



Support in the implementation of the waste management legislation and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme

Twinning Reference Number: MK 20 IPA EN 01 22- R

Introduction of the TWINNING Project

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Basic information

- EU funded budget : **1.000.000 EUR**
- Beneficiary administration: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Republic of North Macedonia
- Twinning Sector: Environment
- Execution period (months): 24
- **Lead Member State (MS): Hungary**
- Member State body: Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation (Kék Bolygó Klímavédelmi Alapítvány) (address: 1013 Budapest, Döbrentei u. 2, Hungary; contact person: László Sitányi, Dr. Head of project management team)
- **Junior Member State(s): Austria**
- Member State body: Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Environment Agency Austria)



Project understanding

- **North Macedonia is in the process of EU accession**, working on harmonizing its legal and institutional setup to the EU acquis. Sustainable development, circular economy and especially waste management within Chapter 27 are crucial part of the process that needs systemic changes in the present legal and operational system of the Beneficiary.
- **The extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for specific waste streams (packaging, WEEE, accumulators and batteries, and more waste streams will be under EPR soon) already exist and operate in the country** with the aim to provide maximum separate collections to these waste streams from MSW (unsorted municipal solid waste), contributing to cleaner environment, lower human health risks, moving towards circular economy by providing quality and quantity materials, and with that solid ground for the development of a well-functioning waste treatment network and at the same time, through EPRs, reliable financing for the system.
- **Although North Macedonia has accepted new legal acts** on waste management, including specific waste streams listed above, and the Law on the establishment and operational criteria of EPRs, **execution, supervision and transparency should still be strengthened with specific institutional setups**.
- **The setup of an independent institution of the Producer Balancing Body (PBB)**, besides other advantages, should support, coordinate and assure the effective operations to the sometimes competing EPRs, provide level playing field to producers, traders, waste collectors and waste treatment facilities, help supervision and enforcement by collecting, processing and analysing data and assuring high level of transparency.
- Therefore, the new institution shall be introduced and fit into the present system with the aim to secure maximal collections, proper financing of waste management and communication, preparation for supervision by data collection, data analysis and preparation of technical, and professional materials. It requires legal changes which shall be based on thorough assessment of the present legal framework as well as the institutional and operational systems benchmarking of other similar systems - mainly the clearing house system for different waste streams in EU countries – in order to provide a tailor-made solution to the Beneficiary.
- The increased potential of supervision, transparency and enforcement with the proper and careful development of **the PBB system would substantiate an environment in which waste collection, treatment would significantly and reliably increase**, landfill of specific waste streams minimized and a significant step towards circular economy achieved in a short run together with a fair competition of the EPRs.



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Structures / institutional framework offered by the Member State

Hungary

- Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation is a specific state-owned foundation that provides strategic, expert support for state administration and capacity building and communication advice specialised on circular economy and sustainable development. In its position, the Foundation provided support and worked on the strategic materials of both water and more significantly waste management issues including but not limited to EPR system, DRS operation, MSW collection with special focus on biodegradable waste, green public procurement etc. The expert materials included benchmarks, detailed feasibility studies, institutional monitoring, operational setup of systems, financing mechanics, communication strategy, data collection and processing etc. The Foundation also coordinates information and experts of all relevant institutions and fields.

Austria

- Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Environment Agency Austria) was founded in 1985 by the “Federal Act on Environmental Control” as a national Government Agency attached to the Federal Ministry for the Environment. In 1999, an amendment of the Act redefined its statute as a Government-owned limited liability Company, which acts as the National Environment Agency for Austria.
- At national level, the Agency co-ordinates environmental monitoring and reporting in cooperation with the nine Provincial Authorities, and operates the related national environmental registers and databases on hazardous chemicals, wastes, contaminated sites, air, water and soil quality etc. In the field of waste management, the waste experts of the Umweltbundesamt assist the Ministry of Environment in waste management policy by providing expert knowledge for waste management planning and the fulfilment of national and international reporting obligations. The IT-experts design and operate national environmental databases, and operate on behalf of the Federal Ministry the “Electronic Data Management” EDM System which serves as the central tool of administrative dialogue between Operators and Authorities in Austria, including the electronic services required for monitoring Extended Producer Responsibility implementation



Project structure

- **Components**
- The project aim is to prepare for the creation of **PBB** in the Beneficiary. To reach this aim, the main elements to be implemented are divided into 3 components.
- **In Component 1** Legal framework: regulatory, legal drafting is to be provided to actually set up PBB, with legal drafts on the establishment and operational criteria of the PBB based on: thorough analyses and introduction of benchmark countries, operating best practices (institutional and legal setup, financial, operational and communication elements, data flow, data analyses, and data sharing), the EU circular economy package, and all other relevant legal acts, as well as the present system at the Beneficiary highlighting the weakness points and the relevant needs for the changed system.
- **Component 2** Operational and administrative capacity : aims to put PBB into operation. During the development of this component all relevant working documents are to be developed to support smooth setup, establishment and the start of the operation of the PBB itself, including the detailed development of the actual working mechanisms for fulfilling EPR obligations, with a special emphasis on the effects and meaning of the changes this new institution – the PBB – would result into on all Stakeholder levels.
- **Component 3** Information Technology : provides the IT tool to reach the overall objective of a transparent EPR system, with all stakeholders involved in data providing. The IT tool will provide a multilingual (Macedonian, English, etc.) web based portal for all data suppliers with the possibility to enter data directly on the UI, and via interfaces (from manufacturers, waste management companies, etc.). The system will provide service to record, store, track documents/evidences of material movements. Besides the recording capabilities it will offer wide range of reporting possibilities.



Result of the project

- Although North Macedonia has accepted new legal acts on waste management, including specific waste streams listed above, and the Law on the establishment and operational criteria of EPRs, **execution, supervision and transparency should still be strengthened with specific institutional setups.**
- The setup of an independent institution of the Producer Balancing Body (PBB), besides other advantages, should support, coordinate and assure the effective operations to the sometimes competing EPRs, provide level playing field to producers, traders, waste collectors and waste treatment facilities, help supervision and enforcement by collecting, processing and analysing data and assuring high level of transparency.
- ***The increased potential of supervision, transparency and enforcement with the proper and careful development of the PBB system would substantiate an environment in which waste collection, treatment would significantly and reliably increase, landfill of specific waste streams minimized and a significant step towards circular economy achieved in a short run together with a fair competition of the EPRs.***