



Republic of Serbia  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# **Impact of ECRAN as regional capacity building platform vis-à-vis major environment and climate policy developments in the beneficiary countries**

## **Republic of Serbia**

Final ECRAN Steering Committee Meeting  
Brussels, September 28, 2016



This Project is funded by the European Union



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- The ECRAN Network has contributed to successful cooperation and networking among countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey in the area of environment and climate change through creation of a knowledge and best-practice sharing platform, building capacity for transposition and implementation of environmental legislation and supporting preparation for EU accession.
- Progress Monitoring exercise and legislative compliance check.
- Knowledge on EU accession negotiations has been improved and used to better preparation for the screening process, and it will be very useful for future preparation of negotiating position for Chapter 27.
- Strategic Planning and Investments have been improved, by providing most needed trainings on meta planning, accession negotiations and IPA programming.





## IED/ CHEMICALS

Within the framework of regional capacity building workshops on compliance with chemicals and industrial emissions legislation (especially REACH and CLP regulations and their linkages to IED):

- Lessons learned during the workshops contributed to further building of knowledge related to EU chemical management system and to raising the awareness of its complexity and potential challenges of implementation;
- Representatives of beneficiary countries under this project gained the opportunity to acquaint themselves with chemical management systems in the Region, to share the experience and knowledge acquired both in this field and in relation to the permitting system for industrial installations;
- The workshops provided both theoretical insight and practical exercise while the visits to factories enabled participants to more clearly understand the chemical management and integrated permitting systems in practice.



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## WASTE MANAGEMENT

The presentations and visits to waste management facilities enabled the participants to share the experience and best practices with an EU member country, to better understand different waste management systems, the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive, the business transactions between a public enterprise and private companies and the relationship between social economy and recycling, as well as to improve skills needed for waste management in their respective countries.



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During the mentioned period, Nature Working Group of the ECRAN project held a series of regional and sub-regional workshops/trainings and two expert missions in Serbia.

## **Contribution of ECRAN activities with a focus on strengthening institutional capacity in Serbia:**

- Capacity for further transposition and implementation of EU Habitats Directive in Serbia through transfer of experiences of EU member countries was strengthened;
- Capacity of relevant institutions in Serbia for understanding and applying the Appropriate Assessment procedure at national level, as well as for adopting a Decree on Appropriate Assessment by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, was strengthened and the linkages between the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment procedures were established (trainings were held in cooperation with Nature Working Group and Environmental Assessment Working Group of the ECRAN project);
- Regional platform for informal dialogue among beneficiaries in this field was created (regional cooperation strengthened).



## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

ECRAN activities related to ToT – Training of Trainers in the area of EIA and SEA were primarily focused on support to the mentioned areas in the region, and to better understanding of the SEA and EIA role and establishing connections with others sectors in the field of environment. The training was meant to ensure competent and qualified national trainers, i.e. persons working in the Group for Strategic Impact Assessment in MAEP.

As regards EIA/SEA subgroup of the ECRAN project, national workshops were organized for representatives of local governments – to familiarize local governments and provincial administration, as key stakeholders, with environmental impact and strategic environmental impact assessments.



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## AIR QUALITY

Regarding air protection, the Third Regional Air Quality Workgroup Training held in October 2015 (Ankara, Turkey) greatly contributed to strengthening the capacity for applying modeling techniques. For the purpose of building knowledge and capacity, MAEP representatives sent the experts' presentations on the implementation of modeling in air quality assessment and management to the interested institutions (Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering, University of Belgrade and the Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection). Besides MAEP representatives the training was also attended by the representatives of SEPA.



## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

Ten Screening workshops were organized for Water Quality Working Group to discuss river basin management plans and programs of measures for Drina river basin under the Water Framework Directive, one regional workshop on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and one study visit. Workshop outputs are: draft Drina River Basin Management Plan with a common program of measures (BiH, RS and Montenegro) and a Case Study.

Participation of MAEP representatives was very important in terms of future river basin management plans and the implementation of the program of measures for both Drina river and all future sub-basins, but mainly in terms of transposition and implementation of the WFD and other directives in the water sector, Groundwater Directive, the Directive on Environmental Quality Standards, the Nitrates Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, in the process of joining the EU.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION

Environmental inspectors at republic level actively participated in training-workshops organized by ECRAN/ECENA. During these workshops the inspectors of the Inspection Department for Environmental Protection gained important and useful experience and knowledge that will help in their future activities with the main task to learn how to enforce the EU environmental acquis.

We would especially emphasize the importance of the national training course for environmental inspectors held in January 2016 on the development-application of IRAM/easy tools, which created a connection between risk assessment and frequency of inspection control.

-consideration membership of IMPEL.



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# CLIMATE CHANGE

Main contribution:

- improvement of capacity and cooperation between stakeholders on national and regional level (related to Adaptation)
- Significant contribution for preparation ETS and MMR policy and preparation of relevant institutions for implementation.



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## **Subgroup 1 - Climate policy development and building climate awareness**

- Improving knowledge on EU policy in this area and possible ways to implement it at the national level.
- Major contribution – exploring the possibilities and using the model to develop a GHG emission reduction scenario.
- Besides regional workshops, two national workshops devoted to practical implementation of the model were held in Belgrade and attended by both MAEP representatives and the representatives of relevant state and provincial institutions (Ministry of Mining and Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Provincial Secretariats for Energy and Environmental Protection), scientific and academic sectors (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Vinča) and the business sector (EPS, CIS).

## **Subgroup 2 - National inventory systems and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation**

- Relevant for efficient implementation of the EU acquis at national level, but also for meeting the obligations under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Attended by representatives of the ministries in charge of environmental protection and energy, as well as by representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency developing the inventories.



### **Subgroup 3 - Emissions Trading System**

- Considering that Serbia, through a Twinning project, had already started to work on establishing the institutional and legislative framework and to prepare all stakeholders for the implementation of relevant provisions of the EU acquis, this was an opportunity for the Ministry representatives to share the knowledge and experience previously gained through project and provide guidance from the aspect of an EU candidate country.
- It was attended by representatives of the ministries in charge of environmental protection and energy, Environmental Protection Agency, public enterprises.

### **Subgroup 4 - Climate Adaptation**

- It was very important because the South East Europe was identified as a region highly vulnerable to climate change that could lead to extreme weather events and consequently threaten the water, energy and food supply.
- National analyses and past events speak in favour of a timely adaptation.
- Work within the subgroup greatly contributed to building knowledge and raising the general awareness of the possibilities to address this challenge.
- It was attended by the representatives of the ministry in charge of environment, Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia, scientific community and professional public, local governments and regional associations.



# Conclusions

- Exchange of knowledge and information both with EU countries and between countries in the region remains very important and shall not end with ECRAN
- Regional project platform serves well for the regional cooperation and hardly could be substituted with other mechanisms
- Regional project shall not compete with national TA activities, but rather contribute to better understanding of demands, actions to be taken using national IPA and bilateral support
- Value of the regional project shall not be assessed/ monitored the same way as for national projects. Regional cooperation platform is already value itself



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ☺**

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