



Project title: Strengthening capacities for implementation of environmental legislation at local level
EuropeAid/134079/D/SER/MK
Operational programme: TAIB 2010



Project News – June 2015

The Project for Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of Environmental Legislation at Local Level commenced on 20th January 2015 and will run for 18 months until 20th July 2016.

This newsletter has been produced as part of the plan to involve stakeholders and to keep them informed concerning Project activities. Project Newsletters will be produced every three months.

The Project has twelve beneficiaries:

- + Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
- + Ministry of Local Self-Government
- + Association of Units of Local Self-Government (ZELS)
- + Nine Pilot Municipalities:
 - City of Skopje
 - Municipality of Gjorche Petrov
 - Municipality of Aerodrom
 - Municipality of Tetovo
 - Municipality of Gostivar
 - Municipality of Jegunovce
 - Municipality of Ohrid
 - Municipality of Makedonski Brod
 - Municipality of Debarca

Project team consists of:

- Iain Maclean – Team Leader
- Fana Hristovska – Deputy Team Leader
- Lothar Guending – NKE Senior Legal Expert
- Biljana Jadrovska – NKE Junior Legal Expert
- Elena Gavrilova – Project Coordinator
- Julija Ilijovska – Office Manager

The main events in the Project to date include:



The Project will undertake six main activities:

 <p>Preparation and presentation of stakeholders' involvement plan</p>	 <p>Assessment of legal requirements and of administrative capacity for environmental protection activities in municipalities and development of required reform programme</p>
 <p>Implementation of strengthening the administrative capacity in municipalities</p>	 <p>Strengthening of Local Environmental Action Plans development and implementation</p>
 <p>Development and implementation of training programme</p>	 <p>Public awareness raising and information management</p>

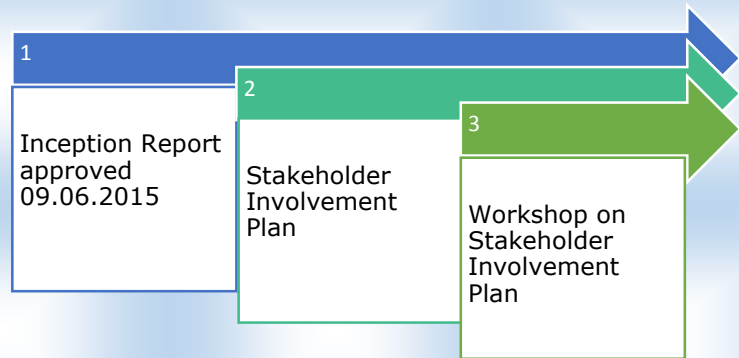




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Main deliverables produced by the Project:



The Project Team visited each of the Beneficiaries during the Inception Period which ended on 20th February to introduce the Project Team and to receive initial views and opinions.

The Project Team prepared a stakeholder questionnaire in March which was completed by all Beneficiaries and provided the basis for the Stakeholder Involvement Plan which was delivered in draft form on 02.06.2015.

The SIP was presented and discussed at a workshop held on 12th June to which all Beneficiaries and Municipalities were invited. The nine pilot Municipalities were well represented together with the Municipalities of Valandovo, Rankovce, Kratovo, and Kriva Palanka who met with the Project Team for the first time. There was active discussion of the difficulties facing Municipalities in implementation of environmental legislation and how these difficulties might be overcome. The ideas developed will be included at least in part in the Communication and Coordination Plan currently under preparation.

The draft Communication and Coordination Plan will be circulated to all Beneficiaries in July. The Plan presents ideas for improving communication and coordination not only between and within Beneficiaries but also with other stakeholders identified in the SIP.

Most recent activities include the introduction of the Project legal team to the Beneficiaries and the circulation of an Institutional Questionnaire.



The Project legal team is carrying out a review of the existing environmental legislation and will prepare a legal analysis report. In parallel a soon to be recruited Institutional and Financial Experts will use the information provided from the Questionnaire to prepare an institutional analysis report. Both reports will be used as inputs to the development of a proposed Programme of Reform currently planned to be delivered for discussion in September.

The Project Team will prepare a sixth month progress Report in August for discussion at the second Project Steering Committee Meeting planned for early September.

The Project Team would like to thank all the Beneficiaries for their willingness to give of their time to work within the Project and look forward to further meetings as the Project progresses.