

## ACTION FICHE FOR 2008 ENPI EAST ANNUAL ACTION PROGRAMME

### 1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	ENPI Waste Governance and Management of Environmental Data – 2007/019-582		
Total cost	EUR 9.000.000		
Aid method / Management mode	- Component A (Waste governance) , Direct centralised management - Component B (Environmental Data), Indirect centralised management		
DAC-code	14050 (60%) 41010 (40%)	Sector	Waste management Environmental policy and administrative management

### 2. RATIONALE

#### 2.1. Sector context

The Countries of the region face a range of global, regional and trans-boundary environmental challenges. Key issues include air and water quality, waste management, nature protection, industrial pollution, wasteful energy use, land use, and pollution of the regional seas. Moreover, to ensure implementation and reinforcement of environmental legislation, strengthening of administrative capacities, strategic planning, prioritisation, data collection and monitoring are essential.

The governance situation in the ENPI countries, given the uneven progress in public administration reform and tackling corruption, often does not support modern environmental management approaches.. Noticeable progress seems to have been made on compliance assurance, water supply and sanitation, water resources management and agriculture. Less progress is apparent in waste management, biodiversity, transport and energy efficiency.

The basic legal and policy frameworks in the field of waste management are in most countries not in place and there is a need for enhanced strategic planning. The implementation gap is evident in particular at the sub-regional and local levels Environmental authorities experience major institutional and organisational weaknesses often related to public administration practices inherited from the Soviet era.

Significant amounts of hazardous waste are generated, but only a small fraction is managed in an environmentally safe manner. Exports of hazardous waste from Belarus and Ukraine are increasing while the trade in chemicals in Armenia,

Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova is characterised by higher imports rather than exports. Existing illegal hazardous waste dumps and stocks of obsolete pesticides constitute important challenges throughout the region.

Amounts of industrial and municipal wastes are increasing as economies grow and the level of wealth rises. However, municipal waste accounts only for a small part of total waste generated and the per capita levels are much lower than in the EU. Almost all municipal waste is landfilled. Most landfills are in a poor technical condition, and very few have collection of landfill gases and leachate. Moreover, significant amounts of municipal waste are disposed of in illegal or unprepared sites. Inadequate management of waste raises serious health concerns in the region. On the other hand enhanced waste management provides new business opportunities to society such as access to cheap resources, job creation etc and thereby contributes to increased competitiveness.

The state of information management remains critical. The Countries have a long history of collecting environmental data. However data is not collected or presented in a harmonised manner resulting in data not up to sufficient quality standards which instead often act as a barrier to achieving multilateral progress in dealing with global and regional environmental problems.

Environmental information across the region varies in quality, with the availability and reliability of data differing considerably. Little progress has been made in EECCA countries regarding monitoring and data storage and management are also still major issues. Although in many ENP East Countries the publication of the national state of the environment report serves as a driving force for environmental data coordination and exchange, this has not yet resulted in the creation of centralised electronic environment databases.

The involvement of civil society in environmental matters is weak and access to environmental data is insufficient.

## **2.2. Lessons learnt**

While, under the TACIS instrument the cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable management of natural resources has focused on Water Management, Clean Production, Biodiversity and Forests, cooperation in the field of Waste Management has been almost non-existent.

Key lessons learnt from the Capacity Building project carried out under the TACIS national programme 2003 in the Donetsk oblast in Ukraine will be drawn. Results from activities in the field of solid waste and wastewater, undertaken through the Northern Environmental Dimension Partnership extending the cooperation between EU Member States and the region's partner countries Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation will be built upon.

Moreover, the LIFE Programme (EU's Financial Instrument of for the Environment) has funded since 1992 innovative environmental projects in the field of waste management, not only within the EU but also in some of the ENPI countries (i.e Russian Federation, in particular Kaliningrad and Saint Petersburg regions). Their demonstration value and cost-effectiveness give these experiences a high added value for being reproduced in other Eastern partner countries.

The intervention will build on the lessons learned from the previous project with European Environment Agency (EEA) providing technical assistance in the field of data collection and reporting "Support to the EEA Data Collection in EECCA" . However the scope of this action will be wider and also include collaboration with the national statistics institutes to improve capacities in data management at a national level and support the setting up of an environmental information system for the region in line with the EU's Shared Environment Information System (SEIS). This component will be carried out in collaboration with DG ENV, Eurostat and the JRC (the Group of 4).

There is an agreement on the need to ensure that institutions responsible for data collection and the treatment and management of databases dealing with the application of environmental indicators regularly transmit the information collected to institutions designated for the publication and dissemination of assessment reports on the environment and the use of natural resources. Moreover, assessment reports should be improved and based on environmental indicators for more efficient use by policy- and decision makers, the academic community and the general public.

### **2.3. Complementary actions**

The project takes into account other projects that were previously implemented or are on-going in the different countries, for example:

- Municipal Investment Support Programme II, already finished. Russia € 1 M - TACIS Russia AP 2003. - Mykolaiv Municipal Water Project – Ukraine. Signed in December 2007 ( € 3 M. -TACIS RAP 2005)

- "Harmonisation of Environmental Standards II" - Russian Federation – € 2,45 M TACIS Russia AP 2005, under implementation up to September 2009.

- "Capacity building in Donetsk Oblast for waste management" – Ukraine – € 1,58 M TACIS Ukraine AP 2003 – April 2004-October 2007

- "SWITCH-Asia – Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production" - Asia 2007 - € 25 M.

This action should also investigate possible objects for investments that could be supported later on through the Neighbourhood Investment Facility -NIF to support EIB/EBRD activities in the region.

### **2.4. Donor coordination**

The project will take advantage of the results achieved under previous EC-financed project carried out by the EEA in the same field and region (TACIS RAP 2004-Support to the EEA data collection in the EECCA countries).

For both components donor coordination is essential, in particular when it refers to supporting the implementation of Environmental International Agreements. Therefore, synergies with International Financial Institutions, other donor's projects and other EU funded projects, will be systematically sought. For instance to take account of activities and results from the project "Transboundary river basin management in Upper Tisa region with regard to floodplain and waste management"

implemented by WWF-Germany in Republic of Moldova-Ukraine, funded by the German Ministry of Environment. The EC Delegations will also play an active role in this regard locally.

Regarding the second component, as occurred with the previous project (TACIS RAP 20004- Support to the EEA data collection in the ECCAA countries), close cooperation and synergy between the EEA and other initiatives/institutions (i.e. UNEP and UNECE) will be ensured.

### **3. DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Objectives**

The Overall Objective is to reduce environmental risks and pollution, and promote more sustainable use of natural resources with partner states in the region.

The Specific Objectives will be:

**A) Waste governance** - To improve the management of waste by promoting higher standards at waste facilities, more effective waste prevention initiatives, increased capacities for waste collection and sorting, as well as increasing reuse, recovery and safe disposal of waste. The activities should contribute to the wider objective of promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Eastern ENP Partner Countries, in order to ensure a more holistic approach to minimising environmental impacts and maximising social benefits.

**B) Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data** - To improve capacities on indicator-based monitoring, assessment and reporting of environmental data in the relevant environmental authorities and in close cooperation with the national statistics institutes to set up an environmental information system in line with the EU's Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

Taking into account these two specific objectives, this project will have two main components.

#### **3.2. Expected results and main activities**

##### **A) Results- Waste governance**

- The Partner Countries will plan and pursue more holistic and strategic approaches to waste management, in line with the waste management hierarchy
- Countries will comply better with international standards and gradually converge towards European policy principles and approaches and legislation as regards framework requirements to waste, waste from specific activities as well as waste from consumer goods, municipal waste and hazardous waste.
- improved collaboration with importers, producers, distributors, retail sector as well as local and regional authorities in order to minimize environmental impacts from the production-consumption system

- better environmental awareness through regional and sub-regional cooperation and through the involvement of civil society (NGOs) and the private sector.

**B) Results- Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data**

- improved quality, timeliness and availability of environmental information in the ENP East Partner Countries in order to support: policy development implementation, proper allocation of financial resources, environmental democracy and awareness raising, as well as to support the implementation of international agreements in the field of environment dealing with transboundary issues.
- progress made towards a shared environmental information system (SEIS) in line with European standards as appropriate. This will facilitate the establishment of relevant data flows and the production and maintenance of a core set of environmental indicators (CSI) for the region, which is comparable and compatible with the CSI of the EEA and its member countries. The data, information and indicators will serve as a basis for both evaluating progress of the state of the environment at various levels (from regional to pan-European), for supporting the implementation of various national and international commitments and targets.

**A) Activities - Waste governance**

- Following a gap analysis of the existing national waste management policies and legislation as well as institutional arrangements, assistance to drafting of policy papers and framework legislation as well as laws and regulations for implementation and enforcement and compliance with international conventions and commitments will be defined by country
- strengthening administrative capacities (procedures) and institution building (organisation)
- preparation of inventories of existing illegal/non-compliant dumping sites
- preparation of inventories of existing polluted sites/soil and preparation of relevant legislation
- promoting producer responsibility as an efficient tool to find solutions on specific waste streams
- introduction of Green Public Procurement (GPP)
- analysis on best way of extending DABLAS beyond the water sector (as per Black Sea Synergies communication (COM(2007)160 final, 11.04.2007) and "A Strong European Neighbourhood Policy" (COM(2007)774 final, 05/12/2007).
- awareness raising addressing the importers, producers, distributors, retail sector, municipalities, general public, NGOs etc.

**B) Activities -Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental Data**

- Influence the development of the national systems for environmental data collection and distribution in line with SEIS objectives.
- capacity building of the relevant authorities, including national statistics institutes regarding the data flows underpinning the production of environmental indicators, as well as data sharing and reporting mechanisms, focusing in to begin with on air, water and land cover
- capacity building at national level to develop and implement a shared environmental information system to be used for national, regional and international reporting, assessment and benchmarking
- Integration of data and information collected in ENP East countries into a SEIS-compliant system
- development and production of comparable indicators based on the EECCA methodological guides (developed with UNECE and UNEP support)
- Analysis and assessment of the available data, information and indicators (environment and sustainable development) produced
- A report on the state of environment in the Neighbourhood region (East and South) is envisaged.

### **3.3. Stakeholders**

**A) Waste governance** - The main stakeholders will be the relevant Ministries such as Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Industry, Ministries of Energy and Transport and the Ministries of Health and governmental institutions responsible for the development, implementation and enforcement of policies and legislation on waste management (RF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Roztechnadzor). Selected regional and local administrations and agencies will be involved as well as NGOs and the private sector.

**B) Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data**- The main stakeholders will be producers and users of environmental data such as the Ministries of Environment, regional and local administrations and agencies involved in the monitoring and reporting of environmental data, other related entities such as the Ministries of Health and the National Statistics Institutes.

The final target groups, for both components (A & B), are the populations of the region.

### **3.4. Risks and assumptions**

Lack of political stability and possible tensions between the countries of the region may affect in a negative manner the satisfactory implementation of the activities.

The Ministry of Environment is not the only stakeholder with regard to waste management. The project will pay particular attention to the involvement of other public and private stakeholders in the project activities. Information activities for

success practices sharing but also improving the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders into the decision-making process.

The possibility of fluctuations in central government's support (due to a change at central government's level) as well as a lack of coherence between local development strategies and policies at central level, may also constitute a potential risk for projects' success. The program will therefore have to ensure, whenever possible, that central governments' support is stable and that the project being financed is indeed coherent with policies at different levels of government.

### **3.5. Crosscutting Issues**

Environmental sustainability is the main objective of the two components.

Gender equality; the objectives of the project will contribute to the improvement of women's living conditions and thereby lead to increased gender equality. Moreover, the participation by women in the implementation of the project will be encouraged.

Good governance and Human Rights; the project will support democratisation and enhance the role of civil society and NGOs through participatory processes and to the countries' willingness of fulfilling the commitments through the Århus Convention – access to environmental information.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Implementation method**

**A) Waste governance - Direct centralised management.**

**B) Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data- Centralised management.** The assistance will be provided through a service contract signed with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) on the basis of its technical expertise. It will be implemented together with a similar contribution envisaged for the Southern ENP Partner Countries (ENPI South Regional 2008 Action Programme). It will be carried out in line with the technical arrangement established in 2005 between DG ENV, EEA, Eurostat and JRC.

### **4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures**

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Full financing may only be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential to carry out the action in question.

#### **4.3. Budget and calendar**

**A) Waste governance** - The indicative budget is of € 6,5 million. Indicative starting date: Beginning 2009. Planned duration of the project is four years. The technical assistance will be provided through one or more services contracts following a tender procedure. The tendering is planned to be launched end of 2008.

**B) Monitoring and Assessment of Environmental data** - The indicative budget is of € 2,5 million. Indicative starting date: September 2008. Planned duration of the project is four years

#### **4.4. Performance monitoring**

Besides the regular follow up by the EC Delegations and the Headquarters, the performance will be monitored by the ENPI Result Oriented Monitoring Team - ROM). The project manager and the implementing bodies will pay particular attention to the recommendations made by the ROM.

There are no "standard indicators" in the domain, however, one of the results envisaged in the programme is to identify and develop indicators.

#### **4.5. Evaluation and audit**

For both components (A and B), expenditure incurred will have to be certified, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the framework of the implementation of this project. Mid term and final evaluations of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, as well as external audits (which will be carried out if necessary). These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources than the project budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired ("N+1" rule will apply).

#### **4.6. Communication and visibility**

A communication strategy and specific activities dedicated to communication and visibility will be developed for the two components (website, possibly a Newsletter, specific publications, etc) in order to keep the stakeholders regularly informed and to ensure the visibility of the programme.

The EU visibility guidelines must be followed by the project.