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UNDP Partnership with the Slovak Republic in Serbia

June 2025



The partnership between the Slovak Republic and UNDP in Serbia focuses on sustainable local development, increasing the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. With Slovak support, UNDP helped 15 municipalities in Serbia to adopt local development plans that are in line with national strategies and SDG targets. We have also piloted a new model for inter-municipal cooperation in the joint management of shared natural resources. Thanks to Slovak regional funding, UNDP developed studies to help 13 local self-governments that applied for technical support, to improve biowaste management by conducting economic, environmental and social assessments of the potential for biogas production from biowaste. Additionally, we provided technical and economic analysis of the biomass supply chain for heat and power generation at the wastewater treatment cogeneration plant, for a municipality that plans to construct a local wastewater treatment facility. In the area of energy efficiency, following the request of national authorities, and with Slovak funding, UNDP developed studies for reduced energy consumption and CO2 emissions in public buildings. For example, a feasibility study for 53 outdated school buildings proposed investment measures that would reduce energy consumption by about 68%. With the support of the Slovak Republic, UNDP is also exploring the potential for the use of geothermal energy in public buildings in Serbia.

Focus areas:



GREEN TRANSITION

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Digital solutions



GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Public Finance
- Efficient local governance
- Local Development
- Inter-Municipal Cooperation

UNDP projects in Serbia supported by the Slovak Republic

| ▼ PROJECT TITLE | ▼ PERIOD | ▼ TOTAL BUDGET USD* |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| GREEN TRANSITION | | |
| Energy Efficiency Renovation of Central Government Buildings - Feasibility Study on EE Renovation of SIV 3 | June 2021 – September 2022 | \$120,000 |
| Potential of biogas production from biowaste in urban and peri-urban regions | September 2022 – April 2024 | \$52,909 |
| Use of biomass for cogeneration in wastewater treatment in City of Cacak | November 2022 – September 2023 | \$54,000 |
| Feasibility Study – Zero Emission Education Facilities Project in Republic of Serbia | March 2023 – July 2023 | \$50,000 |
| Public LoRaWAN network in Kragujevac | June 2023 – March 2024 | \$110,700 |
| Geothermal Energy in Serbia | April 2025 – March 2027 | \$200,000 |
| GOOD GOVERNANCE | | |
| Public Finance for Development / Support for Improving Governance and Economic Planning at the Local Level for Accelerating the Implementation of of SDGs in the Republic of Serbia | December 2018 – June 2024 | \$499,370 |

* Regional projects, budget received through the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.



Energy Efficiency Renovation of Central Government Buildings - Feasibility Study on EE Renovation of SIV 3 building

Photo credit: UNDP Serbia

In line with the EU Energy Efficiency Directive, the Government of Serbia initiated a multi-year initiative for the energy renovation of the central government buildings (CGB). This initiative encompasses 28 central government buildings in Belgrade, including SIV 3, the second largest CGB in Serbia. Within the preparations for the energy renovation of 28 CGBs, the Resource Mobilization Facility (RMF) of the Slovak Trust Fund funded the technical preparation for the energy efficiency (EE) renovation of the SIV 3 building.



GREEN TRANSITION

Main activities:

- An initial **energy certification** of the SIV 3 building;
- Feasibility study on EE renovation of the SIV 3 building, including **geological explorations of the geothermal potential for heating and cooling the building**;
- Support for the relevant national institutions in **selecting the most feasible investment package for the EE renovation** of the SIV 3 building.

Key Results:

- Geological explorations showed that after the energy renovation, geothermal energy sources could cover no less than 85% of the heating and cooling needs of the SIV 3 building over a period of 25 years.
- The project proposed an EE investment package worth EUR 12.5 million, which could reduce the SIV 3 building's energy consumption by 62%, its primary energy consumption by 57.1%, and its carbon dioxide emissions by 67.0%.



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Geothermal Energy in Serbia

The Slovak Republic continued its support to the decarbonization of the Serbian energy sector with the 2-year **“Geothermal Energy in Serbia”** initiative, funded by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, which started in April 2025. Serbia’s National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) identifies an estimated geothermal potential of 800 MW, but geothermal energy remains underutilized due to high initial costs and limited investments. The project focuses on expanding the use of geothermal energy in heating and cooling systems, particularly in district heating companies and public facilities. Cooperation with international financial institutions such as EBRD and CEB is crucial to unlock additional funding and expertise.



GREEN TRANSITION

Key Activities

- Help secure financing for the implementation of two geothermal projects, selected through a public call.
- Develop a study to consolidate existing geothermal data and organize roundtable discussions with stakeholders to design supportive financing mechanisms.
- Organize study visits to Slovakia to promote knowledge exchange and build partnerships between Serbian and Slovak stakeholders.

Expected Results

- Developed bank investment proposals for integrating geothermal energy into the energy mix of two public institutions.
- Enhanced national capacities for expanding the use of geothermal in heating and cooling systems.
- Established partnerships between Serbian and Slovak companies and institutions.

Long-term benefits:

The project contributes to climate change mitigation, improved air quality, and reduced reliance on fossil fuels. It also supports Serbia’s commitments under the EU Green Agenda and fosters public-private cooperation for clean energy. This initiative sets the stage for long-term investment and scaling of geothermal solutions in Serbia’s energy mix.



Public and Private Finance for Development

This 6-year "Public and Private Finance for Development" initiative was designed to help Serbian municipalities and regions plan for their future by moving beyond routine planning to participatory and collaborative territorial governance and frameworks that empower communities, protect natural resources and align with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with the legal requirements for local self-governments to adopt strategic development documents, the project supported municipalities in the preparation and adoption of Local Development Plans (LDPs), which are actionable, participatory roadmaps for growth and resilience. The municipal teams received technical guidance, training and tools to link the plans to budgets, ensure transparency, and take citizens' voices into account. In parallel, the project pioneered the development of a new model of micro-regional governance in the Golija mountain region, which aims to transform shared natural resources into a driver for joint development.



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Key results:

- 15 municipalities adopted Local Development Plans aligned with national strategies and SDG targets.
- Functional reviews and socio-economic analyses completed as a foundation for evidence-based planning in these 15 municipalities.
- The municipalities strengthened their capacities in the areas of participatory planning, linkage with budgeting, and transparency of governance.
- A micro-regional coordination model piloted in the Golija region, connecting five municipalities in joint planning efforts.
- Developed and endorsed a Manual for the Council of Users of Golija Nature Park, which enables structured cooperation for sustainable resource management.
- Regional dialogue and planning inspired by Slovak best practices offered a model for integrated natural resource and development governance.
- Linking municipalities, the public company Srbijašume, and Slovak expertise laid the groundwork for coordinated management of the Golija Nature Park and set an example for future regional cooperation in Serbia.



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