



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

KOSOVO*

EU4 Environment, Climate Action and Energy

Action summary

The objective of this action is to support Kosovo in preventing environmental land and air degradation and the negative impact on human health by reducing solid waste pollution and emissions from the production of energy.

This action will support Kosovo institutions in aligning its waste management practices with EU standards, with the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy and its implementation plan, and will promote a rational use of energy and increasing the heating supply capacity of the Pristina District Heating system.

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

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Kosovo for the Year 2020
Action Title	EU4 Environment, climate action and energy
Action ID	IPA 2020 /042 090/ 04/ Kosovo / EU4 Environment, climate action and energy
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	3. Environment and Climate Change
DAC Sector	23320 and 14050
Budget	
Total cost	EUR 54 000 000.00 (EUR 33 600 000.00 by EU + EUR 13 000 000 by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) + EUR 7 400 000.00 by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Termokos)
EU contribution	EUR 33 600 000.00
Budget line(s)	22 02 01 02
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Direct and indirect management
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation	N/A
<i>Indirect management:</i> Other entrusted entity	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), European Investment Bank (EIB)
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 2021
Final date for concluding contribution/delegation agreements, 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
Indicative operational implementation period	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)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

The objective of this action is to support Kosovo in preventing environmental land and air degradation and the negative impact on human health by reducing solid waste pollution and emissions from the production of energy.

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Waste management infrastructure

The waste sector in Kosovo is in urgent need for improvement of waste management services and for development of appropriate infrastructure. Until presently the government did not provide sufficient human and financial resources for capital investments and expanded waste services. The amount of generated waste is continuously increasing, while the current waste management system and related infrastructure are not in place to cope with this increase.

Kosovo has a network of regional and municipal landfills and transfer stations for solid waste, constructed during 2002-2006 under the EU or other donor funding. However, due to poor management, the waste disposal infrastructure has quickly deteriorated. Waste collection infrastructure is also poor due to limited financial resources and weak management skills of the operators. The waste collection system is characterised by an insufficient number of collection points, damaged containers that are very often incompatible with the waste trucks in use. The transport equipment for waste is often depreciated, malfunctioning and largely insufficient for full service coverage. Maintenance of the equipment is equally insufficient and repair shops are in a very poor condition.

Service providers at local level have limited knowledge on integrated municipal waste management and insufficiently trained staff. Women are underrepresented in the sector¹.

Separate collection and treatment of valuable recyclables is almost non-existent with only a small quantity of recycled waste being collected by the informal sector and sold to collection points that export it as the in-house treatment and recycling capacity is very limited. Many adults and children from the Roma minority communities are working under very bad conditions, collecting recyclable waste from containers or in the disposal facilities as unregistered workers. Previous efforts to improve their working conditions and to change their status to formal did not bring the expected results.

According to the report on Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo issued in 2019 by the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, only 75.6% of the total population had access to proper collection services by the end of 2018.

Landfilling remains the only method in use for waste disposal, even though the Strategy for Waste Management in Kosovo 2013 - 2022 identified this as a less desired option. Most of the waste disposal infrastructure is in a very bad state and operating standards are below the EU requirements mainly due to a lack of awareness, insufficient funding, a lack of professional operational knowledge and practices (e.g. absence of operating manuals), as well as a lack of necessary equipment and infrastructure (e.g. absence of leachate/biogas treatment, environmental monitoring, etc.). All the above stated reasons have led to the deterioration of the environment conditions within and around the landfills that now pose a serious threat to ground water pollution. In addition to this, due to the lack of infrastructure for treatment and disposal, the reports from the Clean Environmental race (project implemented by GIZ together with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning), show that more than 1650 illegal dumpsites were recorded in Kosovo varying in size and type of waste. Another type of dumpsite emerging at a very fast rate is the one for construction demolition waste. The vibrant construction sector in the urban areas, often not controlled by the local authorities, is the main reason for emerging dumpsites along roads and river edges, posing a serious threat to the environment and health of people in the form of dust pollution and risk of contamination with asbestos and other dangerous materials.

¹Kosovo Gender Analysis: <https://womensnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/womens-network.pdf>, pp. 45-46.

The regional landfill serving Pristina was designed and built during 2004-2006 with a cost of around EUR 3 500 000.00. This landfill is located about 10 km west of Pristina in an area owned by the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) in the village Mirash of Obiliq/Obilic Municipality. The landfill began operating in December 2006 and currently is under the management of the Kosovo Landfill Management Company. The Mirash landfill serves the Municipalities of Pristina, Lipjan/Lipljane, Drenas, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Graçanicë/Gračanica and Obiliq/Obilic. Its current surface area is approximately 6-7 ha, while the size of area designated for the landfill operation is 20 ha. The population served is 394.000², with a total capacity of 3.5 million m³ of waste. The designed life time is 15 years, i.e. until 2021. Previous studies³ have shown that the situation in the Mirash landfill is the most critical. The area is flooded with water (ca. 350 000 m³); the liner in the leachate lagoon is detached from its base at two locations; the surface water drainage system does not function; there is no gas collection and treatment system installed. There are no possibilities of extension because the land is the property of the Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK). Moreover, the flood protection system of the landfill has failed, which poses a great threat to contamination of ground water. A similarly critical situation and the risk of environment contamination is in almost all other waste disposal facilities in Kosovo and in particular in Gjilan/Gniljan and Prizren landfills which are operating beyond their designed capacity to store waste and planned lifespan. Poor management and an increasing number population that are served by these two landfills have contributed to quick deterioration of the environment condition within and around the landfill area.

Due to a lack of appropriate facilities, construction and demolition waste is disposed in the existing landfills, or goes to the numerous illegal landfills that operate with improper management, including dumpsites often nearby rivers, causing environmental risks and also losing materials of interest for recycling. In this regard, the construction of construction and demolition waste treatment facilities in an appropriate location is of crucial importance.

Waste management policy

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has the central role in drafting policies, strategies and laws regulating waste management and licencing of operators while municipalities have devolved responsibilities for organizing, financing and monitoring waste management activities. In recent years, there has been very little progress achieved towards the implementation of the EU acquis in the waste sector. Further efforts are required in order to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the waste management legislation.

The number of specialised staff in the Ministry, the Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency and other sector institutions is insufficient to cope with the current challenges of the sector. The inspection services, which are crucial for the regulation of the sector, are inadequately staffed and resourced. Inspections are split between the environmental inspectorate of the Ministry and the municipalities' own municipal inspectors. Furthermore, the inspection and permitting functions are separated and communication between various departments still needs to be improved.

Important actors in waste management are the Regional Waste Collection Companies (RWCC) and the Kosovo Landfill Management Company. Institutional set-up of the RWCC should be reconsidered in order to allow for an efficient operation and maintenance. In order to ensure sustainable operations a new tariff setting for operation and management of landfill is needed,

ENERGY

District Heating

In Kosovo only three cities have district heating systems which cover around 3% of the total heating demand in Kosovo. Termokos, the district heating company in Pristina supplies around 22% of the heating demand in the city. Based on the energy consumption survey carried out in 2017 the share of different commodities used for space heating in Pristina are as follows: district heating around 22%, fuelwood 38%, electricity 26%, pellet over 6%, mix of coal and wood around 6%, and only coal 1%. The use of coal for space heating mainly in the residential sector in the cities has a very bad impact on the air quality thus ranking Kosovo as the most polluted

² According to Kosovo Statistic Agency "Population Estimation for 2016"

³ Pristina landfill - problem analysis and recommendations, October 201, IFC and WB and GIZ study of ground water contamination in 2016, Kosovo Waste Master Plan

area in Europe. The Kosovo's energy strategy and the heating strategy emphasise the need to promote cogeneration (CHP) throughout Kosovo and development of district heating supply services in other cities.

Since November 2014, the 'Cogeneration' project was put in operation and replaced the heating/the heavy fuel oil based heating with co-generation (heat extraction) from Kosovo B thermal power plant. The quality of service from Termokos has improved significantly. The heat losses in the distribution network have decreased from 20% to around 15% and will further reduce down to 12% as a result of ongoing refurbishments of the distribution pipes and substations. Given the very good quality of heating supply at affordable prices that is provided by Termokos, there is a huge interest on the consumer side to connect to Termokos network. Termokos has prepared a master plan to extend the network to other adjacent suburbs to connect new customers.

With the increase of supply capacities by doubling the thermal energy production at the Kosovo B plant Termokos could increase or double the network coverage to cover more than 50% of the heating demand in the city.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Improved waste management infrastructure and policy

The aim of this action is to contribute to the development of a sustainable waste sector in Kosovo, in line with EU practices and policies and the development of appropriate related infrastructure. The action consists of two main components: (i) an advanced waste management system and (ii) promotion of sustainable, qualitative and efficient sanitation activities. The resulting improvement of these components will ensure better protection of the environmental and reduction of the risks from pollution, especially of surface and ground waters, air and soil, as well as a reduction of the risks to human health likely to arise from uncontrolled waste disposal.

The proposed activities on advanced waste management system will contribute to improvements in the management of the waste sector in Kosovo at the central and local level, including various Regional Waste Collection Companies as well as the centralised Kosovo Landfill Management Company. In addition, following the COVID-19 crisis, process and method of collection of infected medical and non-medical waste and materials will be adapted, including training to the staff.

The action will include the construction of a new landfill in Pristina region, extension of two landfills, closure /rehabilitation of landfills, upgrade of transfer station, and accompanying measures to support implementation of investment projects.

All the proposed activities will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, as the main beneficiary, Ministry of Economic Development, with Kosovo Landfill Management Company and other relevant entities with the aim of strengthening their capacity and increasing effectiveness in dealing with waste management issues, and in enhancing their project planning, implementation and monitoring skills. The indirect beneficiaries from the proposed actions represent the population of Kosovo (at least 75%) that will have access to improved waste management services.

ENERGY

Increase of thermal energy production at Termokos

The Cogeneration project in Pristina from the Kosovo B power plant that became operational in November 2014 has had a great impact on the quality of the heating service, but also on the reduction of environmental pollution caused in the past as a result of burning heavy fuel oil by the district heating company Termokos. The Action will increase the thermal energy capacity extraction at the Kosovo B power plant, which will allow for the expansion of district heating coverage in the city from 23% currently to 50% of the heating demand in Pristina. With the increase of heating supply capacity and related extension of the existing distribution network and the increased number of customers, there will be a direct impact on reducing the use of electricity and coal for heating and consequently the reduction of air pollution in the city. Furthermore, the environmental upgrade of the Kosovo B power plant to reduce the emissions of dust and NOx will be financed under IPA 2018/19 to the levels allowed by the Large Combustion Plants and Industrial Emissions Directives.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

In the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo 2014-2020, it is stated that the overall objective of IPA II rests on the principles of reducing pollution and emissions at source and preventing environmental degradation, in order to limit the risk to human health and the environment. Both components of this Action directly follow the aforementioned objective. On the one hand, the action regarding waste management in Kosovo aims to achieve the expected result listed under the Environment and Climate Action Sub-Sector in the Strategy Paper: “Waste management improved in line with the EU requirements, including improved physical infrastructure and increased recycling rates.”

The action is in line with a credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans" of 6 February 2018, which foresees further alignment with the EU's acquis and to ensure implementation capacity in terms of EU environmental law.

The action is also in line with the Commission's assessment of Kosovo's Economic Reform Programme 2019-2021, which identifies the tapping of renewable and energy saving potentials and fully opening the energy market as one of the three main challenges to increasing the competitiveness of the Kosovo economy. This action is in line with this high level guidance.

The relevant feasibility studies for the different infrastructures mentioned in this action document are currently being prepared by the government with financing from the German Government through KfW.

Those feasibility studies, once completed, will provide precise information on the state of waste infrastructure; primarily those landfills that are under the management of the Kosovo Landfill Management Company.

Those feasibility studies will include recommendations for the improvement of the operation of the Kosovo Landfill Management Company as well as a list of recommendations on future investments in infrastructure, such as; the rehabilitation measures for landfills.

The recommendations for the existing infrastructure, may include:

- Extension or increase of storing capacity,
- Construction of new cells/landfills,
- Closure of the existing site,
- Construction of transfer stations or other types of infrastructure like material recovery facilities or composting plants.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In the past years the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and other relevant institutions like the Kosovo Environment Protection Agency, have received financial support from the EU and other donors to transpose and implement the EU environmental acquis, to develop strategic sector documents, to set up and implement accompanying reform measures and to prepare and implement several environmental infrastructure projects.

The donor support in the area of waste management included both technical assistance aiming at the improvement of municipal services and the preparation of several technical documents (e.g. feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies, design documents, etc.) and investments in infrastructure.

The EU being the main donor in Kosovo has actively supported the environment sector through a range of initiatives including technical assistance projects. A project named 'Support to Waste Management in Kosovo' started in December 2019, funded under EU IPA 2018. Another ongoing project funded under IPA 2013 is: 'Infrastructure facility for waste storage in Kosovo'.

In addition, until December 2016, Kosovo benefited from six grants from Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) for the environmental sector. The WBIF has helped prepare and implement essential infrastructure developments in the waste sectors mainly through the 'Strengthening waste management' project.

The EU and other donors' support contributed to gaining experience by the beneficiary institutions in better design and improved implementation practices of the environment related projects.

The experience from previous projects demonstrates that construction of new waste disposal and separation infrastructure will have to be complemented with the improvement of the waste management practices and increased capacities at local government level.

Based on the experience gained and on the lessons learned during the implementation of EU assistance programmes and other donor assistance, 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, planning documents 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. Achieving 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. Project implementation is often hampered by the lack of sufficient funds to allow appropriate implementation. Beneficiary institutions should demonstrate full commitment by ensuring that co-funding is available and planning of expenditures is coordinated with the implementation of the project activities;
- **Sustainability** is still a challenge as environmental institutions within the government structures, depended mainly on support from the donor organisations 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. Ensuring proper operation and maintenance of the environment infrastructure remains a challenge; therefore it is important to set a clear conditionality's for the government institutions prior starting the implementation process (such as an agreement on the methodology of tariff setting and the calculation of tariffs). Another important aspect for sustainability is post project implementation monitoring, 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. Unfortunately, the identification of the needs of the sector was not an integrated and systematic process, often relying on the recommendations from donor institutions rather than on the internal policy planning documents. Consequently, the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy 2013-2022 and the Waste Management Plan are only partly reflected in the local solid waste management plans.
- 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. 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.
- **Ownership of local partners:** The willingness to provide land for necessary investments in a municipality is often hampered by political motives.

ENERGY

A lesson learnt from previous assistance is the need to strengthen the cooperation between central and local level institutions to achieve the full understanding of international obligations such as the requirements of the Energy Community Treaty by political and technical levels.

The district heating company 'Termokos' has a long experience cooperating with donors and IFIs. During 2000-2005 a number of projects sponsored by different donors (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Department for International Development (DFID), EU, etc.) have contributed to improving the quality and reducing heat losses. During 2014-2016 Termokos has implemented the 'Cogeneration' project which was financed through combined loan from KfW and grants from EU, German Government, SIDA, Luxembourg, Kosovo government and municipality of Pristina. Under IPA 2015 the EU is financing rehabilitation a part of Termokos network to further reduce the hot water losses and to improve supply of heat to customers, including extension to new customers in public and residential sector. Termokos has gained know-how and expertise on better management of the district heating system. Termokos has significantly improved the revenues as a result of better customer care and good quality service.

A general lesson learnt is that policy and legislative development needs to be evidence-based, costed and subject to appropriate internal and external stakeholder consultations at the right time of the legislative and policy-making process. This is key in ensuring implementation and enforcement of adopted policies and legislation.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE(S) / (IMPACT(S))	INDICATOR's NAME	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS			SOURCES & MEANS OF VERIFICATION	
		BASELINES	MILESTONE S	TARGETS		
<p><i>Environment and Climate Change</i> To develop infrastructure for an integrated approach to waste management, in line with waste hierarchy and sustainable use of resources.⁴</p> <p><i>Energy</i> To ensure reliable and clean energy supply in Kosovo by implementing the Energy Community Treaty requirements and the Kosovo energy strategy.</p>	<p>Percentage of total generated municipal solid waste being managed in controlled facilities (i.e. including sanitary landfill, and/or thermal and/or biological and material recovery/recycling facilities).</p> <p>Proportion of population with access to clean technology (cogeneration /no. of consumers connected</p>	<p><40% (2018)</p> <p>13,500</p>	<p>60% (2021)</p> <p>14,000</p>	<p>80% (2024)</p> <p>26,000</p>	<p><i>Environment and Climate Change</i> Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning/Kosovo Environment Protection Agency (Annual Report on Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo) Project Monitoring Reports Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo-Status report Regional Waste Companies annual reports</p> <p><i>Energy</i> Energy Community Secretariat's Annual implementation report reports. Kosovo plan for energy and climate</p>	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) / OUTCOME(S)	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)				SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><i>Environment and Climate Change</i> Specific Objective 1: To reduce volume of municipal solid waste disposed to landfills and to increase share of waste separated, reused and recycled⁵.</p> <p><i>Energy</i> Specific Objective 2: Promoting a rational use of energy in public buildings by increasing the heating supply capacity of the Pristina District Heating system.</p>	<p>Percent of population that has access to Civic Amenity Sites, home composting or other municipal selective collection schemes</p> <p>Number of illegal dumpsites</p>	<p>6.8% (2018)</p> <p>1572⁶(2019)</p>	<p>20% (2022)</p> <p>≤1000 (2023)</p>	<p>30% (2024)</p> <p>Illegal dumpsites eliminated (2024)</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning/Kosovo Environment Protection Agency Annual Report on Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo) Project Monitoring Reports Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo-Status report Regional Waste Companies annual reports</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning/Kosovo</p>	<p>Similar projects to continue and be extended to all Kosovo municipalities. Specific waste management targets will be adopted in accordance to EU acquis and in alignment with Kosovo Strategy for Waste (revised Oct 2018)</p>

⁴ This will contribute to Gender Action Plan II Objective 16: “Equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women”.

⁵ Gender sensitive outreach is required

	Increase of district heating share in the energy balance	16.75ktoe	16.75ktoe	32ktoe	Environment Protection Agency (Annual Report) Project Monitoring Reports The government's implementation report on energy efficiency and the annual report of the Energy Community Secretariat.	The government committed to implement the energy strategy implementation program;
OUTPUTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)				SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<i>Environment and Climate Change</i> Output 1 – Linked to SO1 Improved waste management infrastructure	Percent of population benefiting from waste disposal services	75.6% (2018)	90% (2021)	100% (2024)	Project Monitoring Reports Environmental Protection Agency (Annual Report on Municipal Waste Management in Kosovo)	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning , supported by GIZ, updates the strategy of waste management and its implementation plan. GIZ supports municipalities and service providers in introducing to separate collection of recyclables and support the operation of public and private waste treatment activities. KfW will support improving the infrastructure managed by KLMC (Kosovo Landfill Management Company). GIZ will improve local level processes, by providing technical assistance to Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, municipalities and public operators.
	Three new landfills constructed	0 (2019)	1(2023)	3 (2024)		
Output 2 – linked to SO1 Institutional development to modernise waste management in Kosovo	Number of secondary legislation acts approved by the government regulating the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR),	0 (2018)	2 (2022)	4 (2025)		
	Percentage of population separating waste at household level	6.86 (2018)	13 (2020)	25(2024)		
<i>Energy</i> Output 3 - The heat production capacity in Termokos is improved to allow for extension of the district heating service to new areas and customers in Pristina with a direct impact on air quality by reduced the consumption of solid fuels, such as wood, coal etc., by final consumers.	Number of new customers (disaggregated by women and men) that will be connected to the district heating supply;	Around 13,500 (2017)	4,000 (2022)	26,000 (2024)	Kosovo's energy balance and energy statistics published by the Kosovo Statistics Agency International Energy Agency reports on Kosovo energy consumption.	<i>Energy</i> Termokos ensures good coordination between different projects aiming at increasing the production capacities and extension of network; Termokos will increase the professional capacity

						to manage large infrastructure projects;
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DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Output 1 – Improved waste management infrastructure

Activity 1 - Construction of the new landfill for Pristina region

Construction of a new landfill in Pristina to ensure service for the most populated region in Kosovo. The construction of the landfill shall be based on the geotechnical studies and a design. It will include among other things:

- Flood protection infrastructure and drainage management;
- Infrastructure for landfill gas management;
- Environmental Monitoring System;
- Leachate treatment plant;
- Supply of new equipment for the landfill (compactor / bulldozer / Charger)
- Auxiliary facilities needed (administrative buildings, laundry tires, etc.);

Activity 2 – Closure of the existing landfill in Pristina, Mirash landfill

Closure of the existing landfill in Mirash is an immediate priority due to its threat to the environment. It will be based on the environmental study that includes topographical, geological/geotechnical and hydrogeological aspects, as well as a study of the soil and ground water pollution through chemical analyses, in order to identify the best closure solution. The study may recommend dislocation of the existing waste into the new landfill in Pristina region. For this reason, there should be proper time coordination between construction of the new landfill for Pristina region and closure of the existing in Mirash. The activity does not cover the clean-up and land recovery of the site.

Activity 3 – Construction of two new landfills in Gjilan and Prizren

Construction of two new landfills shall be based on the existing studies and the recommendation of the study on the waste infrastructure by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. The study will reveal their actual condition and will designate two landfills with higher priority for rehabilitation, extension/ relocation.

Activity 4 – Provision of adequate infrastructure for an integrated waste management system

- **facilities for storing construction and demolition waste**

Support the Ministry of Environment and the local authorities in preparation of the feasibility studies for and the environment impact assessment studies for construction of demolition waste disposal facilities.

As a result of the studies the locations for the construction of the facilities will be identified and the recommendations for technical specifications for the construction of the facilities will be made.

- **facilities for transfer, sorting, preliminary storage, and pre-treatment of municipal waste and other specific waste streams**

This activity will support the responsible institutions to undertake feasibility studies and environment impact assessment studies for construction of the facilities for transfer, sorting, preliminary storage, and pre-treatment of municipal waste and other specific waste streams

Currently there is a study in preparation by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning which should recommend the most economically and environmentally sound option for the number, location, scope and functions of the transfer stations.

Output 2 – Institutional development to modernise waste management in Kosovo

Technical assistance shall be provided to the institutions at central and local level and the operators of waste utilities and infrastructure in order to improve and modernise the performance of the collection, transport and disposal of municipal waste in accordance with the best EU practice models.

An important activity of the technical assistance will include introduction of concepts of: *Extended Producer Responsibility, separation of waste at household level, increased recycling rate and better management of solid waste.*

The technical assistance will provide support in the implementation of the Kosovo waste management strategy, in the following areas:

- Development of the legal and institutional framework for management of reusable and recyclable waste streams (construction waste, bulky waste plastic and glass, organic waste, electronic waste etc.);
- Introduction of the required administrative procedures as well as the incentives for those municipalities that perform better.
- Capacity building for institutions and operators.
- Drafting of implementation laws, audit and enforcement processes, tax and tariff calculation.
- Awareness raising of all relevant actors in the management of all waste streams;
- Introduction of legal and administrative measures based on the principles of Extended Producers Responsibility;
- Development of properly regulated selective collection systems (within the formal sector), for different waste streams (plastic, glass, organic waste etc.);
- Introduce the concept and practices of reuse of waste, in specific the construction waste;
- Promoting the use of less polluting materials for packaging, for construction purposes or other;
- Proper management of infrastructure and other physical assets will also require training and capacity development of the operators.

The action proposed herein is based on Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy and on the best practice implemented by the government with the support of German Development Cooperation (GIZ).

Over the past three years, GIZ has implemented a municipal waste management improvement programme in 17 municipalities in 2017/18 (covering approximately 69% of the total population), titled Clean Environment Race⁷⁸ followed by the EU co-financed performance grant scheme Clean Environment in 2019 and 2020. This action will support improvement of the conditions of work of all participants in the waste sector, including Roma communities and the change of status of informal workers to a properly regulated formal sector.

ENERGY

Output 3: Increase of thermal energy production at Termokos

Activities include preparation of the tender dossier for works, implementation of works and supervision services for the following project components/activities:

- Steam extraction in turbine hall at both units of Kosovo B thermal power plant (2×140=280 MWth) and transfer it to the heat extraction stations in the compound of Kosovo B power plant. This would allow transferring twice the steam volume flow compared to the existing system layout;

7 The Clean Environment Race targeted increasing local good government performance in waste service delivery and was part of GIZ's Sustainable Municipal Service programme commissioned by and implemented on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation . The winning participants will receive equipment (i.e. trucks and containers) worth 3.4 mil € in 2018. The Race 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. The Clean Environment Race is led by an inter-ministerial steering committee and is aligned with their policies and existing monitoring system.

8 There are plans to develop a government-owned Performance Grant , to be financed by group of donors including German and Swiss Development Cooperation and the government, with a total of estimated EUR 16 000 000.00 (tbc) distributed to municipalities in the next four years (2019 to 2022). Main objective of the grant is to introduce separation and increase reuse and recycling rate.

- Construction of a new heat extraction station (140 MW) in addition to the existing station to produce hot water;
- Construction of the new transmission pipeline to connect to Termokos network in parallel to the existing pipeline;
- Construction of a new heat receiving station for the additional 140 MW at Termokos compound.

The increase of thermal energy capacity extraction at the Kosovo B power plant will allow for the expansion of district heating coverage in the city from 23% currently to 50% of the heating demand in Pristina. The above activities are entrusted to the EIB and will be implemented in conjunction with activities on the extension of the district heating network and connection of new customers to be financed through an EIB loan.

RISKS

Environment and Climate change		
Risk categories	Risk level	Mitigation measures
The government and other stakeholders still show little interest in promoting the development of the environment and waste sector in particular, including waste infrastructure No willingness by the local authorities to provide land for necessary investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium 	<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 International Financial Institutions involvement at an early stage to overcome potential budgetary constraints. Stakeholder consultations explaining the need for investments in the waste sector in order to improve the state of environment and avoid health risks
Political interference in the selection of projects with high costs and low benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium 	<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.
The practice of favouring the centralized approach and political nominations of management boards of public utilities and in the decision-making institutions is widespread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium 	<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.
Insufficient support and involvement of the relevant ministries and other institutions in providing human and financial resources necessary to support the implementation of IPA II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and communication mechanism system 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.
Unmotivated staff participates in the project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivation through challenge and problem solving; Early stage involvement and active participation; Joint events as promotion and activity motivation; Addressing of ownership; Change of staff if required.
Delay in transposition of the EU environmental acquis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium 	<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;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sufficient budget to be allocated for transposing the EU directives and meeting the environment acquis.
Limited public participation and stakeholder engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement of the stakeholders early and often, including women and men in consultations; ▪ Applying proactive and transparent communication; ▪ Cultivating a long-term relationship to improve operational stability and sustainability; ▪ 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.
ENERGY		
Lack of cooperation between stakeholders on implementation of the Termokos project	low	A project steering committee will be established with the main stakeholders including Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economic Development, municipality of Pristina, Termokos, KEK (Kosovo B power plant) and donors/IFI representatives. The project steering committee will oversee the progress on implementation and will ensure that actions assigned to relevant authorities/stakeholders are implemented on time to avoid delays in the implementation of the project.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The main assumptions for the implementation of the Action are:

- Skilled and motivated staff participate actively in the planned activities;
- Active participation of the key actors and general public is ensured;
- The government of Kosovo and international partners continue the development and financing of the performance grants in order to enhance the municipal good governance and waste service delivery in Kosovo;
- The consensus of the decision makers is essential for an integrated waste management system;
- 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;
- Following the adoption of the secondary legislation the necessary steps for implementation will be undertaken by all relevant institutions at central and local levels;
- The government and other stakeholders identify the International Financial Institutions and donors and prepare the project for implementation of extension of the district heating network in parallel with construction works included in this Action for increase of thermal energy capacity.

For the implementation of the action document in a timely and effective manner, the following conditions will need to be met:

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Timely completion of the 'Solid Waste Management Programme II KOSOVO' financed by the German Government under the KfW;

- Feasibility studies and detailed design for the investments must be prepared before tendering the works;

- The government ensures that suitable land, free of ownership and technical problems is available prior the start of designing activities;
- The government ensures that institutions responsible for operation and maintenance of the infrastructure is properly set up and in line with the requirements of the Kosovo legislation and the EU relevant legislation;
- Full commitment and support of the decision-making of the sector institutions to continue political reform and implement their obligations in line with the European perspective;
- Continuous commitment by the government regarding the implementation without delays of the underpinning environmental legislation and the revision/adoption of the Kosovo Waste Management Plan;
- There has to be an agreed methodology to calculate and set tariffs which ensure sustainable operation of all facilities and adoption of such tariffs by the government institutions.
- Full engagement of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning 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 Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Economic Development, KLMC (Kosovo Landfill Management Company) and the municipalities to address the organisation of waste management at the local/regional level in line with EU requirements as well as willingness to increase tariffs if need be.

ENERGY

- The government, the municipality of Pristina and Termokos have committed financing for extension of the district heating network (around EUR 20 000 000) through grant and loan from European Investment Bank.
- The entity in charge of implementation will ensure that the potential environmental and social impacts of the Project are properly evaluated and the Project is implemented in line with the best practices related to Environmental and Social Standards.
- An appropriate Environmental Social impact assessment (ESIA) will be developed together with the design of the district heating extension.
- The government and Kosovo B Thermal Power Plant have allocated space for the new infrastructure to be installed as part of the project in the compound of the plant (ie. for piping, installation of heat extraction station etc.);
- The government and municipality of Pristina and municipality of Obiliq/Obilić provide land and access rights for installation of the additional transmission pipeline to Kosovo B Thermal Power Plant (in parallel to existing pipeline);

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The general implementation arrangements relate to the following:

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Under the direct management mode, the European Union Office in Kosovo will be the Managing Authority.
- The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Economic Development will be responsible for the management of coordination and cooperation with related institutions in the sector.
- Implementation will be facilitated through joint efforts, including financing / delegation agreements with KfW and GIZ.
- Other implementation modalities, such as direct contract and joint implementation, will be considered, if deemed necessary.

ENERGY

The main institutional stakeholders involved in the Action are:

The district heating system in Pristina ('Termokos') consist of three core businesses: heating production, distribution and supply. Termokos is licensed by the Energy Regulatory Office for performing the three mentioned businesses. The shareholder of Termokos is the municipality of Pristina. In 2013 Termokos has established the project implementation unit for implementation of the 'Cogeneration project' which was completed in 2017 and was co-financed by EU regional IPA. The project implementation unit will be the project execution body in implementation of the IPA 2020 project. EIB has already established contacts with the unit and a site visit is carried out by EIB team of experts on 26-28 June 2019.

The Energy regulatory office is the authority in charge of approving the annual retail tariffs for supply of heating by Termokos based on the pricing rule which is part of the regulatory framework. The review of heating tariffs is carried out every year.

METHOD(S) OF IMPLEMENTATION AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING (SEE ANNEX IMPLEMENTATION – BUDGET)

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In line with the IPA II Implementing Regulation 447/2014, an IPA II beneficiary who has been entrusted budget implementation tasks of IPA II assistance shall be responsible for conducting evaluations of the programmes it manages.

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term or final or ex-post evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants or through a joint mission or via an implementing partner.

The evaluations will be carried out following DG NEAR guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation⁹. A Reference Group comprising the key stakeholders of this action will be set up for every evaluation to steer the evaluation process and ensure the required quality level of the evaluation outputs as well as the proper follow up of the recommendations of the evaluation.

In case a mid-term evaluation is foreseen: It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to complement with specific aspects that can be highlighted such as the intention to launch a second phase of the action, etc.

In case a final or ex-post evaluation is foreseen: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that complement with specific aspects that can be highlighted such as an innovative action or a pilot being tested, etc.

Where an evaluation is foreseen and is to be contracted by the Commission: The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/near_guidelines.zip

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the IPA II beneficiary and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the IPA II beneficiary, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2016, the government adopted the National Development Strategy 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 environmental protection, the National Development Strategy 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.

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning 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, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has initiated a consultation process with the key actors in the sector.

To ensure more effective waste management, the Ministry revised the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy 2013-2022, adopted by the government of Kosovo on October 2013 by the Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy (draft 2019-28) and Action Plan.. 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 associated Kosovo Waste Management Plan 2013-2017 in support of the Strategy continues its focus on ensuring sound 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 revised Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan is supposed to be approved in 2020.

Kosovo's strategy for integration of Roma communities 2017-2021 envisages a range of measures to improve living and working conditions, and increased employment opportunities in the formal sector. The action proposed is in line with the objectives of this strategy, since it aims at the transfer of the status of workers in the informal waste management sector to the formal waste management sector.

ENERGY

Kosovo as a member of the Energy Community has committed to implement the energy efficiency acquis. This includes the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Energy Performance Buildings Directive and the Directive on labelling. Following the requirements of the Energy Community, Kosovo has adopted the long term central energy efficiency plan 2010-18 with a target for increasing the energy efficiency 9% in 2018 or 91ktoe. The plan for 2019-2021 was completed in June 2019 when it was submitted to the Energy Community Secretariat. Kosovo has to report to the Energy Community Secretariat the achievements for each midterm plan. The target for the next plan 2019-2021 will also be 3%. From 2021, Kosovo will have an integrated energy and climate action plans (2021-2030) which will be prepared during 2019/20.

The legal framework for transposing the energy efficiency directives is well advanced in Kosovo. The law on energy efficiency which transposes the Energy Efficiency Directive and the regulation on labelling was adopted in November 2018. However, the secondary legislation is not completed yet. The law on energy efficiency requires for setting up a obligatory energy efficiency scheme. Amongst other operators, also the district heating companies are required to improve their energy efficiency in production and distribution of the hot water. In the energy strategy the government has committed to increase the share of district heating supply in meeting the demand for space heating. The municipality of Pristina has declared its intentions to promote the use of district heating in order to reduce the consumption of other fuels for heating purpose to achieve a better air quality in the city.

The energy sector is featured in the government's annual Economic Reform Programme as one of the key challenges for the competitiveness of the Kosovo economy. The measures included in the programme focus on both energy efficiency and on energy generation, including through renewables.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The Action will ensure 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").

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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 the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, in the Ministry of Economic Development 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 central but also at local level.

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.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The action will support vulnerable communities/areas including minority municipalities which have low revenues and are able to implement their energy efficiency action plans from their own revenues.

A special attention will be paid to the needs and interests of the informal sector located in project areas, in relation with the possibility of using them as labour force for the new jobs created through the implementation of the activities proposed.

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.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

Civil Society Organisations will be partners in implementing several activities under the output 2 of this action. These interventions intend to ensure continued close coordination and alignment of the activities of development partners, allied to active participation of stakeholders in civil society and local government.

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 subsequently be supported by intensive public awareness campaigns with the aim to increasing knowledge and to motivate changes in the waste generators' behaviour. 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.

The civil society organisations in Kosovo are very actively promoting the efficient use of energy as well as the increased share of renewable energy sources in the energy production.

The action will continue to share information and ensure consultations with diverse civil society organizations, including women's organizations.

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.

Climate action relevant budget allocation: EUR 17 600 000.00
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7. SUSTAINABILITY

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

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.

ENERGY

The progress in the sector of Energy Efficiency will be measured and monitored through different indicators of achievements (impact, result and output). An interim evaluation to be conducted at the end of 2020 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

Sustainability of the interventions will be ensured through the involvement of all actors, local and clear structures and roles for the implementation and monitoring.

Progress in the sector shall be measured and monitored through different indicators of achievements (impact, result and output). An interim evaluation, to be conducted at the end of 2019, to 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. Data from various sources, including the findings of performance monitoring and impact evaluation of developments/activities in the energy sector shall be used for this purpose.

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 in force. All stakeholders and implementing partners shall ensure the visibility of EU financial assistance provided through IPA II throughout all the phases of the programme cycle.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives. 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 actions shall be complementary to other activities implemented by DG NEAR and the EU Office in the field. The European Commission and the EU Office should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

A consolidated communication and visibility plan for the Action will be developed, based on an agreed communication narrative and master messages, customised for the different target audiences (stakeholders, business community, civil society, general public etc.).

Effectiveness of communication activities will be measured inter alia through public surveys in the IPA II beneficiaries. The surveys will cover awareness about the action and its objectives as well as the fact that it is funded by the EU. As a minimum one survey should be carried out before the start of the implementation of the communication and visibility plan and one after its completion.