

Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN)

Waste Management
Working Group -
Workplan 2015

January 2015

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ABREVIATIONS

AM	Annual Meeting
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG	Directorate General
EC	European Commission
ECENA	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession
ECRAN	Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessments
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
IPA	Pre-accession Assistance
IFI	International Financing Institutions
IQ	Implementation Questionnaires
MS	Member State
NC	National Coordinators
NFP	National Focal Point
SEE	South Eastern Europe
SPI WG	Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument
TFS	Trans frontier Shipment of Waste
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
ToC	Tables of Concordance
ToR	Terms of Reference
WFD	Waste Framework Directive
WG	Working Group
WM WG	Waste Management Working Group



ECRAN – Waste Management Working Group (Activity 2.6)**Introduction**

This document provides a Work Plan of activities to be implemented under ECRAN Waste Management Working Group (WM WG) in the period January – December 2015. The Work Plan was developed in line with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, taking into consideration the outputs of the implemented activities during 2014, and in accordance with the specific objectives of the WM WG.

The ECRAN WM WG Work Plan 2015 is subject to discussion and endorsement of the WG members at the 2nd Annual meeting that is organised on 18 March 2015 in Tirana, Albania. The Work Plan is subject to revision in order to reflect the suggestions of the beneficiaries and the European Commission. It should be noted that the dates and venues of planned capacity building activities are tentative and might be subject to changes depending on the availability of experts and beneficiaries.

As agreed at the 1st Annual meeting, the activities of WM WG are implemented in synergy with the ECRAN Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group (SPI WG). It is expected that the outcomes of the activities are to be used in development of various national planning documents including technical assistance projects planned under IPA 2 Regulation.

The National Coordinators are invited to discuss, propose suggestions and endorse the Work Plan.

Taking into account the above, ECRAN WM WG plans the implementation of the following activities in the period January – December 2015:

- Monitoring of the WP implementation, dissemination of outputs and organisation of the WMWG 3rd Annual Meeting;
- At the request of the beneficiary countries or EC preparation of strategic review of the national waste management plans/strategies in line with the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and relevant EC guidance documents;
- Regional training on capacity building in implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and OECD Decision C(2001)107/ concerning the control of transboundary movement of wastes destined for recovery operations;
- Regional training on capacity building for costs recovery mechanisms in waste sectors (implemented in synergy with the WG Strategic Planning and Investments);
- Study visit of waste management competent authorities from ECRAN beneficiaries to Wallonia Intradel, Belgium;
- Regional training on strengthening capacities for remediation of the landfills in the context of the regional waste management.

It should be noted that the European Commission, DG ENV supported a regional project entitled “Assessment of the Waste Management Situation in SEE and Perspectives for the Sector including options for Regional Co-operation on WEEE recycling”. The new regional project is covering same countries as ECRAN with the exception of Croatia and Turkey. The project should be implemented in synergy with the activities of the WMWG in order to create synergies where relevant and avoid potential overlaps. The main objectives of the new regional project are:



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- To analyse the existing waste management situation in 6 SEE countries;
- To check the compliance of national legislation with EC waste legislation (ToCs for Serbia, Montenegro & former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- To propose a set of recommendations to improve the waste management situation (in particular to increase collection & recycling rates);
- To present the project results to the stakeholders in organizing National & Regional Workshops;
- Practical recommendations on improving implementation of the EC waste acquis.

The national coordinators are invited to discuss cooperation among the two regional projects and provide suggestions for synergies.

Task 2.6.1: Organisation of Annual Working Group meeting

The implementation of the ECRAN WGs Work Plans is continuously monitored against the objectives and results to be achieved. The Annual meetings are forum where the National Coordinators discuss the outputs and results achieved, provide information on national evolving needs and priorities and agree on the future activities to be implemented taking regional and multi-beneficiary approach.

The main objectives of the Annual meetings are the following:

- bring together the National Coordinators of all project beneficiary countries;
- discuss the achieved results and impact of implemented activities
- discuss the needs of particular countries and the ways to address them through the activities of ECRAN project in regional context
- discuss and adopt work plans and other relevant documents
- exchanging information among all countries on progress in the implementation of the work plan
- discussing bottle-necks when relevant and define mitigation measures.

Second Annual meeting of WM WG is organised in Tirana, Albania on 29 January 2014 back to back with Annual meeting of SPI WG. The project team responsible for organisation of Annual meeting has developed the following documents, subject to discussion and endorsement:

- Annual Report on implementation of the Work Plan 2014;
- Proposal for Work Plan 2015.

Next Annual meeting of national coordinators is envisaged for January 2015 with the aim to present the activities implemented and results achieved as well as to set the work plan for the following year.

Outputs to be achieved in 2015:

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	18 March 2015 (Tirana, Albania)	2 nd Annual meeting of NCs organized, endorsed Report on implementation of the Work Plan 2014 and adopted Work Plan 2015, conclusions of the 2 nd Annual meeting



Task 2.6.2: National Waste Management Plans/Strategies review in line with the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and IPA 2 Regulation

The implementation of the task 2.6.2 Strategic review of the national waste management plans/strategies in line with the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and relevant EC guidance documents, is proposed to continue in 2015. As noted in the report on implementation of the WP 2014, two review reports have been developed (Montenegro¹ and Kosovo^{2 *}) and endorsed by the national authorities.

The Criteria for review of National Waste management plans/strategies review, was prepared beginning of 2014³ and applied in reviewing the first two waste management plans. The criteria are used to determine the quality of a waste-management plan in the light of the requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

The WMWG project team does not foresee any changes or amendments of the criteria in 2015.

The implementation of this task is dependent on the interest of the beneficiaries to review the national waste management plans/strategies.

The National Coordinators are invited to discuss the need and interest for further reviews of national waste management plans. In case there is no interest for further review of national waste management plans, the Annual Meeting should discuss potential amendment of task 2.6.2 in line with the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries.

Task 2.6.3: Regional training on capacity building in implementation of Regulation (EC 1013/2006) on Shipment of Waste, Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal and OECD decision concerning the control of transboundary movement of waste destined for recovery operations

Background information

Council and Parliament Regulation 1013/2006/EC establishes a system for controlling the movement of waste, to implement the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal, and the OECD Council Decision C(2001)107/Final concerning the revision of Decision C(92)39/Final on the control of transboundary movements of wastes destined for recovery operations (OECD Decision). It sets up separate regimes governing shipments within the EU, imports to and exports from the EU, and transit shipments through the EU. Different requirements are laid down depending on the destination of the waste shipment, on whether the waste is destined for recovery or disposal, and, in the case of shipments for recovery, whether the waste is listed in Annexes III, IIIA or IIIB.

The aim of Regulation 1013/2006 is to reinforce, simplify and make specific the existing procedures for controlling waste shipments. It thus reduces the risk of waste shipments not being controlled and seeks to incorporate into EU legislation the amendments to the lists of waste annexed to the Basel Convention as well as the revision adopted by the OECD in 2001. Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 comprises two main waste shipment control procedures:

¹ Reviewing of draft National Waste Management Strategy Policy Paper (MWMS) and draft Waste Management Plan 2014 – 2020 (MWMP) of Montenegro

² Reviewing of Strategy on waste management 2013-2022 and Plan on waste management (PRKWM) 2013-2017 – Kosovo*

³ 3, In line with the Methodological guidance note, issued by European Commission, Directorate-General Environment 2012"Preparing the Waste Management Plans



- the procedure for prior written notification and consent — the procedure applicable to all shipments of waste destined for disposal, as well as to the shipments for recovery of hazardous and non-hazardous waste not listed in Annexes III, IIIA or IIIB of the Regulation;
- the procedure in which shipments are accompanied by certain information, applicable to certain non-hazardous waste destined for recovery that exceed 20 kg in weight, as well as to waste under 25 kg sent for laboratory analysis.

It is envisaged in the notification procedure that the notification shall be submitted by the notifier only to the competent authority of dispatch, which, in turn, is responsible for passing it on to the competent authority of destination and transit. The consent of the competent authority is to be given (with or without conditions) or objections expressed within 30 days. Any changes involving the main aspects of the shipment (quantity, itinerary, etc.) must be the subject of a new notification, with the exception of cases where all the competent authorities grant the notifier an exemption from this obligation.

The Regulation stipulates that interim recovery and disposal facilities are bound by the same obligations as final recovery and disposal facilities. Thus, the authorisation of a shipment involving interim operations can only be sanctioned if the shipment of the waste in question has also been authorised.

In the event that a shipment cannot be completed (including recovery or disposal), the notifier must take the waste back, normally at their own expense. This shall apply to all types of waste, subject to certain exceptions: if there is another way of recovering or disposing of this waste or if the waste has been irretrievably mixed with other types of waste. In the case of an illicit shipment, the notifier or the consignee must, to the extent that responsibility for the illegal shipment is attributable to one or other of them, take back, recover or dispose of the waste.

The EU waste shipment regulations implement the Basel Convention. However, in addition to the provisions of the Basel Convention, these regulations:

- prohibit exports of waste for disposal except to other Member States or EFTA states that are parties to the Basel Convention;
- implement Decision III/1 of the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties, by prohibiting the export of Annex V wastes for recovery to countries to which the OECD Decision not apply;
- cover all wastes, not simply hazardous wastes;
- cover shipments between Member States, imports into and exports out of the European Union from and to third states;
- require a system for the supervision and control of waste shipments within each Member State.

Identified needs in the beneficiary countries

The following specific needs have been identified in the beneficiary countries that need to be tackled with the regional training programme:

- Strengthening the capacities of the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of the Regulation, responsible for informing or advising or making enquiries, and specific customs offices of entry into and exit from the EU;
- Strengthening the capacities in establishment of the overall procedural framework as regarding the shipments and covering the requirements for written notification and consent, contracts



between the notifier and the consignee, information to the public, competent authorities, parties involved and needed for procedural reasons, as well as the financial guarantees or equivalent insurance covering the costs of transport, costs of recovery or disposal and any necessary interim operation and the costs of storage for 90 days;

- Ensuring there are the necessary facilities and appropriate means, such as Internet, making the information on notifications publicly available;
- Strengthening the capacities for establishing a system for the supervision and control, inspections and spot checks of shipments of waste within the national jurisdiction, coherent with the system established under the Regulation and establish rules on penalties, applicable for infringements of the provisions of the Regulation;
- Ensuring that any bilateral agreements and arrangements for the import of waste for recovery are concluded in accordance with specified conditions;
- Ensuring the appropriate additional measure related to the implementation of the Regulation and adopted by the Commission (such as the calculating method for the financial guarantee, guidelines for application and co-operation, technical and organisational requirements as well as any further guidance and clarifications) are followed, implemented and passed to the interested parties.

Objectives of the training

General objective

Improve the capacities to carry out the implementing obligations of the Waste Shipment Regulation through exchange of experience with EU member states administrations and Basel Convention Secretariat

Specific objectives

Strengthening the capacities of the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of the Regulation, responsible for informing or advising or making enquiries, and specific customs offices of entry into and exit from the EU;

Strengthening the capacities in establishment of the overall procedural framework as regarding the shipments and covering the requirements for written notification and consent, contracts between the notifier and the consignee, information to the public, competent authorities, parties involved and needed for procedural reasons

Target group

The Ministries responsible for environment in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey dealing with implementation of "Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal" ("Basel Convention Focal Points").

Expected results:

- improved knowledge base on steps needed to create institutional structures and procedures to implement Waste Shipment Regulation;
- strengthened regional cooperation and cooperation with EU member states administrations designated to implement Waste Shipment Regulation.



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No.	Date	Key outputs
1	July 2015	Draft agenda and background materials for regional training
2	August 2014	Final agenda and training materials for the regional training
3	September 2014	Delivery of the regional training, preparation of the training report with recommendations

Task 2.6.4. Combined regional trainings between the Waste Management Working Group and Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group to assess the situation and present possible solutions for cost recovery mechanisms

Background information

Waste Framework Directive requires that, in accordance with the polluter-pays principle, the costs of disposing of waste must be borne by the holder of waste, by previous holders or by the producers of the product from which the waste came. Also the cost shall be allocated in such a way as to reflect the real costs to the environment of the generation and management of waste. This Landfill directive requires that Member States shall take measures to ensure that all of the costs involved in the setting up and operation of a landfill site, including as far as possible the cost of the financial security and the estimated costs of the closure and after-care of the site for a period of at least 30 years shall be covered by the price to be charged by the operator for the disposal of any type of waste in that site.

Such requirements call for sound cost recovery mechanisms and use of economic instruments to reflect real environmental costs.

The project beneficiary countries to large extent are lacking well established methodologies for cost recovery. This problem is growing with each new investment into waste management operations. Economic instruments, except of packaging charges, are almost not used. Landfill taxes or similar instruments, which would support recycling and divert waste from landfilling are still to be developed.

Considering situation in the region, Strategic Planning and Investments WG and Waste Management WG convenes joint workshop to better assess the situation and propose ways for strengthening of cost recovery policies and provide wide range of economic instruments in support of source separation and achieving recycling targets.

Objectives of the training

General Objective:

To provide practical knowledge on experience of other countries and support establishment of cost-recovery mechanisms in the region.

Specific Objectives:

- To establish common understanding on main terms, definitions and principles for cost recovery in waste sector;



- To provide information on economic incentives for better waste management supporting achievement of waste recycling, biodegradable waste diversion and other targets as required by the EU waste management law;
- To present and discuss legal basis and institutional mechanisms for tariff setting;
- To analyse impacts of cost recovery for investment projects and process planning;
- To familiarise with cost – benefit analysis and application of it in waste management sector;
- To agree on next steps and follow up.

Target group

The Ministries responsible for environment and other line institutions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey dealing with transposition and implementation of WFD and development of strategic plans and investment programmes.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	January 2015	Draft agenda and background materials for the combined regional training with Strategic Planning and Investments WG
2	February 2015	Final agenda and materials for the combined regional training with Strategic Planning WG
3	18 – 19 March 2015	Combined regional training with Strategic Planning WG, training report with recommendations

Task 2.6.5. Study visit to Belgium on efficient waste management systems and tools

Background information

At the initiative of the EC it has been agreed to organise a study visit for the representatives of the beneficiary countries to Wallonia region in Belgium with the purpose of gaining experience on efficient waste management. The study visit will be organised in cooperation with the INTRADEL, Walloon intercommunal agency for waste management located in Liege, Belgium. During study visit, participants will have the opportunity to see "UVELIA" incinerators where they will get more information on the energy valorisation of waste, MBT installations managed by INTRADEL located in this part of Belgium and to meet with representatives of the network of non-profit making companies involved in recovery and recycling in Wallonia. The study visit is planned for June 2015 (exact dates yet to be agreed with the host institution) and will last for 3 days.

Objectives of the study visit

General objective

Exchange of experience and best practice with the EU MS in efficient waste management systems and tools.

Specific objectives



Increased understanding on the various waste management systems and tools implemented in the EU MS, functioning of incinerators and recycling centers, comparison of the ways and methods of operations between public company and private companies, relations between social economy and recycling.

Target group

The Ministries responsible for environment and Environmental Protection Agencies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey dealing with waste management and treatment of waste.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	April 2015	Draft study visit programme
2	May 2015	Final study visit programme agreed with the host institution and beneficiary countries
3	June 2015	Study visit to Belgium, materials and report

Task 2.6.6. Regional training on remediation of the landfills in the context of the regional waste management

Background information

Landfill Directive requires that Member States shall take the necessary measures to close down sites which have not been granted a permit to continue operations. Also, after a landfill has been definitely closed, the operator shall be responsible for its maintenance, monitoring and control in the after-care phase for as long as may be required by the competent authority, taking into account the time during which the landfill could present hazards. General requirements including protection of soil and water are foreseen for all classes of landfills. Requirements also arise from implementation of the Water Framework Directive, so the assessment of "risk to the water environment" is required. These requirements can be reduced in case an assessment of environmental risks has shown it justified.

The Directive's demanding requirements for closure of landfills are related with high cost investment needs. Therefore reduction of standard requirements where according to the risk assessment is possible provides less costly though sufficient protection for environment. Application of such approach requires establishment of methodology for risk assessment and evaluation of sites for potential threats to environment. Based on such evaluation different technical parameters for closure may be applied

Countries in the region still lack well established methodologies for risk assessment and evaluation of landfill sites for potential threats to environment. National regulation on technical solutions and documentation for remediation projects are not well defined. Also, there is not many implemented landfill remediation projects so far, so practical experience in that regard is not sufficient.

Considering situation in the region, Waste Management WG convenes a workshop to better assess the situation regarding the landfills closure and aftercare within the regional waste management systems and propose ways for developing methodologies for assessment of environmental risks and provide wide range of EU best practices and practical experiences in that regard.

Objectives of the training



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Wider Objective:

To provide practical knowledge and exchange experience and best practices with EU member states on remediation of landfills.

Specific Objectives:

- To establish common understanding on main terms, definitions and principles for landfills closure and aftercare the in waste sector;
- To provide information on landfills closure and aftercare as required by the Landfill Directive and relevant EU legislation;
- To present and discuss legal basis and national regulation on technical solutions and documentation for remediation projects;
- To present methodologies for assessment of environmental risks for landfills;
- To analyse impacts of methodologies for assessment of environmental risks for investment and policy planning;
- To have practical knowledge on the technical solutions and recultivation options;
- To visit the site and exchange experience with operator on remediation of the landfill, application of the experience in waste management sector;
- To agree on next steps and follow up actions.

Target group

The Ministries responsible for environment and Environmental Protection Agencies in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey dealing with waste management and treatment of waste.

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	September 2015	Draft agenda for the training and site visit
2	October 2015	Final agenda and materials for the training
3	November 2015	Combined one day training with one day site visit, Montenegro (potential sites are RWMC Mozura or Livade)



Summary ECRAN Waste Management WG work plan 2015

Tasks	2015											
	January	February	March	April	May	Jun	July	August	September	October	November	December
2.6.1 ANNUAL MEETING												
2.6.2: NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS/STRATEGIES REVIEW IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (2008/98/EC) AND IPA 2 REGULATION												
2.6.3: REGIONAL TRAINING ON NATIONAL (HAZARDOUS AND OTHER) WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING												
2.6.4. COMBINED REGIONAL TRAININGS BETWEEN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP AND STRATEGIC PLANNING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND PRESENT POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR THE COST RECOVERY MECHANISMS												
2.6.5 STUDY VISIT												
2.6.6. REGIONAL TRAINING ON REMEDIATION OF THE LANDFILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT												



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Annex 1 Proposed way of communication & selection criteria for participants to the events

Agenda item: Discussion and agreement on the working manner within the Waste management working group

Action Required: The ECRAN Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) are invited to comment on and adopt the document.

Background:

Waste management WG encompasses very different tasks which will need operational communication between the Waste management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC), Project management and the Beneficiaries. Therefore, a way of communication to best meet the project's requirements should be agreed by the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) members.

Contrary to the other WGs, there will be a need for different groups/types of participants to the events conducted under particular tasks. Should the project be efficient and bring real benefit we must secure that the right people will be at the right place at the right time.

1. Proposed way of communication

a) annual meetings

Purpose:

- once a year, bringing together Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC)
- making principal decisions about the direction of particular tasks
- adopting work plans and other documents

b) e-mail per rollam agreement between the ECRAN National Focal Points, Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) and Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) on pending issues

Purpose:

- adopting decisions on pending issues during the period between the annual meetings

c) e-mail communication between ECRAN National Focal Points, Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) and particular Waste Management Working Group National Coordinator (WMWGNC)

Purpose:

- to discuss and operatively resolve daily (emerging) issues/challenges during the project course
- to discuss and agree on the potential lists of participants (both nominal and institutional) to particular tasks/events (where nominal or institutional participation is needed)

d) e-mail communication between the ECRAN National Focal Points, Waste Management Working Group Coordinator WMWGC, project TL and/or Project Director and particular Waste Management Working Group National Coordinator WMWGNC



Purpose:

- dealing with bilateral issues in need of official approval of the Project management
- settlement of problems
- confirmation of nominations for training in EU PAs

e) direct e-mail communication of the Waste Management Working Group Coordinator WMWGC with the task nominees from c) above

Purpose:

- daily informal communication with selected nominees for particular tasks/events

f) (circular) e-mailing to the ECRAN National Focal Points Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC)

Purpose:

- to keep Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) formally informed on the issues agreed with the nominees to particular tasks/events
- to keep all Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) formally informed on the course of particular tasks during the year

Note: all emailing correspondence will automatically be copied to the Team leader and Project Director.

2. Selection of participants to the tasks/events – draft criteria:

Proposed way of nominations:

- Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) upon request of the Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) submits their proposals
- in cases of unclarity, the Waste Management Working Group National Coordinators (WMWGNC) discusses the nominations with the Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) and/or with the Project management
- Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) has a right to exclude a nominee if he/she does not correspond to the task's requirements, or for capacity reasons
- Waste Management Working Group Coordinator (WMWGC) sends the adopted final list of nominees to the Project management

Criteria for participants to particular tasks:

2.6.1

National coordinators – no deliberations needed

2.6.2

- Representatives of waste management authorities at central level
- Representatives of regional waste management
- Representatives of waste management agencies at the central level
- Representatives of waste management agencies at the regional level



- Persons (academics, private persons or representatives of consultancy firms) already dealing with/seriously interested in waste management known to authorities of agencies mentioned above (if capacity allows; not eligible for funding by TAIEX)



Annex 2 Cross cutting nature of the Waste Management Working Group

Agenda item: Discussion on the cross cutting nature of the WMWG

Action Required: The ECRAN WMWG national coordinators are invited to discuss and decide on priority sectors for combined activities with SPIWG.

Background

The activities related to Waste Management are of cross cutting nature, complementary and implemented in synergy with the activities planned under Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group established under Environment Component of ECRAN. The jointly tasks of Waste Management Working Group and Strategic Planning and Investments Working Group foreseen under ECRAN will be focused on the following:

- Improvement of strategic planning in waste management in the beneficiary countries;
- Enhancement of regional cooperation and information sharing in environmental investment issues as a key element of the approximation toward the EU;
- Guiding the concrete work of the environmental investment activities through identification of training needs for different groups of stakeholders such as policy-makers, utilities, environmental funds etc.;
- Liaison with EC, IFIs, WBIF, bilateral donors, NGOs, etc, to create an environment, which is more conducive for environmental investments. The activities will also provide opportunities for IFIs and bilateral donors to convey relevant messages;
- Strengthening of the capacities of the competent authorities dealing with environmental infrastructure investment through capacity building on the most important cross-cutting investment related topics.

Capacity building activities in strategic planning and investment and financing planning are necessary in waste management. Planning helps to identify needed approximation activities, corresponding institutional responsibilities and deadlines, required human, financial and other resources for implementation. Planning also ensures, that approximation activities are prioritised and implemented in consistent way. Without planning it is not possible for the country to assess it's readiness to implement EU requirements, organise approximation process and decide if transitional periods are required. Each transitional period again has to be supported with good planning document identifying needed actions, their costs, financing sources and implementation timetables.

Implementation of requirements in waste management sector is usually related to the use of public resources. Use of public funds requires national institutions to establish relevant investment and financing planning ensure affordable cost recovery policies. Therefore waste management sector are proposed as the main focus topics for planning and cost recovery activities under the SPI Working Group.

