

Official Establishment of the Regional Blue Economy Network in North Macedonia as Part of the Regional Initiative IPA ADRION – GROWTH4BLUE

On October 9th, 2025, at the premises of the Sojuz na Stopanski komori na Makedonija (Macedonian of Chambers of Commerce) in Skopje –, a key event was held to formally establish the Regional Blue Economy Network (RBEN) in the Republic of North Macedonia, within the framework of the GROWTH4BLUE project.

The event was officially opened by Goran Gjorgjievski, President of Sojuz na Stopanski komori na Makedonija, who emphasized the crucial role of the blue economy as a driver of sustainable development, the creation of new jobs, and regional cooperation. He highlighted that through strengthened partnerships and enhanced knowledge, the network will contribute to unlocking new opportunities for economic growth.

The GROWTH4BLUE project team, led by Project Manager Dragan Pehchevski, along with National RBEN Coordinator Mile Boshkov from the Business Confederation of Macedonia, presented the results of previous research and analysis, the overall project concept, as well as the strategic goals, expected outcomes, and next steps within this important regional initiative.



A key moment of the event was the **signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** by the participating institutions and organizations, which officially confirmed their status as partners in the Regional Blue Economy Network (RBEN).



The event also featured a **highly productive discussion**, where partners actively participated, sharing their **professional knowledge, expertise, and experience**. This exchange is expected to make a significant contribution to the further development of the network and the implementation of project activities, especially in the areas of:

- workforce transformation,
- the introduction of innovation, and
- the sustainable use of water resources.

The purpose of the RBEN network is to connect:

- Public and private institutions
- Educational and research centers
- Ecological and innovative businesses

With a particular focus on:

- Advancing skills and knowledge related to the blue economy
- Stimulating technological innovation
- Developing “blue jobs”
- Supporting long-term sustainable development through integrated water resource management





With the formal establishment of the Regional Blue Economy Network, North Macedonia positions itself as an active and relevant stakeholder in the collective regional progress toward a sustainable blue economy. This contribution strengthens transnational cooperation, facilitates the exchange of best practices, and fosters a joint approach to sustainable water resource management.

This initiative is part of the broader commitment of the country under the IPA ADRION – GROWTH4BLUE project, where countries in the region are jointly working to enhance the economic, technological, and environmental dimensions of the blue economy.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all partners, institutions, and individuals for their dedication, professionalism, and vision. With their active involvement, a solid foundation has been laid for future action, strengthening the network, and implementing concrete activities that will contribute to local and regional development.

Together, we move toward a future that is more innovative, inclusive, and sustainable – one where the blue economy will play an increasingly significant role in shaping our communities and economic prosperity.

