



Peer Review 3rd EPR Macedonia

Achievements and Challenges in
Advancing the Environmental
Agenda for Sustainable
Development

Achievements

- Advancing the transposition of EU Directives: four major national laws to be finalized in 2019.
- Building up Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) to reduce the pollution load in rivers and lakes (7 in towns and 44 in rural areas); starting soon the construction of the WWTP for Skopje (end of 2020)
- Establishing regional systems for integrated management of municipal waste in East and North East Regions in 2019
- Public Reform initiated; water tariffs regulated
- A trust fund for remediation of lindane dumps initiated
- A new “greener” Energy Strategy under development

Challenges

- Ambient air pollution in Skopje and other bigger towns
- Contaminated lands not subject to remediation yet
- Unsustainable mining and small hydropower development
- Electricity production from coal
- Declining ecological status of natural lakes
- Uncoordinated action towards sustainable management of forests and biodiversity conservation

Institutional Issues

- Data gaps: (poor) self reporting of permit holders and other stakeholders (healthcare institutions, municipalities etc.); MoEPP and SSO data collection streams not coordinated.
- Insufficient monitoring over the implementation of policy documents
- Inter-sectoral and inter-governmental coordination
- Enforcement capacity of environmental inspectors (national and local)
- Capacities of LSGs
- Environmental standards, green growth and green procurement at an early stage

Prioritizing EPR Recommendations

- Improving environmental data collection and processing (statistics)
- Integrating the system of permitting (IPPC, water and waste)
- Enhancing monitoring
- Transparency of decision making, public participation and awareness raising; education for sustainable development
- Training of LSGUs;
- Strengthening river basin management councils and regional waste management councils
- Advancing environmental investments