



IN FOCUS

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 5th ECRAN Newsletter prepared by ECRAN Secretariat. The objective of this issue is to provide ECRAN stakeholders with the overview of events and topics covered by ECRAN and ECRAN related initiatives in the period October 2015 - March 2016.

5th ECRAN Newsletter brings to you the information about activities related to:

- ECRAN Environment component;
- ECRAN Climate Change component;
- ECRAN Horizontal component;
- ECRAN cooperation with other related initiatives;

In this issue:

- 4th Steering Committee Meeting
- Environment Component – Regional capacity building, National workshops, Expert mission, Annual Meetings;
- Climate Change Component – Regional capacity building; National Missions, Annual Meeting;
- Horizontal Component – Regional capacity building, Progress Monitoring 2015, Environment and Climate Forum;
- Cooperation with related networks and initiatives; Upcoming ECRAN events.

The ECRAN Team

STEERING COMMITTEE

ECRAN 4th Steering Committee meeting, (27 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium)

4th Steering Committee was attended by ECRAN Focal Points nominated by the beneficiary countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo* and Montenegro), the European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate) and ECRAN project team.

During the meeting, Steering Committee members:

- Provided with an overview of the ECRAN Project activities for the interim period;
- Participated in a discussion and endorsement of the 2015/2016 Work Plan for ECRAN activities;
- Provided information on the recent developments and reforms made in environmental and climate policy in the beneficiary countries.
- Received the latest updated on the cooperation with TAIEX within and beyond ECRAN and possibilities of creating closer links with the EU member states administrations.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Steering-Committee>

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



ECRAN 3rd Annual Meeting of Environmental Assessment Working Group (24 November 2015, Vienna, Austria)

3rd Annual Meeting of Environmental Assessment Working Group (EAWG) was held on 24 November 2015 in Vienna, Austria. The meeting provided platform to get a feedback on activities of the Environmental Assessment Working Group within ECRAN project implemented so far and plan activities for 2016.

Main outputs of the EAWG produced during 2015 were presented and discussed, along with the work plan for 2016, focusing on the organization of the SEA/EIA national Training of Trainers (ToT) modules, organization of the SEA/EIA local trainings, organisation of 3rd regional Training of Trainers module, and joint events planned with the Nature and Water Management Working Group.

The Annual Meeting resulted with the:

- Finalised Work plan for 2016 providing specification for all country level SEA/EIA trainings to be supported within the ToT scheme;
- Agreement on the topics and timing for implementation of the 3rd ToT module;
- Agreement on preparation of workshop in cooperation with Nature WG;
- Agreement on preparation of study visit to EU Member State.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/133>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting and 3rd Regional Workshop on Air Quality Modelling (20-21 October 2015, Ankara, Turkey)

2nd Annual Meeting of Air Quality Working Group was organised along with the 3rd Regional Workshop on Air Quality Modelling in Ankara, on 20-21 October 2015.

Prior to the workshop and the meeting, a questionnaire was distributed to the participants with the aim to assess the impact of the two workshops held so far on the Air Quality Directive (AQD) and the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD). The main objective of this questionnaire was to discuss the impact during the annual WG meeting in a structured way. Five countries presented the results of the questionnaires: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Serbia and Turkey. The results of the workshop have shown that the implementation of NECD is not yet completed. Improvements of emission inventories is very much needed, since regarding the Directive, they are most valuable.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/111>





ECRAN 3rd Annual Meeting and Regional Workshop Tools and guidance for assessing resource and environmental cost in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (29-31 March 2016, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

3rd Annual Meeting of Water Management Working Group (WG) and Regional Workshop "Tools and guidance for assessing resource and environmental cost in the WFD" was organized on 29-31 March 2016 in Skopje.

The overall objectives of the workshop was to develop a knowledge base on the economic dimensions of water management that will facilitate the overall assessment of the economic impact of the WFD and the economic assessment of policy options.

The participants have agreed on the future topics of discussion in the next workshops planned for 2016, dedicated to all three tasks of the Water Management Working Group.

- 1) Preparation of the Program of measures for Drina river basin;
- 2) Economic Analysis;
- 3) Integration of WFD and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD);



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/147>



ECRAN Regional Workshop on remediation of landfills in the context of the Regional Waste Management (30 September – 01 October 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro)

Regional Workshop on remediation of landfills in the context of the Regional Waste Management was held in Podgorica on 30 September – 01 October 2015.

The objective of this workshop was to share with the participants experience of Member States in implementation of Landfill of Waste Directive with focus on requirements of the Directive related to closure of landfills and dump sites.

The workshop included a site visit to landfill Livade, where participants were informed, how capitol of Montenegro, Podgorica, developed their waste management system, from remediation of old landfill establishing a new one including source and secondary separation, recycling yards, management of special waste streams.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/104>

ECRAN 5th Screening Workshop on WFD Programme of Measures in Drina River Basin (07-09 October 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro)

Regional 5th Screening Workshop on WFD Programme of Measures in Drina River Basin (DRB) was organised in Podgorica on 07-09 October 2015.

The objective of the workshop was to encourage and mobilize efforts towards WFD implementation as a key to reaching the good water status in the DRB through capacity building activities, and based on countries needs and priorities.

Following the discussions at the 4th Screening Workshop, agreement was reached for the definition of the Drina River Basin, for each of the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI). Specifically, the agreed visions were:

- Organic pollution;
- Flooding;
- Hydromorphological alterations;
- Nutrient pollution;
- Hazardous substances.

In addition to the highlighted topics, other issues were raised and discussed at the meeting, including the following:

- Obligations related with the sensitive areas;
- Approaches for identification of agglomerations;
- Cost of preparing the River Basin Management Plan;
- Responsibilities for dealing with flood risk mapping;
- The role of the implementation plans as strategic documents;

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/107>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT



ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (13-14 October 2015, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment for Tikvesh pilot site in FYR of Macedonia was organised on 13-14 October 2015 in Skopje as a second stage of the first workshop organised in September 2014.

The purpose of the 2nd stage of Appropriate Assessment workshops was main assessment and taking decision on imperative reasons of overriding public interests, the possible forms and the data requirements. The conclusion for the Tikvesh site was the recommendation of application of the national ecological network of Natura 2000, since it could be built prior to accession and can be fully functional.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/109>

ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (15-16 October 2015, Belgrade, Serbia)

Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment for Okanj Bara and Rusanda in Vojvodina, Serbia, was held on 15-16 October 2016 in Belgrade, as a follow up of the first workshop organised in September 2014.

The same conclusions were provided as for the pilot site in FYR of Macedonia, recommending the application of the national ecological network of Natura 2000, since it could be built prior to accession and can be fully functional.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/108>



ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (27-28 October 2015, Ankara, Turkey)

Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment for Lake Tuz pilot site in Turkey, was held on 27-28 October 2016 in Ankara, as a second stage of the first workshop organised in November 2014.

The objective of the series of sub-regional workshops of Appropriate Assessment (AA) is to provide ECRAN Beneficiaries with the complete picture of the AA from its very beginning (screening) up to the final decision on the acceptability of the project and to make them familiar also with the derogation procedure according to Art. 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/112>

ECRAN Regional Workshop on Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (27-29 October 2015, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Regional Workshop on MSFD Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status was held on 27-29 October 2016 in Skopje. The training was built on the results and conclusions from the 1st regional training delivered in May 2015 in cooperation with the Black Sea Commission. The focus of the 2nd regional training was placed on:

- The requirements of the Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status, within the frame of MSFD reporting;
- The implications on the Program of Measures to achieve the targets and indicators. The discussion will consider the requirements of the most interlinked EU Directives: WFD and MSFD.

Based on the inputs of the beneficiary countries – Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey, the cross national analysis of the current state of the affairs in the water and marine sector was updated, as appropriate.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/113>



ECRAN National Workshop on Cost Recovery and Tariff Settings (27-29 October 2015, Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

National Roundtable on Cost recovery and Cost Benefit Analysis in Waste Sector and Tariff Settings was organised on 27-29 October 2016 in Skopje. Supporting efforts for establishment of cost recovery mechanisms ECRAN Regional workshop on Cost recovery in waste sector were launched on a workshop on 18 - 19 March 2015 in Tirana, Albania.

The conclusion from the workshop was that implementation of the Tariff Methodology in the country would substantially improve cost recovery situation, while introduction of regional waste management systems supported with investment projects would help to establish more realistic tariff levels. Additional economic instruments could be considered after cost recovery system, in particular, when the new Methodology is enforced.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/122>

ECRAN Workshop on Trans Frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS), Waste Management and Landfilling of Waste (03-05 November 2015, Podgorica, Bar, Montenegro)

Joint Regional Workshop for Environmental Inspectorate and permit writers on shipment of waste, management and landfilling of waste was organised on 03-05 November 2015 in Podgorica, with site visits to Mozura regional landfill near Bar and Ulcinj, and waste separation and recycling plant Hemosan in Bar.

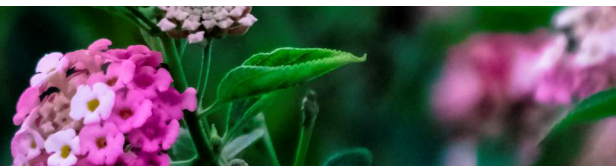
The training covered as subjects of TFS, Landfilling of waste and Electric and Electronic waste and it concentrated on a number of elements in EU waste management and waste management legislation. It also included General Waste management and the Waste Shipment Regulation, Landfills and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

The following results were achieved:

- Improved knowledge based on the Waste Framework Directive (WFD), the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR), Landfill Directive, WEEE Directive and legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects at key staff of the Environment Ministries and institutions on the subject;
- Strengthened regional network of SEE professionals and experts on Waste Legislation with its compliance and enforcement aspects.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/116>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT



ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Pilot Participatory Management Plan for the National Park Alps (10-12 November 2015, Tirana, Albania)

Sub-Regional Workshop on Pilot Participatory Management Plan for the National Park Alps was organised on 10-12 November 2015 in Tirana, with the aim of contribution to the process of the elaboration of a 'Participatory Management Plan' for the National Park Alps.

Based on the outcomes of the situation analysis workshop in November 2014, two consultation meetings regarding the zoning of the area that were held in July 2015 and in September 2015, and the agreed description of the zoning of the area, the management programmes and actions were elaborated during a planning workshop.

The following issues were presented:

- Basic requirements of Natura 2000 implementation and its relevance to Albanian Alps;
- EU requirements as regards the management of Natura 2000 sites;
- Examples and lessons learned from EU countries.

The workshop was attended by officers from the Ministry of Environment, numerous NGOs, private entrepreneurs from the Albanian Alps region, officials from the Municipality of Tropoja including the Deputy Mayor, and also a member of the National Parliament.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/114>

ECRAN National Workshop on linkages and differences among SEA/EIA/ IPPC (16-17 November 2015, and 19-20 November 2015, Tirana, Albania)

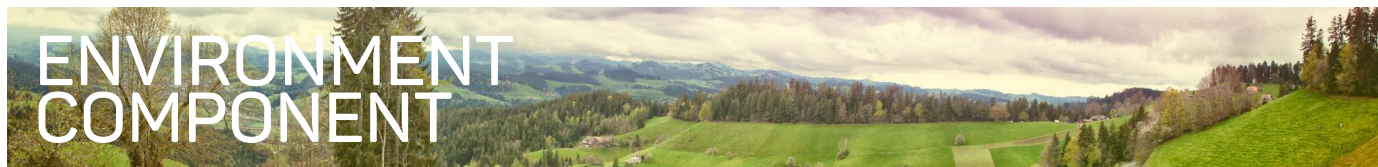
Two national workshops on linkages and differences among Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPP) were organised in Albania as part of Training of Trainees (ToT) programme, first one on 16-17 November 2015 and second on 19-20 November 2015, both in Tirana, Albania.

The first workshop was organised for staff of beneficiary institutions coming from South Albania, while the second workshop was organised for staff of beneficiary institutions coming from North Albania. Overall objective of the workshops was to introduce concept of SEA/EIA/IPPC (Environmental Permits) to the Regional Environmental Agencies, Regional Environmental Inspectorate, and Regional Governance staff.

The results of the workshops targeted the following issues:

- Increased understanding of SEA/EIA/IPPC principles and options for its practical application among participants;
- Increased training skills of trainers involved in the ToT;
- Comments received on the training materials to be considered in its further updates.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/125>
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/127>



ECRAN National Workshop on Cost Recovery and Tariff Settings (17-18 November 2015, Belgrade, Serbia)

National Roundtable on Cost Recovery in Waste and Water Sectors and Tariff Settings took place on 17 - 18 November 2015 in Belgrade as a National follow-up of Regional Introductory Workshop on Economic Analysis in Accordance with Waste Framework Directive that took place in October 2014 in Skopje. The overall objective was to provide practical knowledge on experience of the EU Member States and support establishment of cost-recovery mechanism in the country.

Next steps were determined at the workshop, and they cover:

- Providing organisational process for the development of the national waste management tariff methodology;
- Continuing developing national water tariff methodology taking into account recommendations provided by the WB project.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/123>





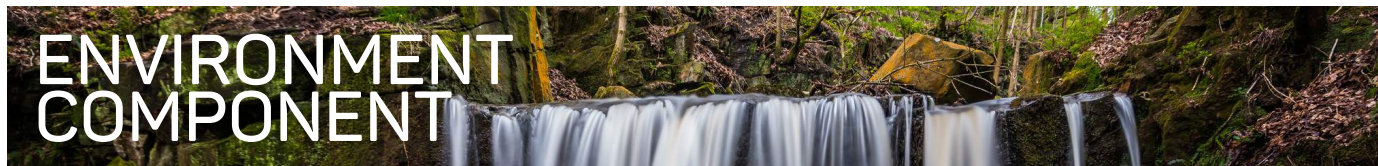
ECRAN 6th Screening Workshop on Water Framework Directive Programme of Measures – Environmental objectives and exemptions (17-19 November 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

6th Screening Workshop on Water Framework Directive Programme of Measures – Environmental objectives and exemptions was held in Sarajevo on 17-19 November 2015.

The workshop was designed to discuss the approach of defining environmental objectives and exemptions at the national level, and the coordination in the transboundary and river basin context. The participants discussed about the principles for applying exemptions in a transboundary context, the use of the exemptions in the development of a realistic Programme of Measures (PoM) within the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), and about the most recent developments in approaching affordability at EU level, with implications in the Drina RB.

National experts from the candidate countries FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey presented case studies providing information on the methodology, progress, problems and lessons learned from the preparatory process for RBMP and PoM in their own countries, while the experts from Romania and Slovenia shared EU MS experience.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/119>



ECRAN Regional Seminar on Protected Area Management and Development of Tourism Infrastructure (02-03 December 2015, Istanbul, Turkey)

Regional seminar on management of protected areas, with focus on harmonisation of their conservation objectives with those of Natura 2000, and their tourism infrastructure and management was held in Istanbul on 02-03 December 2015, and thus addressing two topics which were frequently mentioned by ECRAN beneficiary countries as a challenge Protected Areas (PAs) – their proper management, including harmonization with requirements of Natura 2000 network, and tourism management.

The first part of this seminar aimed at showing current approaches of practical management of protected areas and discussing both positive and negative examples at European scale, with a special focus on management plans, their implementation and the importance of stakeholder involvement. Important aspect is also harmonization of protection and management of national PAs and Natura 2000 sites, because without that, conservation objectives of these two conservation approaches can compromise each other.

In the second part of the seminar, current approaches to tourism management in protected areas were introduced, including the ways how to implement them in various natural, cultural as well as political conditions.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/130>



ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT



ECRAN Regional EID/Chemicals 4th Training Course (08-10 December 2015, Istanbul, Turkey)

Capacity Building Training on compliance with Chemicals Legislation with emphasis on REACH/CLP linked to IED was organised on 08-10 December 2015 in Istanbul, with a site visit to Unilever HPC Gebze Factory. Unilever Turkey is leading the "NAMET & RUB" (North Africa, Middle East, Turkey and Russia) Cluster specialized in product categories of home care, personal care, refreshment and food.

The workshop was 4th and the last in line of 4-module-chemical programme focusing on explaining the main elements and procedures under REACH and CLP Regulation, technical aspects of REACH and CLP, and the most important elements and methodologies.

The Training resulted in:

- Improved functioning of the environmental authorities and related authorities envisaged to be responsible for implementation of the REACH/CLP regulations and IED;
- Streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/132>

ECRAN 2nd Workshop on SEA Pilot in Albania (11-12 January 2016, Tirana, Albania)

2nd Workshop on SEA Pilot in Albania was organised on 11-12 January 2016 in Tirana, following the 1st scoping workshop which was organized in Tirana in September 2015.

The SEA for the General National Territorial Plan of Albania was selected as the 2nd SEA pilot to be supported by ECRAN. As agreed with the Ministry of Environment, the support has been focusing on provision of methodological guidance to the national SEA team. The aim of the 2nd workshop was to discuss the draft SEA Report and provide recommendations for final stages of SEA procedure. Similar to the first event, the meeting was facilitated by the National SEA Team leader with participation of other SEA team members, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, as well as experts from the National Agency of Territorial Planning, the governmental institution responsible for preparation of the General National Territorial Plan.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/139>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT



ECRAN Regional Workshop on Programmes of Measures (PoM) Drina River Basin (DRB) – Basic supplementary measures and their anticipated effects (15-17 February 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro)

Regional Workshop on Water Framework Directive (WFD): “Program of Measures Basic and Supplementary measures and their anticipated effects” was organised on 15-17 February 2016 in Podgorica.

The workshop’s main goal was to present the first draft of the DRB Management Plan and its PoM. The workshop provided the platform for discussion of options for selecting the basic and supplementary measures addressing the Sustainable Water Management Initiatives (SWMIs), and options for assessing the anticipated effects towards reaching the WFD objectives in DRB. Further, the approach for setting up scenarios for assessing the anticipated effects of the PoM and the latest updates in approaching cross cutting issues in the WFD implementation process at the EU level have been presented.

The results of the meeting targeted the following issues:

- Improving understanding of the topics, challenges and tasks, and related responsibilities along the establishment of the environmental objectives and the development of the Program of Measures, in line with WFD;

- Exchange of experiences and knowledge significantly improved;
- Defining key obstacles impeding the tasks implementation and related solutions identified;
- Active involvement of the participants through the preparation of the list of basic and supplementary measures, the establishment of environmental objectives, the identification of the appropriate assumptions, and selection of scenarios for assessing the anticipated effects of the PoM;
- Guidance documents related to the WG tasks discussed and clarified.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/138>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Regional Workshop on Implementation of Efficient Waste Management Systems and Tools (21-22 March 2016, Herstal, Liege, Belgium)

Regional Workshop on the 'Implementation of Efficient Waste Management Systems and Tools' was held on 21-22 March in Liege, Belgium. The workshop was organised in cooperation with Intradel, a public service in charge of management of waste for 72 municipalities in Belgium.

The workshop/study visit sought to increase understanding on the various waste management systems and tools implemented in the EU Member States, functioning of incinerators and recycling centres, comparison of the ways and methods of operations between public company and private companies, relations between social economy and recycling.

Apart from the Intradel Company, the workshop included visiting: UVELIA - Intradel Energy Recovery Unit; SOFIE - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment collection and recovery unit; and IBW - Sorting, shredding and transfer of different types of wastes unit.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/145>





ECRAN National Workshop on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment in the Industrial Sector (energy, construction of hydroelectric power plants and wind parks (21-22 March 2016, 23-24 March 2016, Pristina, Kosovo*)

Two national Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops were organised in Pristina, on 21-22 March and 23-24 March 2016 in Pristina. Workshops were organised with the aim to introduce concept of SEA/EIA/ Environmental Permits (EP) to Environmental Inspectorate, Ministry of Economic Development, Municipalities, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development, Energy Regulatory Office, and NGOs. All involved reached a unanimous decision that both workshops were well executed and received high praises from the participants with a clearly expressed wish for more similar workshops. ECRAN Participants and ECRAN experts especially appreciated the effort of national trainers to present real case examples from Kosovo* and openly discuss open issues they encounter in their daily SEA/EIA practice.

The overall conclusion of the workshops was that in Kosovo* there is an obvious need for a delivery of both general and specific trainings/workshops for all relevant actors/stakeholders involved in SEA/EIA implementation processes.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/114>

ECRAN National Roundtable on Cost Recovery and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) in Waste Sector (30-31 March 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

National Roundtable on Cost recovery and CBA in Waste Sector took place on 30 – 31 March 2016 in Sarajevo. Agenda of the roundtable covered during Waste framework Directive, Landfills Directive, Packaging and packaging waste Directive and the relevant implementing national legislation. Overall objective of the workshop was to provide practical knowledge on experience of the EU Member States and support establishment of cost-recovery mechanism in the country.

Most important next steps were agreed on the workshop and they include:

- Developing and approving national waste management strategy/ plan including clear description of the regional system and step-wise plan for establishment;
- Defining possibilities to blend loans and grant resources to reduce pressure on cost recovery system and make it affordable;
- Organising process for the development of the national waste management tariff methodology and discussion with municipalities regarding need of cost recovery system.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/149>



ECRAN 3rd Annual Meeting of Climate Component (21 January 2016, Istanbul, Turkey)

The 3rd Annual Meeting of Climate Component was organised in Istanbul on 21 January 2016, with the participation of the representatives of the beneficiary countries and the European Commission.

The issues addressed at the meeting were the following:

- Implications of the EU policy and legislation for the EU Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates;
- From Paris onwards: Implications of the global climate agreement in 2015;
- Lessons learnt from the ECRAN climate activities in the period 2013 - 2015;
- Key points for an ECRAN CLIMA work follow up.

The ECRAN Climate Concept Note was prepared on the basis of discussions which have taken place during the various ECRAN events, or in direct contact with the ECRAN Secretariat and the European Commission, and it was sent to the beneficiaries prior to the meeting.

The activities implemented since the 2nd Annual Meeting were acknowledged by the participants as successful and met their expectations and needs. Participants also accepted the work plan for the remaining period.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/137>

ECRAN Regional Training Seminar on Assessment of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories in the Systems for GHG Inventories (and projections) (14-16 October 2015, Zagreb, Croatia)

Regional Training Seminar on Assessment of GHG Inventories in the Systems for GHG Inventories (and projections) was held on 14-16 October 2015 in Zagreb, with the overall objective to gradually improve and increase technical knowledge and institutional and procedural capacities of the ECRAN countries to prepare submissions of the National Inventory Reports according to the requirements of the MMR.

The participants were provided homework to clarify the required steps and elements of a future MMR system with the reference to material on the online tool for ECRAN National System.

The following results were achieved in this training:

- Increased understanding of requirements for improving national systems for GHG estimations';
- Identified list of priorities for our country's short and long-term GHG inventory';
- Country specific plan has been elaborated for improving the national system for GHG estimations';
- The training enhanced the understanding of the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation in connection with reporting on GHG inventories.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/98>

CLIMATE

ECRAN Advanced Technical Training Programme on verification in the scope of Emission Trading System (ETS)(03-04 November 2015, Belgrade, Serbia)

Advanced ETS training mission to Serbia on the EU Verification Regulation was held on 03-04 November 2015 in Pancevo. The advanced training programme aimed to provide the government authorities in Serbia with an improved technical understanding of the EU requirements on monitoring, reporting and verification. Specifically to obtain hands-on understanding of reporting and verification in a refinery and in the petrochemical industry.

The training provided in-depth insights in the Monitoring and Reporting regulation and in verification, specifically in understanding the road from Monitoring Plan to a validated annual emission report.

The training was held at the sites of two future Serbian ETS operators: the NIS refinery and HIP-Petrohemija. These companies were selected since they represent more complicated activities in terms of Greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting and consequently validation of their Monitoring Plan and verification of their annual emissions report are regarded as some of the more complex tasks for the Ministry staff.

This technical training was mainly directed towards the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Agricultural Protection in Serbia. Staff from the NIS refinery and HIP-Petrohemija participated by hosting parts of the training and sharing their insights on monitoring, reporting and verification from an operator perspective.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/115>

CLIMATE

ECRAN EU – Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates meeting on preparations for Conference of Parties (COP) 21 (19 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium)

EU – Candidate Countries and Potential Candidates meeting on preparations for COP 21 was organised on 19 November 2015 in Brussels.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on preparations for the Paris Climate Conference, identify opportunities for joint messaging during the Paris Conference as well as to prepare for the implementation of the new agreement.

The achieved results were:

- Participants were provided with the stocktake of the preparations for Paris, as well as on submitted INDCs;
- Participants received analytical support to prepare for the Paris COP.

In the run up to the COP 21, the event discussed the key elements that are part of the so called Paris Agreement including:

- Transparency and global stocktake;
- Adaptation;
- Loss and damage;
- Finance and markets;
- Legal issues.

The meeting was jointly organised with the other Clima regional initiatives, Clima East and Clima South.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/126>



ECRAN Regional Training on assessment of GHG Inventories in Waste (24-25 November 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Regional Training on assessment of GHG Inventories in Waste was organised in Sarajevo on 24-25 November 2016. The aim of this training seminar was to gradually improve and increase technical knowledge and institutional and procedural capacities of the ECRAN countries in order to prepare submissions of the National Inventory Reports according to the requirements of the MMR.

The following results were confirmed to have been achieved:

- Quality control check of key categories with a focus on completeness and accuracy;
- Identification of activity data gaps and providing recommendations and guidance for gap filling;
- Improved skills in selecting emission factors and other calculation parameters in waste;
- Setting priorities for country-specific short and long-term GHG inventory improvements.

Preparations for implementation of the CRF training workshop on Agriculture started in March 2016.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/134>

EU Side Event "Climate Cooperation between the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey" Conference of Parties (COP) 21 (05 December 2015, Paris, France)

ECRAN EU Side Event "Climate Cooperation between the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey" COP 21 was held on 05 December 2015 in Paris, back to back with the Paris Climate Conference that was held from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

The event presented the results of the ongoing ECRAN programme aimed at building capacity on and promoting convergence with the EU climate policies and the EU Climate acquis in the seven EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Representatives from Albania, Montenegro and Serbia participated the meeting.

The side event also featured the result of the parallel SLED project which modelled decarbonisation pathways for several countries of the region in the electricity and residential building sector and which results were also used for the INDC development work by ECRAN.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/136>



ECRAN Regional STEP C Adaptation Workshop (18-19 February 2016, Ankara, Turkey)

Regional Adaptation STEP C Workshop was organised on 18-19 February 2016 in Ankara, following Adaptations STEP A and STEP B workshops that were held from January to November 2015 and where the use of the Adaptation Support Tool (AST) tool was promoted. The purpose of the workshop was to create in depth understanding among the audience on how to apply the AST at the country level for prioritisation, on the adaptation options identified under the previous workshop. It was an 'interactive presentation', meaning that information was presented mixed with interaction.

In the previous workshop (November 2015, Zagreb) the functioning of the Adaptation Preparedness Scoreboard was presented. In the current workshop the focus was on explaining the part of the Scoreboard, and its links to the AST, that is dedicated to assessing adaptation options.

The Achieved results were as follows:

- Strengthened knowledge of workshop participants regarding best practices in assessing climate change adaptation options;
- Enhanced understanding of workshop participants about their own country's climate change adaptation priorities towards developing a national climate adaptation strategy and action planning;
- A country-by-country first vision on the implementation of prioritised climate change adaptation options.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/140>



ECRAN Regional Training Seminar, part 2, on National Systems for GHG Inventories (and projections) (08-09 March 2016, Tirana, Albania)

2nd Regional Training Seminar on National Systems for GHG Inventories and projections was held on 08-09 March 2016 in Tirana where the results of the homework tasks were presented and the online tool for ECRAN National System was introduced.

The tools for the national systems were presented and an outline was given of the documents associated with each pre-defined result as per homework:

- Result 1: Functioning Institutional Arrangements;
- Result 2: A built and trained team to fill the identified institutional arrangements;
- Result 3: Developed data supply system;
- Result 4: Developed qualitative and effective GHG inventory time series for year X to Y – 2;
- Result 5: Increased awareness on advantages and opportunities for the country of a strong inventory framework.

Country pages have been made, where details of proposed tasks, indicators and assumptions associated with required results have now gradually been built up by the countries. The final training in June, will need to result in concrete but detailed project fiches on Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) implementation in the countries.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/141>

ECRAN National Workshop on setting up a framework for ETS (21-22 March 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

National Workshop on setting up a framework for ETS was organised in Sarajevo on 21-22 March 2016.

This technical mission aimed to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in setting up the legal and organisational framework for implementation of emissions trading. Specifically, this advanced training programme aimed to provide the future ETS competent authorities with the insights on the practical organisation aspects of ETS implementation, building on the wealth of experience that EU Member States have gained in this matter.

The results of the meeting targeted the following issues:

- Improved understanding of the legal and institutional framework for ETS implementation, with emphasis on identifying a roadmap towards implementation;
- Practical insight in the set-up of a Competent Authority for ETS, including the organisational choices to be made and lessons learned in EU Member States;
- Better understanding of the required human and institutional resources for the implementation of the EU ETS Directive and its implementing regulations;
- Insights in the lessons learned, the risks involved and the bottlenecks of ETS implementation.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/146>

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES



ECRAN 3rd Annual Meeting of ECENA (17 March 2016, Vienna, Austria)

The 3rd and final annual meeting of ECENA has been organised in Vienna on 17 March 2016. The meeting was the opportunity for the project team to present the activities implemented in 2015 and those planned for implementation until October 2016. The meeting resulted with the approval of the work plan for 2016 and number of follow up proposals from the beneficiary countries that will be reflected in ECRAN Publication and annual meeting materials.

The following issues were addressed in this meeting:

- Appropriateness of planned actions under the ECRAN ECENA Component and need for improvements and/or adjustments;
- Maximising benefits and opportunities to be generated through the ECRAN/ECENA Component: follow up actions and coordination with other initiatives;
- Agreement on proposed actions in the ECRAN/ECENA 2016 Work plan;
- Potential post 2016 activities.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/143>

ECRAN 2nd Annual Meeting Environment and Climate Forum (ECF) (30 March – 01 April 2016, Brussels, Belgium)

2nd Annual Meeting of ECRAN ECF was organised on 30 March – 01 April 2016 in Brussels. Annual Meeting was built on the outcomes of all ECF activities. The meeting also presented the opportunity for the civil society to get engaged into dialogue with representatives of the European Commission, as well as with Brussels based institutions and organisations.

Activities implemented in the reporting period focused on in-country activities of ECF NGOs, dissemination of information and consultation on the EU enlargement issues and cases. Preparatory works started for putting together NGO consolidated input into the 2016 Progress Reports. Common statement on the external dimensions of the EU energy policy was coordinated and prepared by ECF and delivered during public hearing of European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels on March 31, 2016.

The following results were achieved at the meeting:

- Strengthened the knowledge base of ECF NGOs on EU institutions, the EU climate change and environment policies and legislation, policy processes and in-depth understanding of upcoming opportunities and challenges;
- Provided In-depth understanding of possibilities and potential challenges for non-state actors involvement, how to engage civil society and public to participate and monitor progress in the EU enlargement process;
- Provided feedback of the EC on the process, issues and cases identified as challenging by the NGOs in the accession process;

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/150>

HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES

ECRAN Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Nature protection 2nd Workshop (30 September – 02 October 2015, Bitola, Pelister National Park, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

2nd regional training on Nature Inspection was organised in Bitola on 30 September – 02 October 2015 in Bitola, with a site visit to Pelister National Park.

The training covered as subjects of nature site management planning, illegal killing of birds, CITES, and nature protection in relation to permitting and inspection of industrial installations. The site visit was carried out with guiding questions on nature site management planning.

The following results were achieved at the workshop:

- Improved knowledge base and understanding of the required legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects in cross border nature protection areas at key staff of the inspection bodies;
- Strengthened regional network of South East Europe (SEE) professionals and experts in nature protection areas with its compliance and enforcement aspects;
- Improved knowledge of a number of related and cross-cutting issues.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/102>





ECRAN Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Methodological Development – Application of Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM)/easyTools (06-07 October 2015, Zagreb, Croatia)

Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation – Methodological Development – Application of IIRAM/easy Tools was held in Zagreb on 06-07 October 2015. General objective of the workshop was to increase capacity in SEE in the field of planning of inspections with specific reference to the use of the IRAM/Easy Tools methodology.

During the course explanations has been given on the IRAM and Easy tools guidance books with sharing of information on the implementation in beneficiary countries with specific experience in Croatia. The course has a strong practical element in which off-line computer applications and web based applications has been illustrated and brought into practice.

Results achieved in the study visit include:

- improved functioning of environmental inspection and enforcement organizations;
- streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

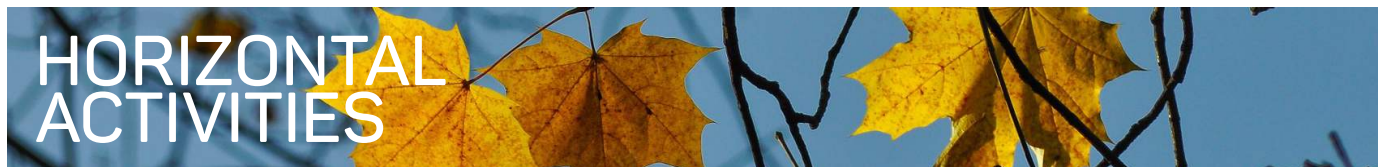
For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/105>

ECRAN 2nd Regional training on compliance with chemicals legislation, with emphasis on REACH/CLP linked to Industrial Emission Directive (IED) (14-15 October 2015, Izmir, Turkey)

Regional Workshop on REACH/CLP compliance was organised on 14-15 October 2015 in Izmir, with a site visit to the Kansai Altan Paint Producing Factory in Izmir. Kansai AltanBoyaSanayi A.Ş. is a paint company with an annual production capacity of 80 thousand tons, situated on a 100 thousand m² land in Izmir. It manufactures 78% of its polymer requirement in its own polymer production facility which is located in the same site and has 17.5 thousand tons of production capacity per year.

Within the scope of regional cooperation and assistance in transposition and implementation of EU environmental legislation, the specific objective of the assignment was to provide assistance in strengthening the institutions and building capacity in complying with the EC Chemicals legislation. Emphasis was placed on the enforcement aspects of the REACH and CLP Regulations, interlinked amongst other with the IED as these are covering major chapters in chemicals legislation and industrial pollution control.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/110>



ECRAN National capacity building on the Integrated Risk Assessment Method (IRAM)/easy Tools (12-13 November, Pristina, Kosovo*)

National capacity building on the IRAM/easy Tools was held on 12-13 November 2015 in Pristina, with the aim to increase capacity in the country in the field of planning of inspections with specific reference to the use of the IRAM/Easy Tools methodology.

Results achieved in the study visit include:

- improved functioning of environmental inspection and enforcement organizations;
- streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

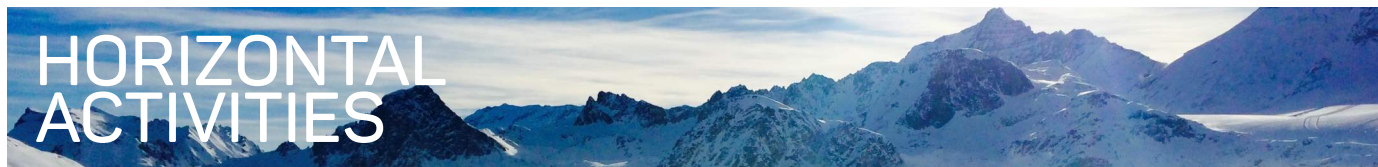
For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/117>

ECRAN Regional Common Inspection Training No 5 with IPPC Industry – Metal Processing (17-19 November 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

5th Regional Training on compliance with environmental legislation with site visit to IPPC installation was organised in Sarajevo on 17-19 November 2015, with a site visit to ArcelorMittal factory in Zenica that produces around 220,000 tons of steel per year.

The training covered inspection management using the IRAM tool as used in Croatia, implementation of IPPC/IED with special attention for monitoring and reporting and SEVESO (consequence analysis and internal/external emergency plans). For SEVESO special presentation was given on the approach in Turkey. The training was attended by inspectors and permit writers from all ECRAN beneficiary countries.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/131>



ECRAN National Training on IRAM/easyTools (14-15 January 2016, Belgrade, Serbia)

National Training on IRAM/easyTools was held on 14-15 January 2016 in Belgrade, as one in line of national trainings foreseen to be organised in each ECRAN beneficiary country.

Specific objective of the training was to increase capacity in Serbia in the field of planning of inspections with specific reference to the use of the IRAM/Easy Tools methodology.

The following results were achieved:

- improved functioning of environmental inspection and enforcement organizations;
- streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/135>



HORIZONTAL ACTIVITIES

ECRAN Regional Training on Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS) Study Tour Antwerp Harbour Belgium, with visit to Rotterdam Harbour (08-10 March 2016, Antwerp, Belgium/Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

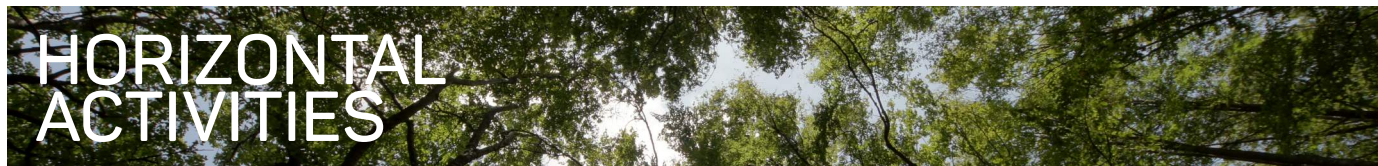
ECRAN Multi country Workshop on compliance with the legislation on TFS was organised on 08-10 March 2016 in Antwerp, with site visits to Antwerp Harbour in Belgium and Rotterdam Harbour in the Netherlands.

Training and study visit have covered all aspects of EU legislation and TFS enforcement, with particular emphasis to:

- Existing rules concerning transboundary movements of waste;
- The role of customs, federal and maritime police and prosecutors in Belgium with overview of the present situation ;
- Visit and demonstration of field inspection activities at the port of Antwerp, terminal handling export of second hand vehicles to West Africa;
- Visit at the port of Antwerp to the dedicated area for unloading and functionality testing of electrical equipment;
- Evaluation and discussion of the observations in the port of Antwerp;
- Visit to the port of Rotterdam under guidance of the customs and environmental inspectorate with introduction of the activities and scanning of containers;
- Risk analysis and priority setting and selection of containers to be selected for inspection.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/142>





ECRAN National Capacity Building on IRAM/easy Tools (23-24 March 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

National Capacity Building on IRAM/easy Tools in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on 23-24 March 2016 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as last in line of national trainings on the IRAM and Easy tools guidance.

Results achieved in the study visit include:

- improved functioning of environmental inspection and enforcement organizations;
- streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/148>

PROGRESS MONITORING 2015 – Reporting Year No.19

The purpose of the Progress Monitoring (PM) in preparation for accession is to provide an updated, comprehensive overview of the current situation in the beneficiary countries concerning the status of transposition and implementation of the environment and climate acquis as well as to identify the progress achieved on yearly basis in each of the beneficiary countries.

The capacity of the beneficiaries' institutions in performing the self-assessment within PM has been increased over the years through close guidance and support from the project team and active participation in the PM process. Extensive efforts have been made to facilitate that the outputs of PM work are utilised in the setting of the countries' approximation strategies, planning resources and defining priorities within the approximation process.

The activities in the reporting period were focused on the following:

- Liaising with the beneficiaries on the start-up meetings and trainings for selected countries;
- Coordinating the progress monitoring activity on beneficiary level and assisting the beneficiaries on progress monitoring methodology;
- Preparation and delivery of draft Progress Monitoring Reports based on the ToCs and IQs provided by the beneficiaries;
- Preparation and delivery of final Progress Monitoring Reports for all beneficiary countries.



EnviCrimeNet Annual General Meeting (21-22 October 2015, EXPO Milano, Italy)

EnviCrimeNet Annual General Meeting was held on 21-22 October 2015 at EXPO in Milan, Italy.

The conference was organised by the EU Network of environmental practitioners (IMPEL), the EU Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE), and EnviCrimeNet. The main aim of the conference was to tackle challenges in implementing environmental legislation, being the priority theme of the 7th Environment Action Programme of the European Union.

The conference focused in particular on the practical implementation challenges in two key areas:

- Lack of resources (human and financial);
- Weak enforcement, insufficient penalties and sanctions, as well as on the tolls for improving the links in the compliance chain and improve communication between the four key actors: practitioners (permitters and inspectors), police, prosecutors, and judges.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:
www.envicrimenet.com

European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) General Assembly (01-02 December 2015, Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

14th IMPEL General Assembly was held on 01-02 December 2015 in Luxembourg, hosted by the Luxembourg Presidency of the European Council. In addition to the IMPEL national contact points, the meeting was attended by IMPEL's partners, including the Themis Network, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), and the Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN).

The General Assembly discussed IMPEL's work on the definition of implementation challenges, and the outcomes of a meeting of national coordinators on how to improve IMPEL's governance and work effectiveness. The IMPEL Board reported on its engagement with members and partners, approved the 2015 projects, and agreed on a work plan and accompanying budget for 2016. Finally, IMPEL's membership, membership fees, statutes and financial standing were also discussed.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.impel.eu/>

ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES



H2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting and Capacity Building Group meeting (23-25 February 2016, Brussels, Belgium)

Horizon 2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting and Capacity Building Group Meeting were held on 23-25 February 2016 in Brussels, with a site visit to UMICORE recycling plant in Antwerp.

General objective of the meeting was to strengthen the comprehensiveness, implementation and enforcement of environmental policy and legislation, to enhance environmental mainstreaming at national level into other policies and to support better environmental governance, with a view to reducing and preventing marine pollution in order to achieve good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea.

Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (2015-2020) aims at tackling by 2020 the sources of pollution that are said to account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution. The H2020 Initiative supports and complements the implementation of the commitments under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention).

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.h2020.net/>

EXPERT MISSIONS

Expert mission on Natura 2000 Network Assessment (16-18 November 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro)

Expert mission on Natura 2000 Network Assessment in Montenegro was organised on 16-18 November 2015 in Podgorica, as a 3rd in line missions, after missions organised in October 2014 and March 2015. The mission was organised with the aim to discuss with the beneficiary and relevant stakeholders rightness of the assessment and respective recommendations suggested.

Achieved results at the mission were as follows:

- Adopted amendment of the draft assessment based on additional information gathered during discussions;
- Finalization of recommendations to the beneficiary and relevant stakeholders regarding effective Natura 2000 designation in Montenegro.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/128>



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