

Interreg Danube Region

Co-funded by the European Union

D-CLEAN

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Improving Water Quality in the Danube River Basin: Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Wastewater and Stormwater Management in Small Settlements

Why D-CLEAN Matters?

Many small communities face big challenges in managing wastewater and stormwater with limited financial resources. D-CLEAN helps them choose sustainable, climate-resilient solutions that protect rivers and secure clean water quality for the future.

Our Vision

A cleaner, healthier Danube through innovative, sustainable wastewater and stormwater management that leaves no community behind.

Why pilot areas?

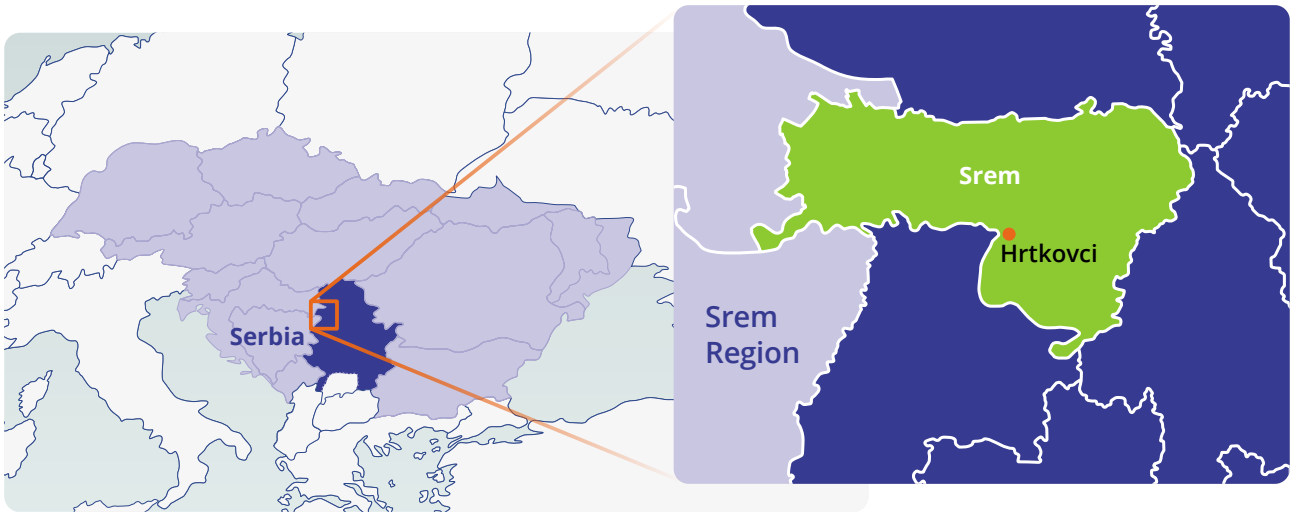
Because every small community within the Danube River Basin (DRB) faces its own water challenges – different landscapes, different risks, and different local rules. That's why D-CLEAN works in pilot areas across the river basin, where real problems can be tackled in real-world conditions. In these pilot areas, local communities, experts, and decision-makers come together to design wastewater and stormwater solutions that truly fit local needs. By testing ideas on the ground, the pilot areas show what works, what doesn't, and how sustainable, decentralised solutions can be scaled up to benefit many other communities across the region.

Pilot Area

Srem Region



The pilot area is located in the village of Hrtkovci, in the Municipality of Ruma in Serbia's Srem district, within the Sava River basin. This quiet rural community sits close to an important groundwater source that provides drinking water for the wider region, making water protection especially important for local people. At the same time, the village still lacks adequate wastewater treatment, creating a delicate situation where everyday water use could affect this valuable resource. This makes Hrtkovci a particularly meaningful place to explore practical, safe and sustainable solutions that help protect both drinking water and the surrounding environment.



	km²		
Hrtkovci	41	2530	984

Ruma Municipality, Srem Region

Existing wastewater and stormwater facilities:

Sewer Network	Stormwater Facility	Wastewater Treatment Plant
None	None	None, wastewater is managed through individual on-site systems (mainly septic tanks)

D-CLEAN Solution

Located in the rural settlement of Hrtkovci in Serbia's Srem region, this pilot area brings together two important challenges in one place: improving wastewater treatment and protecting a key source of drinking water. The village lies close to the Hrtkovačka Draga groundwater source, which supplies water to the wider region, making careful water management especially important. While plans already exist to introduce a small wastewater treatment plant, the sensitive natural conditions - such as shallow groundwater connected to the Sava River - mean that solutions must be particularly safe and reliable. This makes Hrtkovci a valuable real-life example for exploring how wastewater can be treated without putting drinking water at risk. By testing nature-based approaches in this setting, the pilot shows how even in vulnerable areas, practical and environmentally friendly solutions can be developed to support both clean water and healthy communities.

Join the D-CLEAN efforts

Discover how nature-based solutions can benefit your community, learn from the D-CLEAN experience, and be part of protecting water across the Danube region. Follow us on LinkedIn or subscribe to our newsletter for the latest updates.

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