



**“INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIA –
GAPS, CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE PATH TO EU
APPROXIMATION”**

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EU assistance in North Macedonia in the area of waste management

- TA for **establishing legal framework** for introduction of integrated regional waste management concept in compliance with the EU acquis;
- TA for **developing of a new Law on Waste incorporating the principles of a circular economy** , several respective Laws on special waste streams and Law on Extended Responsibility of the Producers;
- TA for development of the **new National Waste Management Plan (2020-2030) and the National Waste Prevention Plan;**
- TA for **preparation of planning and technical documentation for 6 regions;**



EU assistance in North Macedonia in the area of waste management

- **Investment projects** for construction of regional waste management center and transfer stations , supply of necessary equipment and vehicles and closure of non-compliant landfills and dumpsites for 2 regions (merged into one waste management region);
- TA for **strengthening capacities of the newly established regional waste management company**;
- **Public awareness** component is part of each of the above operations;



EU assistance in North Macedonia in the area of waste management

EU assistance was provided through IPA Programme; Further assistance under review within IPA III Programme ; First activities commenced since 2010;

Total financial allocations up to date in the area of waste management : 45.5MEURO; Further financial investments under IPA III explored as blending of EU grant assistance with loans from IFIs;





Current state of play

- Package of draft **Laws** still **pending** its **adoption** by the Parliament; Adoption expected by end of 2020;
- Regional waste management **plans adopted**, but **implementation** is **slow**; Eligibility period soon to expire, an update/revision should be performed;
- **Regional waste management structures formed** , but not yet fully operational;





Current state of play

- Process of establishing **regional waste management** company **ongoing** and expected to be finalized
- **Funds for investment projects secured** only for 2 regions(merged into one waste management region) and partially for one more (Polog);
- **Ongoing discussion for blending of funds** with IFIs for financing Skopje waste management Region as biggest in the country;





Difficulties encountered

- **Lack of commitment by local authorities** (In North Macedonia waste management is a competence on local level);
- **Lack of cooperation between the municipalities** /local authorities belonging to one (waste management) planning region;
- **No continuity of decisions made and processes initiated** by previous establishment of local authorities; Severe delays due to local elections and new mayors elected; Process not seen as a long term perspective , but rather as ad hock action to be completed with visible results during one electoral mandate;





Difficulties encountered

- **Lack of understanding by local population** of benefits from integrated regional waste management concept; Concept of waste management centre equalized with current image of a dumpsite ;
- **"Not in my backyard" syndrome**; No one wants to host the waste management center/transfer station;
- **National authorities substituting the role of local authorities** for the sake of progress, that further decrease the interest on local level;
- **Lack of support from other line ministries** in resolving issues related to their area of responsibility (Ministry of Local Self Government, Ministry of Transport , Ministry of Finance);





Lessons learned/ Recommendations

- **Integrated regional waste management** system is a complex concept and should be established **as a system of measures/activities**; Alignment (if necessary) of legislation and preparation of a sound comprehensive regional waste management plans shall not be avoided in favor of achieving fast preparation of technical documentation and start of infrastructure works.
- **Establishing of regional structures for waste management** (if not existing) **shall be one of the priorities** in the process and start from the very beginning ;
- **Comprehensive public awareness campaign** for regional concept of waste management and its benefits shall be designed to follow the complete process; It would be good even if such activities are started earlier than initial activities; Journalists may also be trained/informed;





Lessons learned/ Recommendations

- **Engage and discuss!** Stakeholders involvement plan shall be developed to ensure that all key partners are identified , informed and consulted throughout the process; The role of the CSO, business community and scientific institutions should be recognized as important and beneficial;
- The process of **site selection** for regional waste management center and the transfer stations shall closely **involve the local authorities**; Apart from experts/technical proposals on potential site, invite the municipalities to propose several locations ; Efforts shall not be spared to thoroughly explain what are the criteria for site selection;





Lessons learned/ Recommendations

- The environmental Impact assessment (EIA) study shall be presented and discussed in **more than one public consultation**; Do not hesitate about time consuming of this step as it is the most crucial one in the complete process;
- Each core phase **may be conditioned with certain responsibilities** to be fulfilled; We have conditioned publishing of tender procedures with fulfillment of certain responsibilities/activities;
- Build a strong partnership between the EUD, the Ministry of Environment and local authorities** in order to ensure that such complex and sensitive process will lead to establishing a sustainable integrated regional waste management system in compliance with EU standards improving the quality of life of the citizens and contributing to cleaner environment;





Last but not least

***Do not go for fast track solutions** since they do not lead to creation of system!*

***Plan ahead, strategically!** Engage and discuss and do first what has the greatest effect (bio-waste diversion/ separate collection of bio waste).*

*Establishing an **efficient waste management should be a nationwide project** and not a single measure during the mandate of a mayor!*





Thank you!

European Commission