



Project News No.6 Programme of Reform - March 2016

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. The Project has now entered its second year and its final implementation period.

This newsletter is a focused on the Workshop for Programme of Reform, one of the key project outputs.

The Programme of Reform

The Programme for reform has identified priority measures for strengthening implementation of environmental legislation at municipal level.

On the basis of legal and institutional analysis, as well as other assessment reports prepared by the project, the Programme of Reform proposes measures to overcome identified gaps in institutional and legal aspects and to strengthen environmental implementation at local level.

Measures are prioritised and specified as general and specific. General measures include institutional reform measures, communication, cooperation and coordination, supervision and guidance, training and measures for legal, inspection and enforcement. Specific measures address areas such as permitting, elaborates, monitoring, air, waste management, water, noise and LEAPs. Measures are differentiated according to: legal, administrative and enforcement issues. In addition, appropriate measures are designed for three groups of municipalities in terms of size: large, medium and small. Staffing and financial needs for implementation are taken into consideration based on the information available to the project experts.

The Programme of Reform also took into consideration the Plan for Institutional Development of the National and Local Environmental Management Capacity 2009 – 2014 (Plan for Institutional Development) during its development.

The Participants

The Workshop for discussion of the draft Programme of Reform has raised great interest among Municipalities, not only among the nine target municipalities, but also among other Municipalities in the Country.

Approximately 60 participants attended the Workshop, with key counterparts from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Local Self Government being present. Representatives from the following 19 municipalities participated:

- City of Skopje
- Municipality of Tetovo
- Municipality of Gjorche Petrov
- Municipality of Ohrid
- Municipality of Aerodrom
- Municipality of Gostivar
- Municipality of Jegunovce
- Municipality of Berovo
- Municipality of Strumica
- Municipality of Radovish
- Municipality of Plasnica
- Municipality of Resen
- Municipality of Rankovce
- Municipality of Kratovo
- Municipality of Krivogashtani
- Municipality of Negotino
- Municipality of Chucher Sandevo
- Municipality of Pehchevo
- Municipality of Brvenica

The Workshop was chaired by Ms. Tanja Paunovska, Head of Unit for Cooperation with Local Self-Government and Misdemeanour Commission of MoEPP.



Conclusions

Following an extensive day's work by all participants, the Team Leader, Mr. Iain Maclean was able to summarise the conclusions as follows:

- Whilst it might be useful to use additional criteria to the number of inhabitant to identify small, medium and large LSGUs, a key change needed was better differentiation between the City of Skopje and the ten municipalities in the City of Skopje;
- Large municipalities should prepare plans for WWTP in the medium term using guidance provided from the central level;
- Greater Inter Municipal Cooperation is needed and in some cases, even to be obligatory. Additional funding to support Inter Municipal Cooperation should be provided;
- Greater support should be given to waste management planning and to PUCs;
- Financing is an interesting issue and additional discussions especially with MoEPP to make environmental budgets compulsorily are needed. Greater transparency of environmental budgets is also needed;
- At present, good communication and cooperation between central and local level is established but the capacity of ZELS must be strengthened;
- Introduction of electronic permitting is considered as good option although there was some disagreement as to whether it should be compulsorily;
- Diverse discussion is held regarding environmental certificates for elaborate and B - permit writers. The general conclusion is that the quality of elaborates should be improved and the Rulebook amended;
- Establishment of cadastres at local level is supported, but discussion is raised as to extend it should be developed;
- In respect to air quality management, monitoring should be on zone basis as majority of the pollution derives from big urban centres. The monitoring should be strengthened and large municipalities should make greater efforts in improved planning and better air quality management;
- Number of Guidelines to support municipalities in implementation of environmental responsibilities will also be produced within the project.

The Third Workshop held on 23 February 2016 to discuss the draft programme of reform was significant for the attendance not only by the nine pilot municipalities but also by ten other municipalities. Diverse discussions were being made among participants from central and local level and many important conclusions were drawn during the workshop. In the forthcoming period, the project team will make efforts to address all comments received by the participants and to finalise the document.



The programme of reform was submitted to all target municipalities and other relevant stakeholders.

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