to increase assurance that credit risk is properly managed and covered](#), 12 May 2023.

²⁵ These are our own calculations based on the 2024 reports by the State Statistical Office and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning on municipal solid waste and EPR waste streams, respectively.

Biowaste

Official waste statistics in North Macedonia reveal that the target for increasing overall municipal solid waste recycling is a long way off being achieved, even as EPR streams appear closer to achieving their specific recycling goals.²⁶ This ‘recycling gap’ comes from a single, yet unaddressed waste stream: biowaste. When disposed of in landfills, biowaste drives the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector, both in North Macedonia and globally. Despite being the single largest component of municipal solid waste – accounting for over 45% of total municipal solid waste in North Macedonia – biowaste remains a glaring omission in current efforts to modernise the country’s waste systems.

For example, the EBRD-led Regional Solid Waste Project misses a vital opportunity first identified in all preceding feasibility and cost-benefit studies (such as the IPA-funded reports from 2017): the integration of separate biowaste collection networks and the construction of regional composting facilities. Instead, the project lacks dedicated measures for the separate collection of biowaste or for source-separated biowaste treatment capacity, whether centralised or decentralised.

Biowaste management must be treated as an urgent priority by all stakeholders, including the central government, municipalities, public utility enterprises, the EBRD, and other international donors. While the absolute bare minimum requirement is the composting of green waste, achieving meaningful system performance depends heavily on addressing food waste. This approach fully aligns with the analytical work underpinning North Macedonia’s enhanced nationally determined contributions, which identifies landfilled biowaste as the dominant source of methane emissions within the waste sector and, consequently, a high-impact, cost-effective mitigation target.²⁷

Maximising the diversion of organic waste from landfills yields immediate and long-term climate benefits at a reasonable cost. However, the EBRD project board report skips source separation of food waste and instead lists end-of-pipe landfill gas flaring, which, although a must for modern landfills, offers rather limited, temporary and costly climate benefits compared to food waste prevention and separate collection.²⁸

Maximising the operational lifetime of new regional landfills is imperative, given their exceptionally high capital costs and the extreme difficulty of identifying and permitting suitable replacement sites. This longevity cannot be achieved without the separate collection of food waste from households and other major commercial generators; neither can EU-mandated recycling targets.

²⁶ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, [Индикаторски извештај за животната средина на Република Северна Македонија 2024](#), 483–491, 2025.

²⁷ Antonis Mavropoulos, Amani Maalouf, Harris Kamariotakis, [Rapid assessment report on the benefits of circular economy on mitigation of GHGs emission in the waste sector | Republic of North Macedonia](#), United Nations Development Programme, September 2020.

²⁸ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, [REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA | Regional Solid Waste project](#), 9 June 2022.

Limiting interventions merely to green and garden waste from public spaces delivers only marginal benefits, risking a failure to meet climate and waste targets while foregoing substantial financial savings. In line with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s circular economy roadmap for North Macedonia, unlocking the circular potential of biowaste requires the rapid deployment of enabling infrastructure and incentives for source separation, alongside investment in composting and anaerobic digestion capacity to ensure that high-quality compost is returned to soils, effectively closing the biological cycle.²⁹

Informal waste sector

Although the official municipal recycling rate in North Macedonia is a negligible 0.2%,³⁰ approximately 3% of all discarded materials are actually captured and returned to the economy by informal waste pickers.³¹ Between 3,000 and 5,000 informal waste collectors, primarily from the Roma community, manually collect, sort and handle recyclable waste on a daily basis, diverting these secondary materials from mixed waste to recycling streams. Sorting waste from street containers and over 50 active dumpsites nationwide, these workers act as a vital, albeit illegal link in local secondary resource value chains. EBRD project documentation and the Novaci mayor both note that around 10 Roma families currently salvage recyclables from the existing landfill near Meglenci. Although our fact-finding mission did not include a visit to the landfill, workers were clearly visible on the ground.



A distant look at the current landfill nearby Meglenci village.

²⁹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, [A Roadmap towards Circular Economy of North Macedonia](#), 111-113, 15 March 2024.

³⁰ State Statistical Office of The Republic of North Macedonia, [Municipal waste, 2025](#).

³¹ Zoran Sapuric, Sanela Shkrijelj, Blazhe Josifovski, [Informal sector inclusion in the sustainable waste management system as an opportunity for employment and social inclusion of vulnerable groups](#), Finance Think, January 2018.

Several studies have documented the significance of informal waste workers in North Macedonia, yet no systemic steps have been taken to improve their precarious working conditions, lack of health protections, and volatile income.³² One notable effort supported by international donors is led by the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, which focuses on formalisation, training, and social enterprise development.³³ However, the initiative's door-to-door separate collection service in Skopje has recently been temporarily suspended due to logistical issues.³⁴

While the EBRD's Regional Solid Waste Project explicitly identifies waste pickers as a vulnerable group requiring livelihood restoration, only a framework document exists, and concrete livelihood restoration plans have yet to be developed. The project sets aside EUR 2.8 million for inclusive and socially responsible procurement, intended to support 'inclusive hiring practices within the new regional waste management enterprises' to essentially formalise what is currently an informal workforce.³⁵

As non-compliant landfills are phased out and closed, the people who rely on scavenging recyclables at these sites to make a living must not simply be displaced. Instead, they should be offered training and formal employment within the new regional waste management system.

However, the economic space for informal waste pickers is already shrinking – not due to dumpsite closures, but as a result of depressed market prices for recyclables and the expansion of EPR schemes for packaging and e-waste, which absorb high-value secondary material flows. While Swiss donor support for improving packaging waste collection is vital, targeting funds towards high-tech solutions like reverse vending machines risks triggering technological displacement. By automating collection of the highest-value waste materials (PET bottles and aluminium cans), these systems cannibalise the primary earnings of informal collectors. While current donor funding focuses heavily on training, the framework lacks mechanisms to ensure that collectors receive a fair price for materials or a fair wage for their labour.

³² Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, [Informal Waste Collectors in North Macedonia: Perspectives, Constraints and Opportunities](#), March 2023.

³³ Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, [About REDI](#), accessed 13 March 2026.

³⁴ Information obtained from Asib Zekir, Director of Green Initiatives at the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, in March 2026.

³⁵ Western Balkans Investment Framework, [EU-backed skills initiative supports implementation of Regional Solid Waste Project in North Macedonia](#), 23 February 2026.

Recommendations

Below is a list of recommendations based on the above findings, addressed to specific stakeholders.

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

- Establish and lead the transition to the National Waste Management Information System, moving from paper-based to fully functional, digital reporting.
- Improve the availability and quality of waste composition data to support regional planning, tariff-setting, infrastructure design, and optimised waste collection routes.
- Provide methodological guidance and conduct practical trainings for public utility enterprises and municipal staff on performing regular waste composition studies.
- Strengthen EPR requirements to improve full life-cycle cost coverage and relieve pressure on municipal budgets from handling EPR waste streams uncaptured by separate collection.
- Increase staffing and resources for the State Environmental Inspectorate to ensure compliance and enforcement.
- Take concerted actions together with other responsible institutions, including the Ministry of Social Policy, Demographics and Youth and the Ministry of Finance, to address the current gap between legal responsibility and available capacity and funding for implementing livelihood restoration plans for informal waste workers.
- Develop and secure funding for livelihood restoration plans covering the informal sector (3,000–5,000 workers) and collaborate with international partners to exchange experiences on informal sector inclusion, drawing on good examples from Albania and other countries.
- Treat biowaste as a strategic priority in line with EU waste targets, North Macedonia's enhanced nationally determined contributions, OECD recommendations and regional waste studies.
- Prioritise biowaste collection and composting measures for all regional waste management plans.
- Be prepared, together with donors, to launch project implementation immediately after time- and data-sensitive studies, to avoid additional update costs related to waste volumes, budgets, market prices, population size, and other variables.
- Harness the training and coordination capacities of municipal associations such as the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of North Macedonia (ZELS) to deliver targeted training and support inter-municipal cooperation in the planning and operation of shared regional waste infrastructure.

- Finalise cost-reflective tariff reforms in coordination with the Energy, Water and Waste Management Regulatory Commission.

Local authorities

- Develop calculations and scenarios to prepare for implementing updated waste service fees once the Energy, Water and Waste Management Regulatory Commission's methodology is finalised.
- Formalise inter-municipal cooperation arrangements to ensure that regional assets are shared in a fair and sustainable way.
- Launch targeted communication campaigns to prepare residents for the transition to source-separated household waste collection.
- Draw lessons from the experience of the Polog region, liaising with Swiss and local partners to avoid duplication and design flaws in other regions.
- Exchange experiences on informal sector inclusion, drawing on examples from Albania, Serbia and elsewhere.
- Support the separate collection of food waste, recognising its importance for extending landfill lifespan and achieving waste and climate targets.

Public utility enterprises

- Transition from paper-based systems to digital, GIS-based performance monitoring.
- Develop in-house expertise for managing new waste logistics systems and improving customer relations during the transition.
- Prepare for the management of new waste streams, particularly source-separated biowaste.
- Participate in training on the logistics of collecting separate waste streams, moving beyond green or garden waste alone.
- Improve technical expertise to manage EU-compliant infrastructure.
- Optimise collection logistics by building operational capacity in waste composition analysis, route optimisation, separate collection logistics, customer relations and public communication.
- Adopt route optimisation practices and conduct regular waste composition analyses to extend landfill lifespan.
- Diversify collection streams beyond garden waste to include household food waste, extending landfill lifespan.

Donors and international financial institutions (EBRD, SECO, SIDA, WBIF, IPA)

- Ensure that project design prioritises maximising the lifespan of new regional landfills, including through biowaste separation.
- Align funding priorities around biowaste as the largest municipal solid waste stream and a key climate mitigation opportunity.
- Prioritise biowaste infrastructure, focusing first on low-cost solutions such as source separation and composting, while also considering anaerobic digestion where justified by the scale of available feedstock.
- Mobilise additional dedicated funding to provide direct assistance and a safety net for the informal waste sector, instead of solely relying on indirect inclusion opportunities.
- Reconsider the 60:40 loan-to-grant ratio by increasing the share of grant funding to accelerate implementation.
- Support learning and replication from successful pilot projects within donor portfolios in the Western Balkans and other regions.