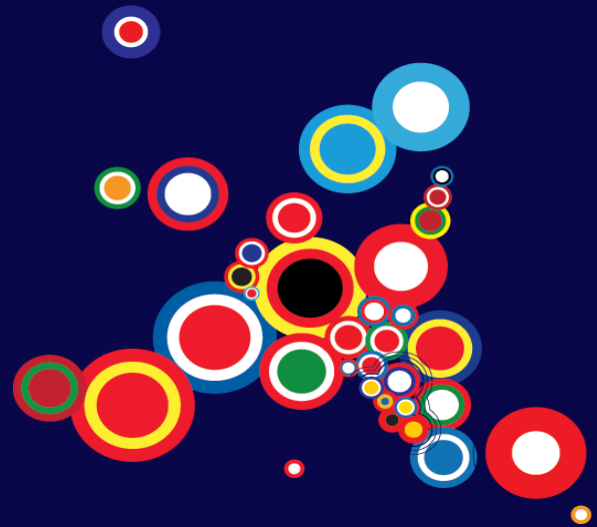




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

Kosovo*

EU support to waste management in Kosovo



Action summary

The action aims at improving waste management in Kosovo in line with EU policy and principles and with the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy and its subsequent Plan.

This action will also support the development of infrastructure for an integrated approach to waste management, and improvement of waste management activities starting from collection – including selective collection, transport and proper disposal of municipal waste through the continuation of successful waste management initiatives.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence'

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the Year 2018
Action Title	Support to waste management in Kosovo
Action ID	IPA 2018 / 041246 / 06/ Kosovo/Environment
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	Environment and Climate Change
DAC Sector	14050
Budget	
Total cost	EUR 12 100 000
EU contribution	EUR 11 000 000
Budget line(s)	22 02 01 02
Management and Implementation	
Management mode	Direct management and Indirect management
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation	European Union Office in Kosovo
<i>Indirect management:</i> Entrusted entity	Delegation Agreement with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Implementation responsibilities	European Union Office in Kosovo
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Kosovo
Specific implementation area(s)	Kosovo
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	At the latest by 31 December 2019
Final date for concluding delegation agreements under indirect management	At the latest by 31 December 2019
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 114(2) of the Financial Regulation
Final date for operational implementation	6 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement

programme should be de-committed and closed)			
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The waste sector in Kosovo is facing a growing challenges related to the insufficient and inadequate infrastructure and its services. The current human capacities and financial resources of the sector relevant institutions are very limited to undertake capital expenditures and enable improvement of the waste sector. The existing disposal facilities, constructed during the years 2003-2006, are at the end of their capacity to store waste. There are no waste treatment facilities and recycling capacities are very low. The amount of waste generated is continuously increasing, while the waste management system and the existing infrastructure are not providing adequate solutions to the growing problems.

The waste collection infrastructure is deteriorating fast due weak management skills of the operators as well as limited investments capacity of the sector relevant institutions. The existing waste collection infrastructure is characterized by an insufficient number of collection points and containers which are often incompatible with the transport means in use. Waste transport equipment is often malfunctioning and largely insufficient for full service coverage. According to Kosovo Agency of Statistics, only 71% of the total population has access to proper collection services. Equipment maintenance is equally insufficient and repair shops are in poor condition. Moreover, the service providers have limited knowledge on integrated municipal waste management and insufficiently trained staff. Separate collection and treatment of valuable recyclables is almost non-existent. A small quantity of recycled waste that is being exported mainly to other beneficiaries in the region, is currently collected by the informal sector in a limited number of collection points. The in-house treatment and recycling capacity is very limited.

Landfilling remains the most applied method of waste disposal although according to the waste management hierarchy this represents the least desired option. Most of the waste landfills were built between 2003 and 2007 by the European Agency for Reconstruction and all of them are at the end of their storing capacities and operating with depreciated equipment. The region of Peja in the northwest of Kosovo is consisting of four municipalities that are served by the landfill constructed over 15 years ago. The landfill has exceeded its designed capacity for storing solid waste and is currently a threatening to pollute the environment and ground water in particular.

Waste operating standards are below the EU requirements mainly due to the lack of professional operational knowledge and practices (e.g. absence of operating manuals), as well as the lack of necessary equipment and infrastructure (e.g. absence of leachate/biogas treatment, environmental monitoring, etc.). All these have led to the deterioration of the technical conditions of the landfills that now pose a serious threat to ground water pollution.

With the support of different donors (EU, Germany, Swiss and Japan) most of the municipalities have installed basic governance structures, such as solid waste management units and developed solid waste management plans, which is considered as a moderate progress during the recent years. The coverage rate and fee collection rate have increased and illegal dumps have been removed in a limited number of cases,.. Furthermore, there is a noticeable trend of improvement at the regional waste collection companies (RWCCs) visible in a new tariffs system that have been calculated and implemented through to intensive support from the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and the association of Kosovo waste enterprises (PAMKOS), respectively. The awareness of the public on the environment is increasing, specifically through the campaigns and projects implemented at local level, involving separation-at-source and clean-up projects in schools and neighbourhoods.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) has the central role in the drafting policies, strategies, laws regulating waste management and licencing of operators while Municipalities have devolved responsibilities for organizing and financing waste management activities. The number of specialized staff at the level of the MESP, Kosovo Environmental protection Agency (KEPA) and other sector institutions is limited, which hinders their capacity to meet present and future challenges. The inspection services which are central to the regulation of the sector are inadequately staffed and resourced. Inspection is also split between the environmental inspectorate of the MESP and the municipalities' own municipal inspectors. Furthermore, the inspection and permitting functions are separated and communication between various departments still needs to be improved. The MESP faces several shortcomings with regard to

institutionalizing gender mainstreaming, including with regard to personnel, policies (including on waste management), programs, public consultations, and gender-responsive budgeting.

Notwithstanding the Kosovo policies to improve gender equality in the labour market, the waste sector employs predominantly male workers. Very few women are employed in the sector, mostly holding administrative jobs. Waste utilities or companies claim that there is no willingness of women to work in the operation of waste services. Up until now there have not been any specific gender sensitive employment policy to change this culture and encourage women to join the sector of waste.

Taking into account the current situation and practices, it is advisable that previous initiatives that proved successful in improving the waste management shall be continued. These initiatives include the Performance Based Grant System (PBGS) implemented through by the “Decentralisation and Municipal Support”- (DEMOS) project and the 'Clean Environmental Race'¹ (CER) implemented by the GIZ. Achievement of the above specified result will be feasible through the continuation of the activities similar to CER together with PBGS. Additional funds from Kosovo will be needed in order to ensure the sustainability and ownership by the MESP and the MLGA. The activities proposed below builds on the best practices implemented by the GoK supported by German Development Cooperation over the past two years, including implementation of a municipal waste management improvement competition in 17 municipalities (69% of total population). As a result the local institutions' waste service provision capacity has improved significantly leading to increased service coverage (up 12.1%) and fee collection (up 12.3%) and decreased illegal dumps (down 47.3%) compared to 2015. To further boost municipal capacities, winning participants will receive equipment (i.e. trucks and containers) worth 3.4 million € in 2018.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

Preparation of the Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for Kosovo 2014-2020 was finalised and adopted in August 2014. The ISP was developed with the view of programming and implementing the new IPA instrument for the period 2014-2020. In 2017, during the revision process, the programming document was complemented with a new sector which is considered to be a priority both by the Kosovo authorities and by the donors' community, namely the environmental sector.

The main expected results to be achieved through the implementation of this action document can be summarised as: the development of sustainable waste management system in line with EU practices and policies including appropriate infrastructure for waste management. An enhanced waste management system and the promotion of sustainable, qualitative and efficient sanitation activities will ensure better environment protection and reduction of the risks from pollution, especially of surface and ground waters, air and soil, as well as reduction of the risks to human health likely to arise from uncontrolled waste disposal.

Moreover, the actions proposed will contribute to building waste management capacities at local and central level, primarily the MESP, municipal environment directorates and waste management utilities, and improving their performances according to new tasks and challenges in the waste management sector.

Thus, all proposed actions will need to be implemented in close cooperation and coordination with MESP, as main beneficiary, municipalities and other relevant entities at the local level with the aim of strengthening their capacity and procedures in dealing with waste management issues and also in enhancing their project implementation and monitoring skills. The indirect beneficiaries from the proposed actions represent the whole population of Kosovo that will have access to modern and proper waste management services.

This Action also will contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II), objective 16, among others outlined below: “Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management enjoyed by girls and women”.

¹ CER consists of two interlinked components: a performance scheme and a grant scheme. In the latter responsible institutions will gain performance-based access to capital investments for the development of their integrated solid waste management system. Awards are granted in form of movable assets (e.g. trucks) to participants fulfilling access criteria and excelling in performance indicators. These are defined and ranked in the performance scheme. CER is led by an inter-ministerial steering committee and is aligned with their policies and existing monitoring system.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

As mentioned previously, the Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for Kosovo 2014-2020 was finalised and adopted in 2014 with the view of programming and implementing the new IPA instrument for the period 2014-2020. The initial version did not include the environmental sector; thus, this was added in 2017 during the revision process. Additional to this, The National Programme for the Implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (NPISAA) was adopted for the first time by Kosovo and the Parliament in early 2016. This document presents the priorities for Chapter 27 ‘Environment and climate change’, the overall institutional framework, as well as detailed information on the Legislative Framework and Administrative Capacity regarding various pieces of acquis in the fields of horizontal legislation.

In line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, Kosovo needs to ensure that the environment challenges are addressed, in particular by reducing the negative effects of growing urban population and increased economic activities. This is addressed through the National Development Strategy (NDS) which indicates measures with concern to environmental aspects including waste management.

In order to achieve the indicated results from above documents, the ministry undertook an initiative in 2017 to focus on the development of a sustainable waste management system in line with EU practices and policies together with strengthening institutional at central and local level, and improving its performances according to new tasks and challenges in the waste management sector.

The proposed interventions are relevant in relation with the strategic approach foreseen under each priority area that target improved environmental quality, but also direct economic benefits, increased resource efficiency, improved public services and new technological and market opportunities.

The analysis of strategic documents at central level and the different reports prepared by the European Commission and/or other donors/international institutions indicate that financially and institutionally demanding interventions are highly needed in the environment sector, including inter alia:

- Transposition of the EU acquis into Kosovo legislation and enforcement;
- Institutional capacity and awareness-raising activities need to strengthen significantly, both at central and local level;
- There is a vital need for a project pipeline with mature projects that need urgent implementation based on the Single Project Pipeline (SPP) which is extremely important for the investment project preparation activity and for the absorption of funds.
- Investment in the sector needs to increase significantly, especially development of infrastructure and allocation of sufficient financial resources for the implementation of priority investment projects from SPP.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In the past years the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and other relevant institutions like KEPA, have received financial support from various donors for the transposition and implementation of EU environmental acquis, the development of strategic sector documents, the set-up and implementation of accompanying reform measures, as well as the preparation and implementation of several environmental infrastructure projects. The donor support included both technical assistance and capital investments, mainly oriented towards the improvement of municipal services and preparation of several technical documents e.g. feasibility and EIA studies, detailed design, etc.

The ‘Annual Report on Donor Activities, 2015’ indicated a total of 47 projects implemented by 16 donors in the environment sector. The EU has been very active through a range of initiatives on improving the environment thus, the sector has benefited from a number of technical assistance projects, inter alia: EU IPA 2007 TWINNING: ‘Strengthening the human resources and the institutional capacity of the Kosovo public administration’ and EU IPA 2013 ‘Support to Waste Management in Kosovo’ In addition, until December 2016, Kosovo benefited from 6 grants from WBIF for the environment sector. The WBIF has helped prepare and implement essential infrastructure developments across the waste sectors mainly through ‘Strengthening waste management’ project.

It is clear that the donors’ financial support plays a very important role both in the financing environmental sector, but also in getting useful experiences for the key actors, contributing to the improvement of the institutional capacity of the staff in different institutions specific to this sector. Experience has been gained in

strengthening the administrative capacity on legal, institutional and technical matters of environmental management, project development and implementation, improvement of the provision/operation capacity of municipal environmental infrastructure sectors, consolidation of cooperation and dialogue in the process of planning and decision-making.

However, based on the experience gained and on the lessons learned during the implementation of EU assistance programmes² and other assistance provided by several donors, a number of challenges have to be considered for the next programming period:

- The **administrative capacity** remains a key issue for efficient and effective utilisation of funds; the institutional capacity of the institutions at central and local level to draft policies, plans and to implement effective measures for environment improvement, including preparation and implementation of projects, is limited. Often these activities were hampered by a lack of staff and resources. Skilled and motivated staff is essential for the success and further efforts; recruitment and remuneration, training, establishment of clear procedures being among the features that need important consideration;
- **Co-financing** is another key issue as often project implementation is hampered by the lack of funds in the budget to allow appropriate implementation. Beneficiary institutions should demonstrate full commitment by ensuring that co-funding is available and the schedule of expenditures is coordinated with the corresponding project activities;
- **Sustainability** is most of the times a taboo subject as environmental structures within Kosovo institutions, depended mainly on support from donors in implementing projects. Particular attention should be given to strengthening the institutional capacity and governance in order to develop efficient management structures for environmental services and to enhance the ownership. Another important aspect for sustainability is monitoring that requires a special attention and that was not taken so much into account in the past;
- Coherent **planning** and good coordination are essential for the successful implementation of the environmental legislation and sector policies. Often, the identification of the assistance needs was not an integrated and systematic process, relying more on demand from donors rather than on internal policy planning. Consequently, the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy 2013-2022 and the Waste Management Plan are only partly reflected in the local Solid Waste Management plans. Similarly, donor planning documents only incompletely align with Kosovo's policies;
- The **exchange of information** between the different institutions in the environment sector and the main stakeholders has not always been sufficient. Close consultation among the key actors involved in the environment sector and an approach based on cooperation are essential to ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed and are supportive of the project to be carried out;
- **Project preparation** is a pre-requisite for a smooth and fast implementation of the project. Unrealistic assessment of maturity of projects was another factor that caused some delays in implementation (e.g. difficulties for the beneficiaries in obtaining different agreements and permits for projects). Co-financing is another key issue. Often project implementation is hampered by the lack of funds in the budget to allow appropriate implementation. Beneficiary institutions should demonstrate full commitment by ensuring that co-funding is available and the schedule of expenditures is coordinated with the corresponding project activities;
- A good **awareness** campaign is essential for the success and sustainability of any environment project. The public awareness must be carried out in due time and with very accurate information. Basically, a campaign should be launched at the beginning of a new action and it has to be continued periodically throughout the entire period of this.

² EU funded project 'Support to Waste Management in Kosovo, IPA 2013
<https://www.waste-management-kosovo.org/about2-cme>

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To improve the access to the waste management services by the population in urban and rural areas in Kosovo in line with the EU policies and Kosovo Waste Management Strategy, including and the Master Plan	Percent of population having access to sustainable waste management services in urban & rural areas (collection, treatment and disposal)	MESP/KEPA (Solid Waste Annual Report)	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To develop the infrastructure for an integrated waste management system, in line with implementation of the waste hierarchy and ‘polluter pays principle’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste collection services, covering 90% of population • Illegal dumpsites and old landfills closed 	MESP/KEPA (Solid Waste Annual Report)	Kosovo and donors commits sufficient financial resources to allow investments in the development of new infrastructure, including waste treatment and landfilling. Enhanced capacities at municipal authorities and waste operators
To enhance the implementation of reforms under EU acquis for sustainable waste management	<p>New regulations developed to cover all waste streams</p> <p>Degree of implementation of primary and secondary legislation related to waste management practices</p>	Kosovo report Concordance reports of transposition of EU legislation	Full commitment and support of the decision-making institutions of the sector to continue political reform and perform their obligations in line with the European perspective; Specific waste management targets adopted in accordance to EU acquis
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Result 1: Sanitary landfilling services in Pejë/Peć/Pec region are operational</p> <p>Result 2: The collection and transport of municipal waste in all Kosovo is improved</p> <p>Result 3: Projects for the development of appropriate waste infrastructure are designed and implemented in accordance with priorities defined in the revised Kosovo Waste Strategy.</p> <p>Result 4: The organisational and institutional capacity of MESP, the municipalities, service providers and other</p>	<p>Percentage of population from Pejë/Peć. region benefiting from the disposal services in accordance with the EU standards</p> <p>Increased percentage of population serviced with waste collection, new equipment and infrastructure and cleaner environment</p> <p>Number of waste infrastructure projects adopted by the MESP and design documents prepared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacity of MESP inspectorate – number of fines and penalties issued 	<p>Single Project Pipeline for Infrastructure Investments (SPP)</p> <p>Kosovo short and mid-term investment planning documents includes investments related to most needed waste infrastructure</p> <p>MESP inspectorate reports</p> <p>Statistical reports showing the human resources in the Municipalities in charge of waste management</p> <p>Annual financial reports of the waste</p>	<p>Full engagement of the MESP and other relevant institutions in providing sufficiently human and financial resources necessary to carry out the planned interventions;</p> <p>Sufficient ownership, motivation and support from the MESP and the municipalities to address the organisation of waste management at the local/regional level in line with EU requirements.</p> <p>The beneficiaries will collaborate on implementing the proposed optimisation processes.</p>

<p>relevant institutions of environment sector is strengthened for the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Municipality has a specialised unit to deal with waste management and at least 1 inspector • Enhanced capacities of service providers including improved and new equipment 	<p>operators showing their assets and equipment</p>	<p>All partners agree on implementing the Performance Grant (see below)</p>
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DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Result 1 – Sanitary landfilling services in Pejë/Peć region are operational

The landfill in Peja which serves four municipalities was constructed over 15 years ago has already reached its maximum storing capacity. The landfill currently stores the waste beyond the designed capacity with a great danger of collapsing and causing more serious environmental problems.

The municipal authorities of the Pejë/Peć region (municipalities of Pejë/Peć, Klinë/Klina, Istog/Istok, Deçan/Deçane and Junik), are under growing pressure to find the solutions to improve the solid waste infrastructure and management practices within their territories. The municipalities are facing severe challenges such as a high number of unserved population, a poor fee collection rate and the urgent need to find a sustainable solution to the growing amount of waste and illegal dumping of waste. The current non-compliant landfill cell needs to be closed, the site remedied and re-cultivated and new appropriate infrastructure should be developed in line with EU standards. A change and improvement of the operational techniques and procedures which are currently causing substantial environmental pollution is necessary. In direct management the EU Office will implement the following activities:

Activity 1.1 – Works for closure of Pejë/Peć landfill. The works will be carried out in order to properly close the existing landfill cell in Pejë/Peć on the basis of the design prepared under IPA 2016.

Activity 1.2 - Construction of the new landfill in Pejë/Peć, according to EU standards. The works will include construction of the new landfill cell and waste water treatment plant that will treat the waste water from the existing landfill.

The original drainage system for leachate collection and re-circulation is out of function due to the lack of maintenance. The accumulated leachate on the landfill body is leaking into surrounding environment and is infiltrating in the ground, increasing the risk of ground water contamination. The current infrastructure in the landfill lacks Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) facilities to purify otherwise potentially harmful content, and is lacking a proper gas management exposing both sites to the risk of uncontrolled and harmful developments.

The new cell will need proper equipment and will require capacity building of the landfill management staff for operation and maintenance.

Due to the fact that the current cell is located very close to the proposed new cell, the feasibility study and detailed design for both activities mentioned above could be combined or should be implemented in parallel in order to reduce costs and optimise the process e.g. soil taken out from excavating the new cell can be used in covering the new cell and the leachate treatment including waste water treatment plant should serve both cells.

Activity 1.3 - Closure of illegal dumpsite in Istog/Istok

As previously mentioned, waste collection and transport services does not cover the entire area of the Pejë/Peć region, leading to numerous illegal dumps, in particular the Istog/Istok area is poorly covered. Therefore, in addition to the reconstruction of the new landfill, waste collection and transport services need to be extended to cover as much as possible of the Pejë/Peć region.

The illegal dumpsite called 'Tucep' is a threat to the environment thus it needs to be closed immediately. Initially, this dumpsite has been planned to be a transfer station from which the waste would be transported to the regional landfill in Pejë/Peć. However, due to the distance (42km) and higher transport costs, the municipality of Istog/Istok ended up disposing the waste at the 'Tucep' dumpsite.

GIZ under delegated agreement will implement the below described activities.

Result 2 – The collection and transport of municipal waste in all Kosovo is improved

The Kosovo Waste Management Strategy includes the following targets for waste collection for the Kosovo population/settlements:

- Collection rate with sanitation services of 90% in 2020 and 100% in 2024;
- Separate collection of waste reaching 50% in 2020;
- Separate collection of biodegradable waste reaching approximately 10% overall Kosovo;
- Modernization of waste collection systems and of waste transport systems.

Activity 2.1 - Provision of adequate equipment for collection and transport

In most cases, the equipment used for the waste management services is old, depreciated and insufficient for covering the entire population, leading to low efficiency and productivity of the waste collection and disposal service. Award to the Municipalities will be granted based on performance assessment in a form of capital investments for infrastructure and equipment to those fulfilling access criteria and excelling in performance indicators. The Performance Grant will consist of a set of indicators and procedures to gather and audit data on performance of municipal services and rank the results.

This activity will include provision of adequate equipment for waste collection and transport, including for waste separate collection; establish/improve locations for collection systems, including separate collection system and develop operational plans for waste management services, including fee collection. All equipment will be provided based on specific needs for each municipality.

Activity 2.2 – Implementing separate collection systems

Collection of recyclable waste in a container dedicated for a specific type of waste would represent the most suitable and affordable solution. In the given circumstances, this option is most suitable to ensure as much as possible preservation of the technical qualities for the materials to be recycled and, thus, it helps to achieve the recycling targets. Mixed collection of waste makes it very difficult to separate the waste, e.g. glass mixed with other types of waste causes problems during the operation of sorting plants, both from the point of view of health and safety, as well as the lifetime of the conveyor belt. The best solution and methodology for the implementing this activity will have to be studied and developed.

Activity 2.3 – Reducing the number of illegal dumpsites in whole Kosovo

Illegal dumping is a common problem in Kosovo, affecting both big and small municipalities alike. During 2013, KEPA identified illegal landfills in 34 Kosovo municipalities. According to the Waste Management Plan, 400 illegal dumpsites were identified with a total area of 301.18 hectares but according the results of the assessment done in 17 municipalities presented in the CER baseline report, identified there are more than 1400 illegal dump sites. The absence of construction and demolition waste landfills is an important challenge for the local and central administration. According to the CER report number of illegal dumps has significantly decreased in the municipalities where the collection system has improved. Closure of illegal dumpsites is required by the Law on Waste, and it set as a precondition for the Municipalities to access more funds from the CER or Kosovo institutions sources.

This activity will focus in creation of conditions for sound solid waste collection and disposal in order to avoid further deterioration of the environment by uncontrolled waste disposal. The activity will support risk assessment of non-compliant dumpsites, development of required plans and implementation of remediation measures.

Result 3 – Projects for waste infrastructure are designed and implemented through PPP

The Single Project Pipeline (SPP) is a document prepared by the institutions to set the investment priorities related to environment infrastructure. The prepared list, categorised by the maturity of project preparation, shows that there are not many projects ready to be financed by the Kosovo institutions or by international donors. In some cases, insufficient planning and lack of technical qualities is preventing the start of implementation of the listed projects.

The lack of statistical and reliable information, lack of technical capacity and incomplete implementation legislation is a discouraging element for the potential donor organisations or financial institutions, to provide the funding needed for the implementation. Land property issues, insufficient

capacities to prepare the EIA, lack of technical capacity to implement the financial and procurement procedures makes it too difficult for the donors, including the Kosovo institutions to initiate a specific project. In the case of environment infrastructure projects the EIA should produce a reliable report with sufficient validity of the EIA agreement, land property issues should be finalised with a clear land ownership certificate.

Activity 3.1 - Developing a Project Pipeline Program (PPP)

At present a project pipeline programme exists where some projects related to solid waste have been identified. However, only few projects derive from the existing Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Moreover, MESP with support of GIZ is currently revising the Solid Waste Management Strategy (SWMP) and update respective Plan. Also, the Ministry of Economic Development with support of KfW is preparing detailed feasibility studies for the (re)development of the landfill infrastructure. On the basis of the revised NSWMS/P and the finalised feasibility studies a project pipeline will be developed. This activity will support development of the updated project pipeline in accordance with the needs of the waste sector identified in the revised strategy document and the findings and recommendations of the ongoing feasibility studies.

Activity 3.2 - Support for project design, implementation and monitoring

This activity will provide the needed technical support in preparation of technical documentation and design for waste infrastructure projects, before submission of the application for financing. Project documentation will include among other the feasibility studies, cost benefit analyses, environmental impact assessment, detailed design documentation, etc. This facility will also be used to supervise the works contracts which are under implementation. The project preparation facility will be implemented in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders such as the MESP and the KEPA for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Result 4 - The organisational and institutional capacity of MESP, the municipalities, service providers and other relevant institutions of environment sector is strengthened for the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis

Support will be provided to MESP and the relevant sector institutions in the process of regulating, planning, monitoring of measurements for the prevention, reduction, recycling, and organized disposal of municipal waste (e.g. preparation of various legal regulations; develop a waste prevention programme; implementation a comprehensive data capture and monitoring scheme; etc), as well as to key actors at the local level for the development of their technical capacities, in order to ensure appropriate management of the new infrastructure, proper implementation of the new system, and to increase the quality of services provided to the citizens.

Activity 4.1: Improvement of the organisation of the waste management system through establishment of systems for permits and registration, waste management plans, waste prevention programmes and inspections and records. Development of capacities of the MESP, the KEPA at the central level and Municipal staff including inspectors and other relevant staff at local level should be ensured through provision of adequate training activities, workshops, seminars, conference, study tours; on-the-job training, ad hoc support, etc.

This activity will focus in developing administrative capacity among stakeholders through the transfer of technical knowledge, dissemination of good practice and lessons learned and will include among other development of guidelines, definition of methodologies and procedures and development of adequate regulations in accordance with the EU best practices.

Activity 4.2 - Relevant legislation regarding waste management for all waste streams, including manuals defining the procedures and protocols are drafted and approved.

The focus here will be to tackle municipal waste streams that were identified as priorities and require urgent attention. These include but not limit the following waste fractions: construction and demolition waste, bulky waste, special wastes such as light bulbs containing mercury, batteries, medical waste, used tyres, end of life vehicles and waste from electric and electronic equipment. Specific

implementation plans will need to be developed for these waste streams. Legislative development will be implemented in an inclusive and evidence-based process, in line with the public administration reform commitments of Kosovo.

Activity 4.3: Support provided to MESP and the relevant sector institutions in harmonising the EU acquis.

Transposition of the EU acquis into Kosovo legislation and enforce legislation in the waste management sector is mandatory. More specifically, by taking into account the WFD, the targets for Kosovo, are proposed to be set with an extension of four (4) years, thus for the year 2024, in order to allow for the necessary infrastructure to be constructed and operate. Even so, the new set of targets demands huge efforts and funds, in order to be achieved.

Specifically, within this activity, the focus will be the development and approval of implementation plans for certain waste fractions are developed. E.g. C&D waste, tyres, used oils, WEEE, light bulbs, batteries. Legal approximation will be done in an inclusive and evidence-based process, in line with the public administration reform commitments of Kosovo.

Activity 4.4: Development of awareness campaign - This activity will support the MESP and the municipalities in the implementation of the communication strategy and undertake a Public Awareness Campaign, aiming at increasing the awareness of the citizens about the importance of a correct waste management, collection and separation and treatment of waste.

Activity 4.5: Support to municipalities to update integrated local waste management plans in line with Kosovo strategies and the legal framework.

The municipalities play a crucial role in the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of environmental legislation in Kosovo. The municipalities are responsible for environmental and waste municipal plans and as local governance units, within the framework of its responsibilities, ensure continuous control and monitoring of environmental conditions. Public, NGOs, professional organizations and the business community are encouraged to participate in drafting and updating of integrated local action plans and programs. The municipalities report to the MESP for the implementation of these plans and programs. To reduce the negative impacts on the environment and in some cases to reduce costs, two or more municipalities may jointly develop and approve their plans and programs.

Assistance will be offered to all municipalities in developing their updated integrated local waste management plan and in identifying the specific needs for compliance with Kosovo legislation and framework documents.

RISKS

The main potential **risks** are listed below with proposed mitigation measures:

Risk categories	Mitigation measures	Likelihood
The Kosovo institutions and other stakeholders show little interest in promoting the development of the environment and waste sector in particular, including waste infrastructure;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrating from the very early start the ownership of the key actors; ▪ Sufficient funding to be allocated for the implementation of the planned activities; ▪ Donor and IFI involvement at an early stage to overcome potential budgetary constraints. ▪ Change of staff if required 	Low
Political interference in the selection of projects with high costs and low benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds allocated exclusively for the priorities soundly and firmly agreed, coherently with the required sector support; ▪ ‘Ownership’, ‘Transparency’ and ‘Prioritization’ principles applied in the project selection process; ▪ Realistic assessment of project maturity. 	Medium
The practice of favouring the centralized approach and political nominations of management boards of public utilities and in the decision-making institutions has negative impact on the waste utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defined and developed structure, framework for waste management sector based on the needs and priorities; ▪ Defined clear responsibilities of relevant entities; ▪ Bodies or institutions with a sufficiently clear mandate and experience; ▪ Rigorous selection mechanism clearly established and addressed for the management boards of public utilities. 	High
Insufficient support and ownership of the municipalities including the staff at operations level, ministries and other institutions in providing human and financial resources necessary to support the implementation of IPA II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information and communication mechanism system and campaigns to inform the staff involved is implemented; ▪ Information sharing and dissemination structure established; ▪ Donor meetings and coordination; ▪ Inter-project coordination; ▪ Addressing the difficulties which occur at the earliest stage; ▪ Inter-linkages of regional/ local waste management groups with other stakeholders and central structure; ▪ Choosing of competent partner organisation for the support in addressing the needs and in implementation, ▪ Design a reward system for motivated staff 	Medium
Unmotivated staff participates in the project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivation through challenge and problem solving; ▪ Addressing of ownership through early stage involvement and encouraging active participation of the staff; ▪ Participation in promotional events; ▪ Penalties, change of staff if required, 	Medium
Delay in transposition of the EU environmental acquis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress monitoring in shorter intervals and technical assistance during the overall process; ▪ Arising political willingness due to active involvement; ▪ Sufficient budget to be allocated for transposing the EU directives and meeting the environment acquis. 	Low
Limited public participation and stakeholder engagement and weak capacity for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement of the stakeholders early and often; ▪ Applying proactive and transparent communication; ▪ Cultivating a long-term relationship to improve operational stability and sustainability; 	Medium

evidence-based policy-making (impact assessments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting up goals and a feasible engagement plan to increase ownership and accountability; ▪ Building relationships based on trust and transparency; ▪ Recognized challenges as these require time and resources; ▪ Ensuring access to information. ▪ Capacity-building for impact assessments in the framework of public administration reform projects. ▪ Collaborating with women’s CSOs in order to improve women’s participation in public consultations 	
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CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The preconditions that will assure a proper implementation of the proposed action are:

- Municipalities provides sufficient resources, including skilled and motivated staff to actively participate in the planned activities;
- There will need to be a tender for the feasibility studies and detailed design – to be concluded before tendering the works;
- A memorandum of understanding is signed with each municipality and the MESP ensuring the commitment to participate actively in the activities of this action;
- Commitment by the all partners involved and sufficient funding ensured to allow continuation of CER phase 2 in order to cover all Kosovo;
- The consensus of the decision makers is essential for an integrated waste management system;
- Kosovo will have to take ownership of results and activities in order to assure sustainability and proper continuation of successful projects.

For the implementation of the action in a timely and effective manner, the assumptions are:

- Full commitment and support of the decision-making apparatus of the sector institutions to continue political reform and perform their obligations in line with the European perspective;
- Continuous commitment by the Kosovo institutions regarding the implementation without delays of the underpinning environmental legislation and the revision/adoption of the Waste Management Plan;
- Effective communication and active involvement among all sector institutions, donors and other stakeholders in order to make a maximum use of funds and avoid any duplication of activities;
- Full engagement of the MESP and other relevant institutions in providing sufficiently human and financial resources necessary to carry out the planned interventions;
- Sufficient ownership, motivation and support from the MESP and the municipalities to address the organisation of waste management at the local/regional level in line with EU requirements.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The general implementation arrangements relate to the following:

- Result 1 will be implemented under direct management by the European Union Office in Kosovo.
- The MESP and the MED will be responsible for the management of coordination and cooperation with related institutions in the sector.
- Implementation of the results 2, 3 and 4 will be implemented through a delegation agreement with the GIZ, who is experienced the waste sector.

Since the year 2014 the GIZ has been providing assistance to the majority of Municipalities in Kosovo in the improvement of the waste management practices through the projects funded by the German Government called “Decentralisation and Municipal Support”- (DEMOS) and 'Clean Environmental

Race' (CER), aiming to increase the coverage to all municipalities. The outputs of these projects have already brought significance improvements in the waste collection practices in the municipalities, reflected in a significant increase of coverage of waste collection in rural areas. Germany is the only Member State currently dealing with support of this sector, and they have gained sufficient technical competence in working with the relevant local institutions in the improvement and optimisation of the waste management practices.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) signed with each municipality, GIZ has provided support through the above mentioned projects covering among other the good governance, planning, increase of service coverage and fee collection rate.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The MESP is the environmental regulator, responsible for setting environmental standards and pursuing environmental permits. It is the key environmental body and is responsible for water resources. The Ministry of Economic Development (MED) is responsible for public services (since it manages landfill Management Company - KLMC and the RWCs). The MESP and the MED will be responsible for the management of coordination and cooperation with related institutions in the sector.

Other structures that are involved in the waste management sector include: Assembly of Kosovo, Local institutions-Municipalities, Regional Public Companies, Private Operators, Businesses and other participants. These entities will be involved when required and work under close supervision of MESP.

In the view of 'Berlin process' requirements, on 8 July 2015 Kosovo established the **National Investment Committee (NIC)**. NIC is considered as the most appropriate institutional framework and mechanism for the identification, assessment, selection and appraisal of investment projects and is the key body to advise and decide on the prioritisation process. NIC is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Minister of European Integration (MEI), while NIPAC (National IPA Coordinator) Office plays the role of Technical Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Office for Strategic Planning within the Office of the Prime Minister.

Specifically, for the implementation of the Clean Environmental Race phase 2, the previous steering Committee will continue and will include MESP, MLGA and MED as line ministries together with representatives from the implementation entities.

Working groups should be organised on a regular basis – each month or every 2 months while the steering committee should meet 2 times a year.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

The implementation of result 1 - sanitary landfilling services in Pejë/Peć region will be implemented through direct management by European Union office in Kosovo through work/s, supply/s and service/s contracts. The action is proposed to be co-financed by Kosovo institutions via parallel co-financing. The co-financing part will cover the closure of the illegal dump site in Istog/Istok and purchase of necessary equipment for operation of the landfill in Pejë/Peć.

The implementation of results 2, 3 and 4 will be implemented under indirect management with GIZ.

Since the year 2014 the GIZ has been providing assistance to the majority of Municipalities in Kosovo in the improvement of the waste management practices through the projects funded by the German Government called "Decentralisation and Municipal Support"- (DEMOS) and 'Clean Environmental Race' (CER), aiming to increase the coverage to all municipalities. The outputs of these projects have already brought significance improvements in the waste collection practices in the municipalities, reflected in a significant increase of coverage of waste collection in rural areas. Germany is the only Member State currently dealing with support of this sector, and they have gained sufficient technical competence in working with the relevant local institutions in the improvement and optimisation of the waste management practices.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) signed with each municipality, GIZ has provided support through the above mentioned projects covering among other the good governance, planning, increase of service coverage and fee collection rate.

German Development Cooperation is continuously active and providing technical and financial assistance in support to the development of waste sector in Kosovo. In the past years GIZ has supported the implementation of best practices of the waste management in municipalities through the so called Clean Environment Race³ (CER). During the CER 17 municipalities (69% of total population) had access to performance-based awards. As a result the local institutions' waste service provision capacity has improved significantly leading to increased service coverage (up 12.1%) and fee collection (up 12.3%) and decreased illegal dumps (down 47.3%) compared to 2015. This has provided solid ground to select this type of implementation modality for the implementation of this proposed action.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement. As per the EU Gender Action Plan a gender analysis and gender assessment of the impact on women and girls (indicator 4.1.2) will be done.

³ CER consists of two interlinked components: a performance scheme and a grant scheme. In the latter responsible institutions will gain performance-based access to capital investments for the development of their integrated solid waste management system. Awards are granted in form of movable assets (e.g. trucks) to participants fulfilling access criteria and excelling in performance indicators. These are defined and ranked in the performance scheme. CER is led by an inter-ministerial steering committee and is aligned with their policies and existing monitoring system.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (value + year) (2)	Target 2020 (3)	Final Target (2024) (4)	Source of information
ISP indicator (impact/outcome) (1)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of population having access to sustainable waste management services in urban & rural areas (collection, treatment and disposal) • Illegal dumpsites and old landfills closed 	<p>In 2016, 71% of households were covered by the municipal waste collection system (according to Kosovo agency of Statistics)</p> <p>GIZ and KfW assessments (2015) show only a rate of 55% - this is more accurate and will be used as baseline</p> <p>Over 400 existing illegal dumpsites</p>	<p>70%</p> <p>200 (50% decrease)</p>	<p>80%</p> <p>0</p>	MESP/KEPA (Annual Report)
Percentage of transposition/harmonisation and implementation of EU acquis related to waste management;	80% (2015)	85%	90%	MESP/KEPA (Annual Report) Project Monitoring Reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of population from Pejë/Peć region benefiting from EU standard disposal services 	<p>40 % (2017)</p> <p>(40% represent the population of Pejë/Peć and Klinë/Klina together as these are the only 2 municipalities that that the waste collected to the supposed sanitary landfill in Pejë/Peć) – the percentage does not reflect the total population as the collection coverage is not 100%</p>	<p>80%</p> <p>Taking into account that the collection coverage will increase and other municipalities from the region will take the waste collected to Pejë/Peć new sanitary landfill</p>	<p>100% by 2024</p> <p>Taking into account that the collection coverage will increase and all municipalities from the region will take the waste collected to Pejë/Peć new sanitary landfill</p>	MESP/KEPA (Annual Report) Project Monitoring Reports
Percent of population connected to separate collection services	0% (2016)	10%	20%	MESP/KEPA (Annual Report) Project Monitoring Reports GIZ implementation reports

% of projects prepared for financing application that are contracted	0 (2015)	3	5	Project Monitoring Reports MRESP/KEPA reports
Enhanced capacity of MESP inspectorate – number of fines and penalties issued	1 (2018) Currently GIZ is working on developing a deposit refund system (DRS) for beverage containers	3 Following the DRS, other implementation plans are developed for C&D waste and for used oils	5 2 new implementation plans are developed for WEEE and tyres/batteries	MESP/KEPA (Annual Report) The statistic reports of the MESP inspectorate Project Monitoring Reports
Each Municipality has a specialised unit to deal with waste management and at least 1 inspector	(2018) Statistical data related to the current human resources/capacities of the municipalities engaged specifically in waste management	All municipalities have at least one staff dedicated to the waste management and at least one inspector	All municipalities have one functioning unit dedicated to the waste management and at least one inspector on 30,000 habitants	Annual statistical reports issued by the Kosovo statistics agency

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

In 2016, Kosovo adopted the National Development Strategy (NDS) for the period 2016-2021, which aims at setting a vision, mission and objectives for economically, socially and environmentally balanced development for the period until 2021. In terms of environment protection, the NDS presents a very clear policy and indicates that the use of natural resources should be rational, striking a balance between immediate economic needs and environmental sustainability.

In parallel with the development of the NSD, Kosovo prepared the Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2016. The ERP outlines that the quality infrastructure on environment is one of the main challenges for Kosovo market to be integrated into global economy. ERP's actions are mostly derived from NDS's measures. Based on this strategic document, the Kosovo institutions will continue its efforts for the modernisation of quality infrastructure in order to improve the living standards and the environment, focusing in particular on meeting the environmental acquis

The MESP has coordinated the preparation of sector strategies and implementation plans in partnership with the line ministries, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. During the elaboration of each strategic document, MESP has initiated a consultation process with the sector key actors

To ensure more effective waste management, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) developed the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy (WMS) 2013-2022, adopted by Kosovo on October 2013. The main objective of the Strategy is to establish a framework to decrease the waste volumes and set up a system for sustainable waste management as well as decrease the waste risks. The Waste Management Plan (WMP) for the period 2013-2017 in support of the Strategy, whose main purpose was to ensure waste management and environment protection through: strengthening the waste management system, investment in waste management infrastructure and promoting awareness and information on waste management. The NWMP is supposed to be updated this year.

The estimated cost of investments according to the NWMP accounts for EUR 45 million. The projects are classified according to priority (ST and MT), level of funds (<1m €, 1-3m €, >3m €), and sources of financing (Donor and Kosovo Consolidated Budget). The majority of investments are expected from donors 88%. NWMP sets the criteria for selection of priority projects that will be financed from Kosovo budget and donor funds such as the following:

- Health Protection,
- Ecological Impact,
- Cultural and Historical Venues and
- Economic Productivity (20%).

Donor coordination on the waste sector is led by GIZ, who currently provides the support to MESP to revise the waste strategy and the investment planning document. The GIZ, KfW are planning to establish a pool fund to support the waste sector, which will combine donor and Kosovo institutions funding to be managed by the Ministry of Finance of Kosovo. This 'pool funding' will not include EU IPA funding support.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Kosovo legislative framework 'ensures gender equality as a fundamental value for the democratic development of the society, providing equal opportunities for both female and male participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and other areas of societal life' (Art. 7). Activities considered for the sector are designed and implemented ensuring that the following regulation and legislation will be applied, such as:

- the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Art. 22);
- the Law on Gender Equality (2015);

- the Recast EU Directive (2006/54/EC) on Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment of women and men in employment and occupation; the Directive on Equal Treatment of Men and Women in the Access to and the Supply of Goods and Services (2004/113);
- the ‘Joint Staff Working Document on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020’ (also known as the EU Gender Action Plan, “GAP”).

All proposed actions within this action document are addressed to both man and women without any discrimination.

Women’s insufficient participation in decision-making within the sector can impact the extent to which women’s particularly unique needs and interests in this sector are considered in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, affirmative actions can be taken to increase the percentage of women working at all levels in MESP and relevant sector institutions in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality’s definition of equality. These aspects will be addressed through the capacity building and training activities at all levels.

Further special steps will be taken to ensure that planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation involve participatory processes in which women and men beneficiaries are consulted and their concerns addressed. These actions shall encourage women to apply, and have an equal and real opportunity for accessing and benefiting from funds through a range of affirmative measures.

The proposed activities within this action document will thus be implemented by complying with the principles of preventing all forms of discrimination, and promoting positive gender issues. The main issues for gender mainstreaming in waste management will be taken into consideration:

- Integrating a gender perspective in assessment studies, planning, implementation and monitoring of waste management in various projects.
- Consultations prior to the introduction of new policies, procedures and technologies and equal representation of women and men in these consultations.
- Creation of equal opportunities for men and women to benefit from the awareness-raising and training initiatives for waste management.
- Attention will be given also to the informal sector active in waste management in order to improve their working conditions by formalising and integrating them into the system where possible.

A gender-sensitive approach in waste management can contribute to the improvement of the efficiency of the services provided; avoid costly mistakes and ensure equitable access to livelihoods and health conditions. New and particularly better jobs will be created for both women and men through the various projects. All these represent essential steps for reducing poverty, advancing gender equality, and empowering women.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The proposed actions will not harm in any way the rights of any individuals, including minorities and vulnerable groups; on the contrary, it will support vulnerable community. It will strongly support and facilitate minorities and vulnerable groups including both women/men within these groups.

This action document for environment will contribute to the improvement of living standards for Kosovo citizens, including minority, vulnerable groups, and other disadvantaged groups. The improvement of environmental infrastructure should in particular positively affect the livelihoods of communities by helping to improve the living standards and environment conditions. The equality principle will be applied for minorities and vulnerable groups, as well as in the interventions proposed.

Particularly, a special attention will be paid to the needs and interests of the informal sector located in Pejë/Peć and Istog/Istok project area, in relation with the possibility of using them as labour force for the new jobs created through the implementation of the activities proposed. Municipalities will be encouraged to enable conditions and facilitate establishment of local service providers, in the field of waste separation, collection and recycling, within the formal sector. A modalities of support to business start-ups, through grants or other financial support should be considered, and promoted within the donor community and involvement of the Ministry of Economic Development.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) will be partners in implementing several actions under this intervention. The intervention intends to ensure continued close coordination and alignment of the activities of development partners, allied to active participation of stakeholders in civil society and local institutions.

From the perspective of the requirements imposed by an integrated, modern concept of waste management, the public cooperation and acceptance is an essential condition. In this respect, an intensive communication between all key actors will be envisaged. In order to support the fulfilment of the future waste management tasks, the public communication and involvement measures will be mandatory in the proposed actions.

The effective public involvement will help to define the real necessary management practices and will significantly contribute to consensus building and improving its performances in the field of environmental protection. This communication mechanism will result in appropriate and innovative solutions, creating ownership and a new mentality among the waste generators towards waste prevention and recovery. Furthermore, the participation of the civil society will increase the transparency and legitimacy of the decision-making process.

The proposed actions will be supported by intensive public awareness campaigns (Activity 4.4) with the aim to increase knowledge and to motivate positive changes among the waste generators'. The understanding by the public of the significance of the intended interventions, its willingness to accept and support the integrated waste management system is of outstanding importance for the success of the

actions. It is vital to define opportunities for actions that are easy to understand and comprehensive. The proposed measures must create a positive public sentiment towards environmental protection and improved waste management and illustrate its impact on people's quality of life.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

Proposed actions within this Action Document will put forward the cross-cutting theme of environment and climate change to catalyse progress in order to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernise the transport sector and promote energy efficiency. The environmental impact due to economic activity is discussed on a general level within the context.

The proposed activities will ensure the improvement of the living standard, promotion of qualitative and efficient sanitation activities, sustainable development of services and environment protection. By implementing the new waste management system, the sanitary and aesthetical conditions at local and regional level will be improved and the risk factors for public health and environment will be reduced. Also, the improvements to the environmental infrastructure will promote investment opportunities to the economy and contribute to more sustainable economic growth.

In each action, proper attention will be paid to assess the potential for increased resilience and mitigation of the climate change risk. The proposed actions will be in line with the preventive action and the polluter pays principles.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability is a key topic for which Kosovo has a specific interest, as its objective is to make the best use of the available funds for its fast development. Thus, the strong political commitment of Kosovo to implement reforms proven along the past years is an important horizontal factor.

The sustainability of actions proposed will be ensured through the involvement of all actors in order to ensure public health protection, the preservation and protection of environment, and implicitly the sustainable development, fair and affordable fees for all the users, and it will also contribute to raising public authorities' responsibility towards citizens, to increasing transparency, consultancy and public participation in the decision-making process.

Actions will be directed towards the achievement of sustainable results in terms of content and time. In order to make sustainable decisions on investment promotion for an integrated waste management system, the interventions will be in line with the policies, sector strategies and SPP approved corroborated with specific local needs. In particular, the actions will contribute to sustainable improvements in regulating, planning, organising, managing, and monitoring the waste management system.

The progress in the sector will be measured and monitored through different indicators of achievements (impact, result and output). An interim evaluation to be conducted at the end of 2019 will analyse the results achieved, the management of resources and the quality of implementation of the strategy or IPA intervention. This analysis will help to assess whether the aims are still relevant by comparing the state of affairs with the initial situation and to measure the progress, in particular its overall impact. It will assess the success of the measures undertaken, the resources invested and the extent to which the expected effects have been achieved.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the action has received funding from the EU in line with the EU communication and visibility requirements. All stakeholders and implementing

partners shall ensure the visibility of EU financial assistance provided through IPA II throughout all phases of the programme cycle.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives, as well as the benefits of the action for the general public. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Visibility and communication aspects shall be complementary to the activities implemented by DG NEAR and the EU Delegations in the field.

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU Office and the Commission fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.