

EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA)

By Mihail Dimovski, Team Leader



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EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA) Steering Committee Meeting - June 2019

1. Objectives and purpose
2. Project Governance and Working Groups
3. Inception period
4. Work plan
5. Project calendar
6. Discussion/ Questions

2. Objectives and Purpose



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Beneficiary Countries / Duration

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- North Macedonia
- Kosovo*
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey

February 13, 2019 – February 13, 2022 (36 months)

*This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Objective and Purpose

- The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the implementation of the EU environmental acquis in the Western Balkans and Turkey in areas relevant for addressing trans-boundary environmental issues.
- The purpose of the project is to assist the European Commission in providing the Secretariat of the EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession (EPPA).

Expected Results (1)

- Result 1 – Information provided to the environmental ministries and other relevant public and private institutions on the latest policy priorities and developments in the environmental policy area.
- Result 2 – Capacity building and technical expertise provided to the beneficiaries for preparation of waste management plans, development of policies and revision of legislation in line with EU waste priorities (i.e. waste hierarchy and transition to a circular economy).
- Result 3 – Regional cooperation in trans-boundary water management and protection of marine and coastal environment facilitated.
- Result 4 – Capacity to address trans-boundary air quality issues and to further alignment with air quality legislation strengthened.

Expected Results (2)

- Result 5 - Capacity to manage national and transboundary nature protection issues, through
 - Result 5.1 – Regional cooperation in managing transboundary nature protection, marine and coastal matters facilitated.
 - Result 5.2 – Regional cooperation for combating illegal logging and related trade facilitated.
 - Result 5.3 – Regional cooperation for combating wildlife trafficking facilitated.
- Result 6 – Compliance checks for draft legislation prepared.
- Result 7 – Specific sectoral knowledge acquired by the CSOs' representatives and strengthened cooperation and communication between the CSOs and the public administration bodies.

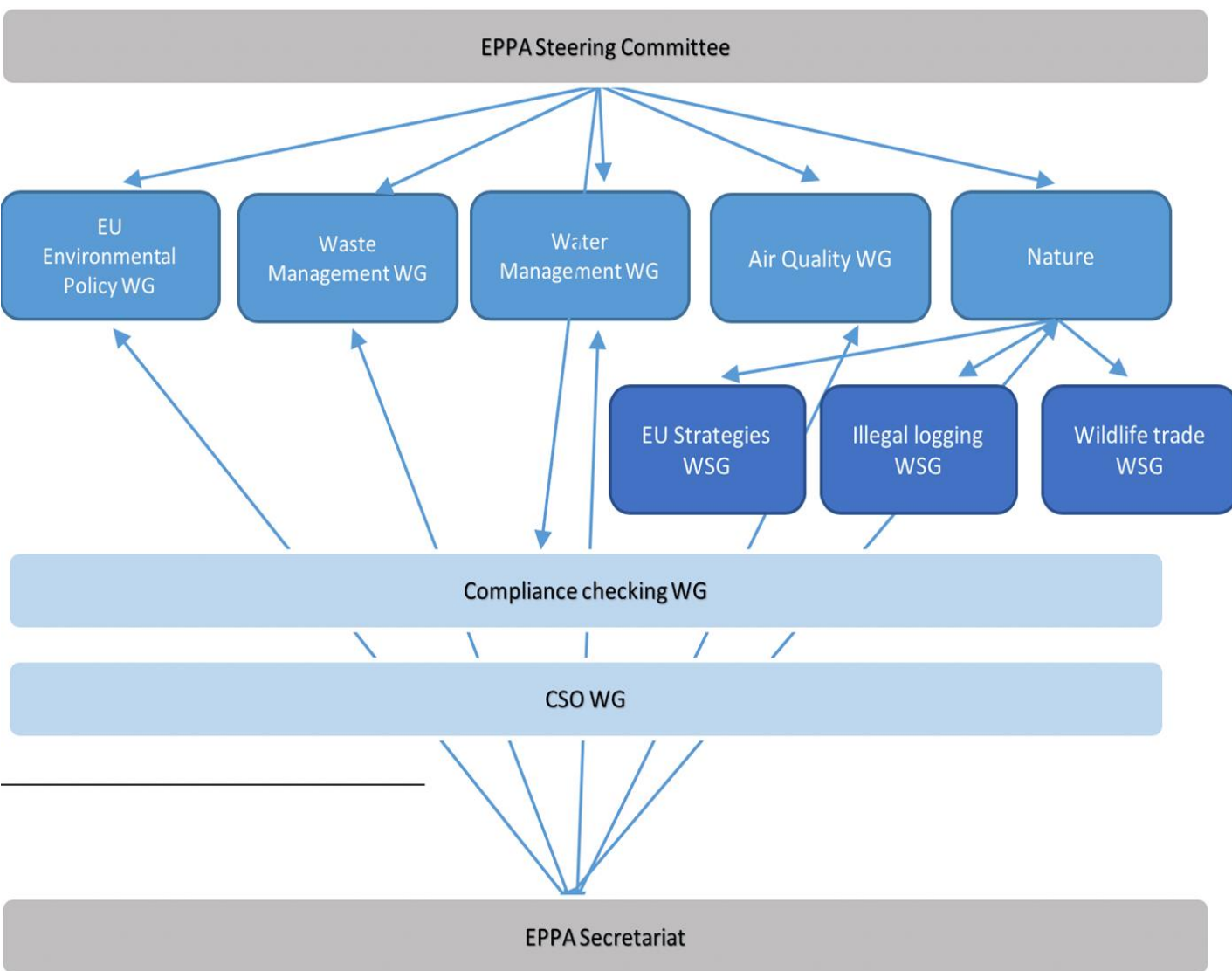
3. Project Governance and Working Groups



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- The activities will be mainly implemented through a system of **Working Groups (WG)** and **Working Sub-Groups (WSG)**
- The project overall implementation will be guided by the **Steering Committee**.
- The project will be supported, and daily coordinated, by the **Secretariat**.

Working Groups (WG) and Working Sub-Groups (WSB) - methodology

- The project's thematic work is clustered in Working Groups and Working Sub-Groups (for Nature Conservation issues)
- The Working Groups and Sub-Groups will be lead by one of the relevant Key Experts of the project team
- Each Beneficiary nominated a national coordinator to participate in the Working Groups and Sub-Groups.

EU environmental policy WG

- The WG will raise awareness on the latest EU environmental policy priorities and developments, as envisaged by the 7th Environmental Action Plan (EAP)
- Will be covering the overall broad area of EU environmental acquis.
- Activities:
 - 2 Regional Conferences on selected priorities from 7th EPA (expected Oct 2019, Oct 2020)
 - 3 sub-regional workshops on environmental priorities as envisaged by the 7th EAP (expected Feb 2020, Jul and Dec 2021)

Waste management WG

- The WG will provide capacity building on implementation of the roadmaps for improving waste management, revisions of the waste management plans, policies and waste legislation.
- The activities will also promote the Road Map for Resource Efficient Europe and EU 2018 Circular Economy Package and implementation of its action plan.

More information about this WG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

Water management WG

- The WG will support trans-boundary water management and protection of marine and coastal areas and participation of the enlargement countries at EUSAIR and EUSDR meetings.
- Activities will cover : managing marine litter, implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Barcelona Convention. Assistance with water management issues facing land-locked countries will also be delivered.

More information about this WG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

Air Quality WG

- The WG activities will support the implementation of :
 - Air Quality Directive
 - NEC Directive
 - Sulphur Directive and
 - Industrial Emissions Directive

More information about this WG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

EU Strategies WSG

(National and transboundary nature protection)

- The WSB will support implementation of EU Macro-Regional Strategies in the area of nature protection and biodiversity. Activities will cover support in identification of marine protected areas and exchange of best practices to achieve and/or to maintain the good ecological status of marine waters and preserve biodiversity.
- Support in implementation of Regulation on Invasive Alien Species and Biodiversity strategy will be provided.

More information about this WSG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

Illegal logging WSG

(National and transboundary nature protection)

- The WSB will cover implementation of EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT.
- Activities will focus on illegal logging and timber trade flows, forest management and related mechanisms to ensure legality and traceability of timber and mapping of relevant stakeholders.
- Involvement in INTERPOL's LEAF project and its forest crime-working group will also be supported.

More information about this WSG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

Wildlife trade WSG

(National and transboundary nature protection)

- The WSG will aim establishment of a regional wildlife trade regulation enforcement platform and support implementation and enforcement of CITES Regulations.

More information about this WSG will be given by the respective Key Expert in the following session

Compliance checking WG

(Horizontal)

- The Compliance Checking WG is a project cross cutting activity.
- The project will provide support in compliance checking of national draft legislation, with the requirements of selected EU environmental legislation.
- This activity will provide expert reviews of selected draft legislation and evaluating the extent to which the acts comply with corresponding EU environmental directives.
- Activities: compliance check reports on request (throughout the project)

Civil Society Organizations WG

(Horizontal)

- The WG is a project cross cutting activity.
- The overall objective of this component is to build and strengthen civil society active in the environment and area in EPPA beneficiary countries through institutional strengthening and information exchange on the EU environmental policy and developments in the enlargement policies.
- Activities:
 - Participation of representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in EPPA's activities (throughout the project)
 - final review meeting (regional) with CSOs to discuss the results of EPPA and the challenges remaining ahead (expected Nov-Dec 2021)

4. Inception period



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Inception period – Actions taken

- Project team mobilized and engaged
- Project workflows were defined and management tools deployed
- Kick off meeting between project team and the EC
- Establishment of cooperation with TAIEX
- Project team reps visited some beneficiary countries
- Identification of focal points and WG coordinators
- Development of a communication and Visibility Strategy for the project (including visual identity, social media, website, target audiences, etc)

Inception period – Actions taken (2)

- Review of the project environment both regionally and country by country
- Mapping of other initiatives and stakeholders where synergies or mutual support are possible
- Development of a training needs assessment methodology (currently under consultation)
- Development of the multi annual project work plan

5. Work plan



The work plan - structure

- The project work plan was submitted together with the inception report
- It shows all project activities organized by expected result/ component/ Working Group as described in the slides before
- Each activity is broken down in tasks with resulting deliverables and deadlines
- The work plan is also reflected in the project's event calendar (more information in the next slides)

The work plan – content and details

- In the following session, details will be given about the work plan (planned activities) and current state of implementation by the responsible key experts, in particular for:
 - WG Waste
 - WG Water
 - WG Air Quality
 - WSGs Nature (EU Strategies, Illegal logging and timber trade, wildlife trade)

6. Project calendar



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Year 1 - calendar of project events

- Based on the work plan, the project team compiled a table of events for year 1 of the project.
- The Steering Committee is to review the event list and propose any changes, if appropriate
- The table presented in the next slide is abridged to essential information. The full version was provided electronically to the SCM participants.



Event number	Time	Planned Event	Component / activity	Indicative Topic	Location	Countries involved
1	25 Jun	PSCM	Admin	Steering Committee no 1	Brussels	All
3	11-12 Sep	Sub-Regional workshop on the issue of managing marine litter; Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Bosnia	C 3 / A. 3.2.1 Capacity building and technical assistance for managing marine litter and support to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Introduction to marine litter prevention and management in the region/Best practices on marine litter management	Croatia/Zagreb/Split	Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Bosnia
2	24-25 Sep	Regional workshop on Air Quality Directive	C 4 / A. 4.1 Air Quality Directive capacity building	Air Quality Directive overview and Compliance Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting/Development of air quality improvement plans	Montenegro/Podgorica	All
4	15 Oct	Sub-Regional workshop	C 3 / A. 3.4 Assistance with water management issues facing land-locked countries based on their identification of key issues	Pressures assessment due to land-based sources of pollution; Program of measures in line with WFD and connected with the PoM within MSFD involving sea based and landlocked countries Methodology and assumptions used to generate the scenarios consistent in the whole marine region Best practices for minimizing human-induced eutrophication (Descriptor 5); Concentration of contaminants (Descriptor 8); and Marine litter (Descriptor 10).	North Macedonia/Skopje	Kosovo*, N. Macedonia, Serbia
5	13 Nov	Regional Conference	C 1 / A. 1.1 Organisation of regional conferences/fora on environmental priorities as envisaged by the 7th/8th Environmental Action Plan (EAP)	Biodiversity - green infrastructure / ecological connectivity	Montenegro, Podgorica	All
6	18-20 Nov	Regional workshops on the implementation of IED	C 4 / A. 4.4 Industrial Emissions Directive capacity building	Industrial Emissions Directive status of implementation	Turkey, Ankara or Montenegro, Podgorica	All
8	5-6 Dec	National workshop on the implementation of MSFD	C 3 / A. 3.2.2 Capacity building and technical assistance for managing marine litter and support to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	MSFD Implementation 1	Montenegro/Podgorica	Montenegro
9	16-17 Jan	Regional workshop on the implementation of NEC Directive	C 4 / A. 4.2 NEC Directive capacity building	NEC Directive as per WP	Vienna/Austria	All
10	23-24 Jan	Regional workshop on CITES implementation	C 5 / A. 5.3.3 Capacity building on CITES for the enforcement authorities	To be decided in consultation with COM	Montenegro/Podgorica	All
11	4-5 Feb	Sub-regional Workshop	C 1 / A. 1.2 Organisation of national/sub-regional workshops on environmental priorities as envisaged by the 7th/8th Environmental Action Plan (EAP)	To be decided in consultation with COM	North Macedonia/Skopje	North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo*
12	20-21 Feb	Regional workshop on managing illegal timber/for private sector	C 5 / A. 5.2.3 Exchange of information and best practices on managing illegal timber/A. 5.2.5 Exchange of information/ best practices between the EU and beneficiaries' private sector	To be decided in consultation with COM	Albania/Tirana	All

7. Discussion/ questions



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Points for discussion and recommendations

- Does the SC have any remarks about the inception report?
- Does the SC have any recommendations for the work plan?
- Does the SC have any recommendations regarding the planned events?
- Does the SC have any recommendations regarding future project approach, work flows or cooperation methods?
- Any other issues?

Thank you for your attention

MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS:

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