

Event Briefer: Vardar Days 2025

Dates: 24 – 25 November 2025

Locations: Skopje

Organizer: Groundwater Management, Use & Protection Programme

About the Event

For the first time, North Macedonia will host **Vardar Days 2025** - a landmark event dedicated to the sustainable management of the Vardar River Basin. Bringing together **institutions, experts, international partners, academia, and young professionals**, the event will serve as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action to strengthen water governance. Through **specialized trainings, strategic meetings, and public activities**, Vardar Days will highlight national progress and foster stronger cooperation for the protection and sustainable use of the most important water resource in the country.

Program Overview

Day 1 (24 November | Skopje, Hotel Holiday In

Strategic meetings & Grand Opening

- 09:00** Registration
- 09:30 - 11:30** Meeting of the members of the Permanent Working Group (closed meeting¹)
- 12:00 - 13:00** Grand Opening of Vardar Days²
- Speeches by the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning³, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy⁴, Swiss Ambassador Christoph Sommer, and EU representatives
 - Opening of the new Hydrometeorological Service (HMS) Laboratory with video presentation and address by HMS Director
- 13:00 - 13:15** Media Statements
- 14:00 - 16:00** Water Sector Mixer: Presentations by GWP and the Macedonian Hydrological Association (MHA)

Target audience: PWG members, government institutions, international partners, water sector stakeholders, media

¹ Only for nominated members of the Permanent Working Group

² Open session – all invitees are welcomed

³ Confirmation of the Minister of MoEPP's attendance is pending

⁴ Confirmation of the Minister of MAFWE's attendance is pending



Groundwater
management, use and
protection programme

**BECAUSE IT'S
IMPORTANT!**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Republic of North Macedonia
**Ministry of Environment
and Physical Planning**



Republic of North Macedonia
**Ministry of agriculture,
forestry and water economy**

Day 2 (25 November | Skopje, Faculty of Civil Engineering)

River Basin Governance & Career Fair

09:30 - 11:30

Meeting of the Members of the Vardar River Basin Council Session⁵

- Presentation of SWMI report and consultations, pressure and impact analysis results, classification system, and water management IT systems

12:00 - 13:00

Interim Report Presentation for the public and launch of consultations

13:00 - 15:00

Water Sector Career Fair

- Students meet potential employers, engage with the Chamber of Commerce and Alumni, and explore career paths in the water sector

Target audience: Council members, civil society, students, private sector, academia

Why It Is Important

Vardar Days 2025 provides a platform to strengthen river basin governance, enhance interinstitutional cooperation, and engage young professionals in sustainable water management. It builds bridges between policy, practice, and people, supporting North Macedonia's commitments to integrated water resource management.

The Groundwater Management, Use and Protection Programme is a programme of the Government of Switzerland under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, and is implemented by Skat Consulting Ltd - PointPro Consulting Ltd consortium.

⁵ Closed session only for members of the Vardar River Basin Council Session