**ECRAN Working Group** **on Strategic Planning and Investments**

**Activity 2.2.2 Strategic Planning**

**INVITATION to the**

Regional training on the role of planning documents in approximation process and management of the process for Chapter 27

Podgorica, March 18 - 19, 2014

**Background**

EU environmental acquis approximation process requires numerous actions in transposition and implementation of requirements, building institutional capacities and capabilities, investing into infrastructure. At the same time human and financial resources available for approximation process are rather limited and have to be allocated into well-targeted areas to create highest effect. It means, that each acceding country has to understand needs of the approximation process, identify actions necessary to close remaining gaps, assess required financial and other resources, and prioritise actions to achieve maximum benefits. Such assessment is usually performed during planning process and summarised into various levels of planning documents.

As it was assessed during implementation of RENA activities, countries during last several years did elaborate many planning documents that guide transposition and implementation process. At the same time, as screening process or investment planning process shows, countries still face problems when need to establish deadlines for actions, prioritise activities, indicate related costs. With this training ECRAN is aiming to continue discussion regarding strategic planning and exchange good practises in the region as well as receive advice from the recent Member States. As foreseen in the 2014 plan, this seminar is aiming to provide regional training on the role of planning documents in approximation process and management of the process for chapter 27 using approximation policy documents.

This training is supposed establishing background for follow up activities in assessing national situation in the region and preparing meta-plan (roadmap) for development of all necessary planning documents for EU accession process.

**Objectives of the Workshop:**

Wider Objective: to improve strategic planning of the approximation process in acceding countries and to assist in better preparation for negotiations.

Specific Objectives:

* To present information about main needs of the approximation process,
* To present information about role of strategic planning in organising approximation process,
* To present experience of new Member States and Candidate Countries,
* To identify the list of most important planning documents for the approximation process,
* To discuss and agree possible outline for national discussions.

**Expected Results of the meeting:**

* Approval of the agenda,
* Presentations on all items of the agenda,
* Discussion and exchange of information,
* Increased knowledge regarding strategic planning,
* Minutes and other materials of the meeting.

**Draft Agenda Outline**

**Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group**

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| **Topic: Role of planning documents in approximation process**  **Co-Chairs:  Arunas Kundrotas, …..**  **Venue: Budva, ???? Hotel** | | | | |
| **DAY 1** | | | | |
| **Start** | **Finish** | **Topic** | **Speaker** | **Sub topic/Content** |
| **08:30** | **09:00** | **Registration** | | |
| 09:00 | 09:10 | Address by representative of the Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro | TBD | * Preparation for negotiations Chapter 27 * Recent experiences from screening * Demand for good planning |
| 09:10 | 09:20 | Address by the EC | Ms. Edita Dranseikaite, EC DG Environment (TBC) |  |
| 09:20 | 09:30 | Address by ECRAN | Mr Arunas Kundrotas, Coordinator of the Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group | * Introduction * Objectives and expected results * Adoption of the Agenda |
| 09:30 | 09:50 | Strategic planning: setting background | Mr. John Glazebrook (TBC) | * Purpose and value of planning * Definitions * Planning levels * Tools and methods * International common language |
| 09:50 | 10:30 | Strategic planning: when enough is enough? | Interactive discussion. All participants | * Do we really lack strategic planning? * Where is the problem: title or the content? * What do we need strategic documents to answer? * What do we usually miss in strategic planning documents? * Do we use and how we use strategic planning documents to guide approximation process? |
| 10:30 | 11:00 | ***Coffee Break*** | | |
| 11:00 | 11:30 | Defining and defending Negotiation Position: contribution of planning documents | HR, CZ, EE (TBD)  Mrs. Veronika Hunt Safrankova TBC | * Approximation process planning * What is “good practice” for strategic planning? * Plans/ programmes and other planning documents used during negotiations process and after * Impacts on planning during negotiations process * Development and implementation of planning documents after accession * Lessons learned * Main aspects to pay attention when preparing for negotiations * How to close the gap when no planning documents exist for certain topics? |
| 11:30 | 12:00 | Strategic Planning after screening: defining new needs | Mrs. Ivana Vojinović, General Director, Environment Department, Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro. TBC | * Main challenges for the screening * Was existing planning sufficient to prepare for the screening? * Were all targets identified? * Gaps identified during the screening process * Actions to close gaps and respond to the opening benchmarks * Role of the Ministry and the EC in structuring future process |
| 12:00 | 12:30 | Questions, discussion | All participants | * What lessons can be learnt? * Is your country planning process leading to satisfy screening/ negotiations needs? |
| 12:30 | 13:30 | **Lunch break** | | |
| 13:30 | 14:00 | EU environmental policy planning documents and impacts on national planning | Representative from the EU MS (TBD) | * The 7th Environment Action Programme * Thematic strategies, other EU policy documents * How EU planning documents influence national position /perspective? |
| 14:00 | 14:30 | Planning documents as part of EU requirements | Representative from the EU MS (TBD) | * Planning documents required under the environmental acquis * National Waste Management Plan, Biodegradable Waste Management Strategy, Waste Water Infrastructure Development Plan (reporting requirements), etc. |
| 14:30 | 15:00 | Traditional benchmark: Institutional Development Plan | Representative from the EU MS (TBD) | * Institutional issues related to approximation process * Institutional aspects as core issue for negotiations * What has to be included into institutional development plan * Lessons learnt |
| 15:00 | 15:45 | Discussion: planning of institutional capacities | All participants | * What has to be addressed? * Are there any standard solutions? * Is increase of number of people the only solution? |
| 15:45 | 16:00 | Summary and closure of the 1st day | Mr. Arunas Kundrotas |  |

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| **DAY 2** | | | | |
| **Start** | **Finish** | **Topic** | **Speaker** | **Sub topic/Content** |
| 09:00 | 09:15 | First day conclusions | Mr. Arunas Kundrotas |  |
| 09:15 | 09:45 | From general to specific: DSIPs and transitional periods. Public sector directive | Representative from the EU MS (TBD) | * DSIP for UWWT? * DSIP for Landfill? * Content of DSIP * Process for development |
| 09:45 | 10:15 | DSIP. Private sector directive | Representative from the EU MS (TBD) | * DSIP for IPPC ? * DSIP for VOC terminals? * Content of DSIP * Process for development |
| 10:15 | 10:45 | Discussion | All participants | * List of required DSIPs * Steps for DSIP development |
| 10:45 | 11:15 | ***Coffee Break*** | | |
| 11:15 | 11:45 | Investment and financing planning | Mr. Arunas Kundrotas | * IPA 2 planning. Country strategy * Sector wide approach * Investment and financing plan * Role of the national and local budget * How to secure funding (charges, tariffs, taxes) |
| 11:45 | 12:15 | Work in groups: developing meta plan | All participants | * Planning documents to support approximation process and assist for preparations for negotiations |
| 12:15 | 13:15 | **Lunch break** | | |
| 13:15 | 14:30 | Cont. work in groups |  |  |
| 14:30 | 15:00 | Presentations from working groups |  |  |
| 15:00 | 15:30 | Conclusions, agreeing on approach for development of national meta plans, end of the meeting | Mr. Arunas Kundrotas |  |