

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS FOR 11<sup>TH</sup> TRANCHE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS

<b>Project Title</b>	Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe
<b>DA Project Code</b>	1819AE.
<b>Executing Entity</b>	UNECE
<b>Reporting Period</b>	01/19 - 12/19
<b>Total Implementation Rate</b>	17.17
<b>Planned Implementation Rate by end of 2019 [T11A only]</b>	N/a
<b>Important Issues for Attention of DA-PMT</b>	Measures to increase the implementation rate: 1. Reestablishing contacts with Albania and with Bosnia and Herzegovina 2. Organization national workshops

## 1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

**EA1:** Enhanced national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in their environmental governance and policies.

In support of expected accomplishment EA.1: the reviews of implementation of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets were completed for Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia (Activity 1.1); needs assessments were completed and validated by Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, while the needs assessment, although completed, for Albania has yet to be validated by the country (Activity A1.2); and, under Activity A1.3, one validation workshop for the review and needs assessment was organized in Budva, Montenegro, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development of Montenegro, which covered expenditures related to renting premises and coffee break (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51890>).

**EA 2:** Increased national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to develop and integrate evidence-based coherent environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at contributing to the achievement of relevant SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

In support of expected accomplishment EA.1: under Activity A2.1, three countries, namely Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, developed programmes or action plans:

- **Montenegro** opted for the Policy package: Health, air quality and energy, which is one of the policy packages proposed by the needs assessment report. The focus of the policy package is on air quality management policy. Precisely, Montenegro worked on drafting the air pollution control programme in line with Gothenburg Protocol to Air Convention and the EU Directive 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants. An

integral part of the Programme is a thorough economic analysis of proposed measures, performed in order to assess the country's financial capability for achievement of emission reductions level, which will be further negotiated with EU and Air Convention Secretariat. The key measures are related to energy efficiency in sectors of housing and transport, while expected results should bring improvement in the health sector, reducing negative impact of air pollution to public health and assisting the country in achievement of SDG targets 3.9 and 11.6.

- **North Macedonia:** decided to develop a programme of measures for improving the processes of approval of plans for inspection supervision and ad hoc inspection, paying special attention to development of a new law on inspection surveillance in environment, in line with to the provisions of the 2019 Law on inspection surveillance is currently developed. The programme will contribute effectively to achieving SDGs and also contribute to reducing the health-related to environment by improving well-being, as well as strengthening of environmental institutional capacity, with special attention to inspection capacity. The measures will also contribute to the successful implementation of existing laws, considering measures applicable to all relevant sectors, as well as building the national capacities to assess priority needs in environmental governance and facilitating the national action to integrate evidence-based environmental policies. The general aim of this programme is to protect human health
- **Serbia:** Serbia opted for a policy package on circular and green economy. Serbia recognises green economy as an efficient tool for achieving sustainability and Serbia is dedicated to achieving SDGs through implementation of circular and green economy.

## 2. REVIEW OF INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Table 1 – Review of Indicators of Achievement

Expected Accomplishment	Indicator of achievement as per the project document	Indicator of Achievement at the time period considered (T1)	Comments
<b>EA1:</b> Enhanced national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in their environmental governance and policies.	<b>IA 1.1:</b> Five target countries identified policy gaps between current conditions and desired achievement of relevant SDGs	Four reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets were drafted for Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia, Serbia. Activity did not start for Bosnia and Herzegovina	
<b>EA 2:</b> Increased national capacities of the selected countries of South-East Europe to develop and integrate evidence-based coherent environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral	<b>IA 2.1:</b> Five target countries developed and endorsed priority national action plans/policy packages based on the EPRs.	Montenegro developed policy package Health, air quality and energy; North Macedonia developed a programme of measures for improving environment inspection and the development of a new law	

strategies aimed at contributing to the achievement of relevant SDGs and 2030 Agenda.		on environmental inspection. Serbia developed a policy package on circular and green economy.	
	<b>IA 2.2</b> Five target countries presented reports on the implementation of SDG-related recommendations resulting from the EPRs.	Four reviews were drafted, (Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia, Serbia). Activity did not start for Bosnia and Herzegovina	
	<b>IA 2.3</b> 80 per cent of recommendations from EPRs either implemented or incorporated into national action plans/policy packages based on the national priority needs	Will be reported in the next progress report	

Table 2 – Review of Activities and Status

Activity	Activity Status	Comment
<b>A1.1</b> Develop five (one per target country) reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	Reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets: <i>Completed:</i> Montenegro North Macedonia Serbia <i>In progress</i> Albania (Report finalized but not yet validated) <i>Not yet started</i> Bosnia and Herzegovina (expected to start in 2020).
<b>A1.2:</b> Undertake need assessments (one per target country) to determine and address gaps identified in the reviews between current conditions and desired achievements of relevant SDGs;	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	Reviews of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets: <i>Completed:</i> Montenegro North Macedonia Serbia <i>In progress</i> Albania (Report finalized but not yet validated) <i>Not yet started</i> Bosnia and Herzegovina (expected to start in 2020).
<b>A1.3:</b> Organise five (one per target country) workshops to present and validate the results of the reviews and needs assessments;	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i>	<i>Completed:</i> Montenegro (17 June 2019)  <i>Not yet started:</i>

	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	Activities are postponed for 2020 to validate results for Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia. For Bosnia and Herzegovina, activities linked to A1.3 will start after the finalization of A1.1 and A1.2.
<b>A 2.1:</b> Develop national action plans/policy packages for implementing recommendations coming from EPRs in line with relevant SDGs in the five beneficiary countries in consultation with inter-ministerial coordination groups;	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	<p><i>Completed:</i></p> <p>Montenegro: <i>set of measures concerning health, air quality and energy.</i></p> <p>North Macedonia: <i>programme of measures to improve environmental inspection and on the drafting of a new law on environmental inspection.</i></p> <p>Serbia: <i>a package of measures relating to the circular and green economy.</i></p> <p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
<b>A 2.2:</b> Organize five national validation workshops to review the respective national action plans/policy packages with inter-ministerial coordination groups and relevant stakeholders and discuss their implementation;	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	<p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.2 will start after the drafting of national action plans/policy packages.</p>
<b>A 2.3:</b> Organise subregional policy seminar to exchange experience on implementation of national action plans/policy packages;	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	<p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.3 will start after all national action plans/policy packages are validated by the countries.</p>
<b>A 2.4:</b> Organise concluding subregional event to present an overview of the environmental challenges in the South-East Europe region, share best practices and discuss follow-up of the national action plans/policy packages aligned with the	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cancelled</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Delayed</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Not yet started</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>In progress</i>	<p><i>Not yet started</i></p> <p>The activities linked to A2.4 will start after the completion of A2.3 activities.</p>

implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Completed</i>	
--	---	--

### 3. CHALLENGES/PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Table 3 – Challenges and Actions

Description of challenge	Action(s) taken / to be taken to solve the issue, if any
<b>Albania</b> The country went through elections. The Government did not want to take further steps in the process until a new structure was in place.	After elections, the Government did not change. In November 2019, a meeting was held in Geneva and it was agreed to resume activities from January 2020.
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> Context: Environmental competences are mostly in the entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska) and Brčko District. However, competencies related to international environmental agreements and processes are managed at the State level. The country nominated four national focal points: one for each entity (2), one for Brčko District and one at the state level. This setting requires more logistics, since a date to start activities has to be agreed by four national focal points and ECE.	An agreement was reached with the Assistant Minister at the State level to start activities related to A1.1 and A1.2 in spring 2020.

1. Reestablishing contacts with Albania to draft a policy package and with Bosnia and Herzegovina to draft a review of the implementation of the recommendations coming from EPRs vis-à-vis SDGs and targets, need assessments to determine and address gaps identified in the reviews between current conditions and desired achievements of relevant SDGs and eventually a policy package.

2. Organized 4 national workshops (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) to present and validate the results of the reviews and needs assessments in support of activity a1.3 and 4 national workshops (same countries) to review the respective national action plans/policy packages with inter-ministerial coordination groups and relevant stakeholders and discuss their implementation in support of activity A2.2.

The measures cited above will make it possible to reach the requested implementation rate of about 60% by the end of 2020.

### 4. REVISIONS

No revisions.

### 5. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING

Table 4 – Financial Leveraging

Donor	Purpose	Amount raised	
		Cash (USD)	In-Kind

Montenegro	Renting premises and coffee break for the validation workshop		X
------------	---	--	---

## 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The project was presented to the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Review and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

A webpage <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environmental-performance-reviews/eps-sdgs/unda-project.html> was created to report on the various activities. The needs assessments and policy package will be posted after final approval from the countries benefiting from the project.

## 7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implementation Rate (%)	= Total Expenditure (D)/Total Budget (A)
17.17	= 80 690/470 000*100

Object Class	Description	A. Budget/Allotment (as per project document) (USD)	B. Revisions to allotments (if any) (USD)	C. Explanations of revisions to allotments (USD)	D. Total Expenditure (USD)
015	Other staff costs - <i>General temporary assistance</i>				
105	Consultants and experts	152 000			72 104
115	Travel of staff	95 000			4 791
120	Contractual services	24 000			
125	General operating expenses	34 000			
130	Supplies and materials				
135	Furniture and equipment				
145	<i>Workshops / Study tours</i> (Grants and contributions)	165 000			3 795
	<b>Total</b>	<b>470 000</b>			<b>80 690</b>