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# Evidence-Based Environmental Governance and Sustainable Environmental Policies in Support of the 2030 Agenda in South- East Europe

2018–2021

Serbia



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## Abbreviations

EPR	Environmental Performance Review
EU	European Union
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDA	United Nations Development Account

## Introduction

### UNDA Project

The United Nations Development Account (UNDA) Project “Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe” supports Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia in formulating actions based on their respective Environmental Performance Review (EPR)<sup>1</sup> in order to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The interlinked nature of SDGs requires implementation of an approach that is holistic, multi-sectoral and multidimensional. The Project should assist national stakeholders, in particular the authorities responsible for environmental issues, to building their national capacities to assess priority needs in environmental governance

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unece.org/env/epr.html>

and facilitating the national action to integrate evidence-based environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at the achievement of SDGs.

The present report represents the first step of the UNDA Project for Serbia. It presents the results of a mapping exercise of the EPR recommendations vis-à-vis relevant SDGs, a review of the EPR recommendations implementation and a SDGs needs assessment. It also proposes three policy packages that could represent a concrete roadmap for the implementation of EPR recommendations related to SDGs (EPR-relevant SDGs), considerably increasing the likelihood of their effective implementation.

### *Aims of this study*

The present study has an overall objective to enhance national capacities of Serbia to assess the most critical aspects and priority needs in the country's environmental governance and policies, and thus contributing to the first step of the UNDA project. It also aims to develop relevant policy packages with potential priority actions to implement EPR recommendations and EPR-relevant SDGs. These policy packages would also contribute to the improvement of the country's strategic planning within the EU Chapter 27 and enhance national capacities of Serbia to develop and integrate environmental policies into sector-specific strategies, facilitating thus the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Environmental Performance Review**

An EPR is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments. EPRs do not cover the whole range of issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda but address the achievement and monitoring of those SDGs and targets that are relevant for the particular review content as requested by the country (the relevant goals and targets are mostly environment-related). In addition, the recommendations provided in the EPR reports support the achievement of EPR-relevant SDGs and targets. For instance, recommendations can provide advice on the need to improve legislation and its enforcement, or on additional or alternative measures to support the achievement of the EPR-relevant SDGs and targets.

### *Third Environmental Performance Review of Serbia*

The third EPR of Serbia<sup>2</sup> includes a set of 30 recommendations on legal and policy frameworks, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, economic instruments, environmental expenditure, investments for greening de economy, environmental monitoring, information and education, implementation of international environmental agreements, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management and waste management.

Since 2017, EPRs include a review of the EPR-relevant SDGs and targets and provide recommendations to support achieving these SDGs. As the third EPR of Serbia was carried out in 2014, it does not comprise a review of EPR-relevant SDGs and targets. Therefore, a mapping exercise was necessary in order to align the third EPR recommendations with the EPR-relevant SDGs prior to carrying out a review of their implementation.

### **Domestic context**

Serbia, together with several other countries worldwide, supported the design of a new global development agenda by consulting its citizens on their views of development priorities. Through the national campaign “The Serbia We Want”, as part of the global campaign “The World We Want”, over 250,000 citizens became aware of the consultation process concerning the post-2015 period. They had the opportunity to participate in consultations, either through an online survey and a web portal, or through direct consultation. Serbia also took active part in the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gave important contribution through inter-governmental processes facilitated by the United Nations during the preparation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Serbia was also represented at

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39847>

the high level at the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015<sup>3</sup>. Since then, the country has concentrated efforts to undertake the SDG nationalization. However, the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda is advancing in a slow pace.

### *National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2018*

The National Sustainable Development Strategy until 2018 aims to balance the three pillars of sustainable development: sustainable development of economy, production and technology, sustainable social development based on social balance and environmental protection with rational use of natural resources. The first report on the progress in implementing the Strategy was adopted the 24 June 2010, which enlists the indicators of the sustainable development for monitoring the Strategy implementation progress. The chosen indicators were harmonised with the list of UN sustainable development indicators, which includes the indicators for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Subsequent reports were not submitted, so upon the expiration of the Strategy in 2017, neither the progress towards the goals' achievement, nor the accomplished effects can be evaluated.

### *Accession to the European Union*

The European Council granted Serbia the status of candidate country in 2012. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between EU and Serbia entered into force in September 2013. Serbia continued to implement the Agreement, although several new compliance issues have emerged over the last years. Since the opening of Serbia's accession negotiations in January 2014, 12 out of 35 chapters have been opened.

The negotiation of Chapter 27 is of particular importance for this report as it deals with environment and climate change issues. The 2018 Progress Report for Serbia<sup>4</sup> mentioned short-term priorities for Serbia in 2019 regarding Chapter 27 and highlights that Serbia has some level of preparation in the area of environment and climate change. The Report also provides recommendations in all sub-chapters of Chapter 27. Some progress has been made in further aligning with the *acquis*, strategic planning and addressing the recommendations drawn in the 2016 Serbia Report<sup>5</sup>.

### *Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia (2014–2020)*

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) is a financial instrument to provide EU support to the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II regulation in implementing reforms with a view to EU Membership. This Indicative Strategy Paper (the Strategy Paper), adopted in 2014 and revised in 2018, sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance for the period 2014–2020 to support Serbia on its path to the EU accession. It translates the political priorities, set out in the enlargement policy framework, into key areas where financial assistance is most useful to meet the accession criteria. Priorities are in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The objective of EU assistance concerning environment and climate action is to align Serbian legislation with the EU environmental and climate change *acquis* and to strengthen institutional capacities for implementation and enforcement. A further objective is to develop and improve environmental infrastructure, especially in the areas of waste management, water management and urban wastewater treatment. As concerns energy, the objective of EU assistance is to increase energy efficiency and competitiveness of the Serbian energy market, to improve security of supply (also in the regional context) and develop renewable energy sources.

### *United Nations Development Partnership Framework 2016–2020*

The United Nations Development Partnership Framework 2016–2020 for Serbia has been aligned with the process of EU accession and reform priorities. It was developed in close collaboration and partnership of the Government and the United Nations Country Team in Serbia. The Framework is aligned and consistent with

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/events/2015/July/international-conference-financing-for-development-addis-ababa.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180417-serbia-report.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key\\_documents/2016/20161109\\_report\\_serbia.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_serbia.pdf)

the European integration priorities of EU candidate countries, 2030 Agenda and national development priorities. It consists of five priority pillars: Governance and Rule of Law; Social and Human Resources Development; Economic Development, Growth, and Employment; Environment, Climate Change and Resilient Communities; and Culture and Development.

The Framework aims to strengthen national ownership through the recognition, support and advocacy of effective public policies and reliance on domestic institutions, systems and resources in the achievement of SDGs and European Acquis. It also supports the development of a strategic framework, as well as systems for monitoring and evaluation of achieved results and promotion of different partnerships, technical and scientific cooperation, including public-private partnerships to achieve the global goals. The activities implemented under the Framework are coordinated and fully complementary to activities implemented by national and international development partners, including EU, international financial institutions and bilateral donors.

### *Other relevant policy documents*

Other documents guiding environmental policy include, among others:

- 2008 National Sustainable Development Strategy
- 2009 Strategy for cleaner production
- 2010 National Programme of Environmental Protection and Action Plan for the period 2015–2019;
- 2010 Biodiversity Strategy 2011–2018 and Action Plan
- 2010 National Waste Management Strategy for the period 2010–2019
- 2011 National Strategy of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods
- 2016 Water Management Strategy and draft Water Management Plan

### *Institutional settings*

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is the main governmental authority responsible for policymaking on environment and sustainable development, including the achievement of several SDGs. As at December 2018, it comprises seven sectors:

- Sector for financial management and control
- Sector for Environmental Management
- Sector for Nature Protection And alimate Change
- Sector for Strategic Planning and Projects
- Sector for Waste and Wastewater Management
- Sector for Environmental Control and Precaution
- Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration

The Serbian Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is subordinated the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

The institutional settings for the implementation of policies aiming at achieving SDG targets are of key importance for the effectiveness of development. The Government has thus established the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (No. 113/2015, 67/2017, 95/2017, 120/2017) that initiated its activities in October 2017. The mandate of this Inter-Ministerial Working Group includes:

- Monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Coordinating activities of all relevant ministries regarding the 2030 Agenda;
- Proposing a process for the adoption of a national strategy for sustainable development and its financing, which will enable integration of individual strategies and harmonization of activities in achieving SDGs;
- Proposing a statistical framework for monitoring the achievement of SDGs and targets;
- Reporting on progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Serbia.

In addition to representatives of line ministries, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group includes also representatives of other governmental bodies (e.g., Office for cooperation with civil society, Office for Kosovo and Metohija, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Office for Human and Minority Rights, Office for Management of Public Investments, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit) and public institutions (e.g., Statistical Office). As at December 2018, the Group had met only once.

The National Council for Sustainable Development was established in 2002 as a cross-sectoral advisory body on issues of sustainable development; however, it seems to be inactive as it has not met since December 2011.

The National Water Council was established in 2011; but the Government has not yet appointed the president and members of the Council.

The National Council for Climate Change was established in 2014 and is an advisory body formed by members of the Government, civil society, academia, NGOs.

The Sectoral Working Groups on Chapter 27 (on water, waste, climate change...) are led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and aimed at coordinating the implementation of EU Chapter 27 requirements.

The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction established in 2013 is an operational and expert public authority established to coordinate and manage the protection and rescue activities in emergency situations, as well as to introduce the disaster risk reduction policy.

The Special Working Group on the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of Drinking Water was established in 2017 and its work is based on the Methodology for Preparation of Assessment of the Impacts of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents and Emergency Response and Emergency Plans. The Working Group identified the danger of a lack of drinking water on two aspects: quantitative and qualitative and prepared scenarios for the danger of "lack of drinking water" for two types of events: (1) the most probable, an unwanted event, and (2) an unwanted event with the most severe possible consequences.

## **CHAPTER 1: EPR recommendations mapping vis-à-vis SDGs and their implementation**

### **1.1 Mapping of the EPR recommendations vis-à-vis EPR-relevant SDGs**

#### *Need for mapping of the EPR recommendations*

The third EPR of Serbia was conducted in 2014 prior to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Therefore, linkages between EPR recommendations and SDGs targets were not considered in the third EPR Report of Serbia. It is then necessary to carry out a mapping exercise in order to identify links between EPR recommendations and EPR-relevant SDGs targets.

#### *SDGs mapping methodology*

The mapping of the EPR recommendations against EPR-relevant SDGs targets is a multi-step analytical process aimed at identifying linkages between EPR recommendations and EPR-relevant SDGs. It entails several sifting and prioritization steps to review SDGs targets against several criteria, such as the scope of the study, relevancy of the SDGs targets to the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the importance of the country's obligations under the EU accession process.

The first step to mapping EPR recommendations against EPR-relevant SDGs targets was to compile a list of all EPR recommendations contained in the third EPR of Serbia in 2014. The third EPR of Serbia is comprised of eight chapters and covers various topics including legal and policy framework; compliance and enforcement mechanisms; economic instruments, environmental expenditure and investments for greening the economy;

environmental monitoring, information and education and implementation of international environmental agreements. Furthermore, the third EPR report addresses specific environmental issues that were selected by the country: climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management and waste management. In total, the third EPR report of Serbia includes 30 recommendations. Annex I, Table 1 displays the full list of recommendations and their current status of their implementation.

The second step of the mapping exercise was carried out to link a specific recommendation with an EPR-relevant SDG, targets. Since some recommendations provided in the third EPR of Serbia could relate to various SDGs targets, an attempt has been made to find a direct link with SDGs and targets for each of the EPR recommendation, whereby an EPR recommendation directly promoted and facilitated achievement of a specific SDG and its associated target(s). The linkages between the EPR recommendations and their EPR-relevant SDGs targets and indicators are presented in Annex I, Table 2. Following this exercise, a total of seven Goals, 14 targets and 21 indicators that are covered by the third EPR of Serbia have been identified.

The third step of the mapping exercise was to prioritize the identified SDGs, targets in order to narrow down the focus on the most relevant actions which could be realized within the scope of this project. To this end, the SDGs targets under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Environmental Protection have been identified using recently published literature sources and information obtained from the officials at the Ministry. Annex I, Table 3 presents the list of SDGs under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Environmental Protection as well as those SDGs under the main responsibility of other ministries and bodies

In order to address the importance of the EU accession process and the country's need to be in conformity with meeting its obligations under Chapter 27, an additional mapping exercise was carried out with the view of identifying the SDGs indicators that were relevant to implementation of Chapter 27 requirements.

To this end, a full list of SDGs related to Chapter 27 was compiled which can be found in Annex I, Table 4 of this report. The joint findings from tables 3 and 4 were later inserted into Annex I, Table 2 in the last two columns to prioritise further SDGs targets that would form the main focus of the subsequent needs assessment study.

#### *Interlinkages between shortlisted SDG goals and targets*

As at December 2018, administrative structures are largely based on divided sectoral policies, such an approach challenges conventional processes and requires different sectors to seek synergies between their individual sectoral development plans and to simultaneously deal with trade-offs that will occur inevitably as a result.

Once the EPR recommendations were mapped vis-à-vis targets, key interactions and possible policy options were also identified, and were taken into consideration when developing the targets needs assessment.

The analysis developed above demonstrates that the five SDGs identified are particularly strong in their interlinkages: the water and sanitation Goal 6, the goal to deliver affordable and clean energy Goal 7, the goal to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 11, the goal to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Goal 12 and the goal to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 13.

There are synergies between the targets on improvement of water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials (target 6.3), achieving reduction of the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management (target 11.6) and achieving the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil (target 12.4). These targets support the introduction of a better waste management, including hazardous wastes to minimize their adverse impacts on the environment, particularly the water pollution with hazardous chemicals.

As it concerns to take action to combat climate change and its impacts, the target 13.1 to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters is interlinked with other supportive

targets (11.5, 11.b, 7.2). The target 11.5 concerning the reduction of the number of deaths and people affected and the decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, applies to the Serbia's mitigation and adaptation capacity to floods and other disasters. The target 11.b relates to the previous target as it is related to implementing mitigation and adaptation policies to increase resilience to disasters, notably through developing holistic disaster risk management at all levels, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Ensure a substantial increase of the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix (target 7.2) also plays an important role in the decreasing climate change impacts through the reduction of GHG emissions.

Finally, the target 13.2, which concerns the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning concerns all sectors as climate change issues are intersectoral and supports other targets mentioned above (11.5, 11.b, 7.2 and 13.1).

## **1.2 Assessing implementation of the EPR recommendations**

To assess the status of the EPR recommendations since the third EPR in 2014, a review of all 30 EPR recommendations implementation has been carried out. Annex I, Table 1 provides a detailed overview of the EPR recommendations implementation. Out of 30 recommendations:

- 7 have been fully implemented (23.3 per cent),
- 16 have been partially implemented (53.3 per cent),
- 2 have not been implemented (6.6 per cent).
- 5 (16.6 per cent) could not be verified due to the lack of available information.

These results indicate that progress has been achieved in implementing the third EPR recommendations as seven recommendations have been fully implemented so far. However, the implementation of the majority of recommendations is currently ongoing.

The present assessment identified that the Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment has been partly transposed into domestic legislation, but planned amendments and modifications to the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the adoption of the missing bylaws are still lagging.

The implementation of the following recommendations is ongoing with the review of the Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC):

- Improving the division of compliance assurance mandates and coordination arrangements within and across all levels of governance, including by concentrating responsibilities for regulating large installations at the national level to overcome the problem of low capacity;
- Harmonizing planning and construction activities with the environmental conditions and requests under the EIA and IPPC procedures;
- Ensuring an integrated approach and the coordination of the competent authorities in issuing IPPC permits;
- Following up on the best available techniques requirements in procedures preceding the IPPC permitting;
- Simplifying the regulatory regime for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Strengthening public involvement in the integrated permitting of IPPC installations.

Some assessments of the various pollution and product charges (e.g. those by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the third EPR of Serbia and projects) were carried out. But the examination of the environmental benefits of combining pollution charges with effective specific emission limit values for individual pollution sources has not been done yet. Within the drafting of a law on communal activities, the introduction of household waste tariffs on a per capita basis (rather than per square metre of premises) and the feasibility of waste charges for enterprises per unit of volume or weight are being considered. Foreign financial assistance is aligned with national and local environmental priorities in Serbia.

Concerning environmental monitoring, through ad hoc and/or pilot projects, SEPA has initiated accreditation of soil sampling and soil analysis. Due to the reduction of staff and lack of funding, there was no improvement in systematic groundwater monitoring. During 2018, the Ministry funded a project that introduced additional



monitoring sites and the SEPA will collect the data once available. In addition, SEPA is applying state-of-art IT solutions in order to introduce concepts that will reduce double data collection and is continuously developing components of the national environmental information system. For example, during 2018 new components were developed and are fully operational, such as database on waste streams, soil monitoring database, cadastre of contaminated sites, etc. The frequency with which the state of the environment report is produced will be reconsidered once the Law on the Environmental Protection will be revised; the review process has not started yet. The Ecoregister is properly maintained, providing the public with access to an array of up-to-date environmental information and data.

Currently, there is no national climate change adaptation strategy, but there are adaptation policies in place in various sectors (e.g. water management, forestry, agriculture). Both the climate change strategy and its action plan are currently being developed through the support of IPA funding. The strategy and action plan would be key documents to provide a basis for low carbon development as it will assess possibilities, costs and benefits for an optimal pathway to GHG emission reduction, in line with EU climate acquis. In accordance with the Draft Law on Climate Change, that is planned to be adopted in 2019, the Ministry of Environmental Protection shall prepare a concept policy paper on adaptation that will enable mainstreaming of adaptation policies into other relevant sectoral policies through adoption and implementation of sectoral strategies, plans, programmes and other documents that will incorporate prescribed adaptation policies and ensure involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

In accordance with the 2010 Water Law (No. 30/10, 93/12), the 2017 Strategy for Water Management up to 2034 is a comprehensive planning document determining long-term water management policy to be pursued on the national territory. It includes the directions of sustainable action in the areas of water use, water protection, the regulation of water flow and protection against the harmful effects of water. Improvements in the water sector would be carried out in accordance with social and economic capabilities of the State, and with respect to the introduction of EU standards, technologies and regulations on water management.

Currently, the priority is the adoption of a draft water law that would be harmonized with EU regulations on water. In this regard, a working group for the drafting of the water law was formed and the first draft of the law was prepared. The adoption of by-laws based on this law are expected to be a priority for its full implementation. The preparation of a multiannual program of investments for the construction of new and maintenance or renovation of existing water infrastructure is ongoing.

The water management plan is in progress of drafting. This plan will include measures related to the regulation and use of water, as well as water protection. Measures relating to water development and use refer to the conservation of water quantities, including abstraction control measures; artificial recharge or augmentation of aquifers, including control measures for the quantity and quality of waters used for such purposes; ensuring that the hydromorphological conditions of water bodies are compatible with the achievement of the required ecological status or good ecological potential of artificial and heavily modified water bodies; efficient and economically-viable water use; cost recovery for water use.

The reuse of treated wastewater was not integrated in the 2010 Water Law, but it is planned to be included in the new upcoming law that will be the basis for preparation of related by-laws (e.g. the quality requirements for reused water for agricultural irrigation) and guidelines for extensive, systematic and innovative reuse of treated wastewaters. The implementation of water safety plans by operators is not enough promoted and supported by all stakeholders, including assistance on preparation of modules for monitoring of risk assessment, management framework, monitoring of the control measures, assistance in the development of infrastructure and support programmes.

In Serbia, 99 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk have been defined for fluvial floods<sup>6</sup>). Out of 99, 27 areas have been mapped using different methodologies supported by various projects. The Rulebook on determining the methodology for development of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps was adopted in 2017. For the remaining areas, flood hazard maps and flood risk maps will be developed with the support of IPA

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<sup>6</sup> [www.rdvode.gov.rs](http://www.rdvode.gov.rs)

2014–2020 project. Flood protection is carried out in accordance to the Water Law, General Plan for Flood Defence and the Operational Plan for Flood Defence, which is updated every year.

Regarding nuclear waste, Serbia has signed and ratified both the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Moreover, a full radioactive waste inventory of Serbia was carried out under the First National Report of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and published on the IAEA website. This inventory can be split in two parts: (i) legacy (historical) waste (from 1948 until 2009) – this part is not complete; (ii) waste collected since 2009 when the Public Company for Nuclear Facilities of Serbia and the Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency were established – this part is regularly updated.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection was established in 2017. Within its new structure, the Ministry has created a Group for Circular and Green Economy, which is currently formed by one staff only. The integration of green economy considerations when revising existing or developing new strategic documents at all levels is at its first steps. The effectiveness of the National Council for Sustainable Development could be considered weak since the Council is not operational.

Since 2014, the Government has strengthened regular exchange of information with local self-government authorities on the implementation of delegated environmental protection responsibilities and assisted them in the implementation of such responsibilities through the provision of guidance and training. It has also continuously involved local self-government authorities in the development of environmental policies and legislation that affect them. However, existing mechanisms and allocated resources to local self-government units for the implementation of delegated environmental protection responsibilities are not efficient or adequate.

Cooperation with municipalities in the collection and verification of data on municipal waste and reporting procedures on all types of waste has been improved since 2014. More than 80 per cent public companies are preparing related reports, but the lack of capacities of local self-governments for waste management hampers the improvements desired. Reporting procedures now include different waste streams (e.g. tires, oils)

As it concerns the establishment of a system of regular reporting on compliance from the lower levels to the central authorities, and the issuing of a consolidated national environmental compliance report, annual reports on the evaluation of the activities of environmental control in compliance with the Law on Inspection of 2015 are prepared and published on the inspection's website. In addition, there is an annual planning of inspections that are published in the website of the environmental inspectorate. The annual performance reports are also available on line.

There have been improvements in the procedures for and outcomes of judicial enforcement by: (i) continuously providing joint training and other forms of capacity-building for inspection and judicial authorities (e.g. training and seminars organized in 2018 for inspectors and judges) and (ii) developing standard operating procedures and manuals on the enforcement of environmental laws with a focus on the application of administrative fines (e.g. several checklists for inspections). However, the strengthening of communication mechanisms between the executive and the judicial authorities and improvement of feedback from the judiciary on all environmental cases brought before the courts, have not been implemented. There are still difficulties in communicating with the judiciary.

In 2010, the Institute for the Improvement of Education introduced an innovative teaching programme in elementary schools related to the subject "World around us" - first and second grade, as well as "Nature and Society" - third grade. These programmes have been enriched with the theme "sustainable development and the protection of the human environment". In secondary vocational schools (in all areas of work) in the curricula, contents with the topic "sustainable development and the protection of the environment" were implemented in a timely manner with the emergence of these topics. New educational profiles in their curricula contain these topics, and some also have subjects in which they deal only with the sustainable development and the protection of the environment. In terms of strategic and legal frameworks, the Strategy for Education Development in Serbia by 2020 contains the concept "development driven by future" and the Law on the

fundamentals of the education system recognizes the importance of sustainable development awareness, nature and environment protection and ecological ethics and animal welfare.

## **CHAPTER 2: SDG targets needs assessment**

### **2.1 Identifying gaps between current conditions and desired achievements**

Following the review of the implementation of the Third EPR recommendations, several challenges and gaps have been identified in order to define the country's main needs in achieving EPR-relevant SDG targets. They have been categorized into administrative, organizational, financial and human capacity needs in order to analyse in depth the problems encountered and challenges ahead to overcome issues in the implementation of selected EPR-related SDG target or indicator (targets 6.3, 7.2, 11.5, 11.6, 11.b, 12.4, 13.1, and 13.2).

The present needs assessment exercise is aimed at guiding the country to achieve desired conditions for the implementation of SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda relevant for the EPR recommendations. Summary results are presented below. The full results of the needs assessment for implementation of each EPR-relevant SDG target or indicator and the main issues identified are in **Annex II**.

### **2.2 Results of the needs assessment**

#### *Administrative needs*

The administrative capacity of Serbian institutions for improving the strategic and legal framework in the water, waste and climate change sectors, in line with the relevant EU Directives, remains insufficient. As a result, the harmonisation of major national environmental legislation and strategies with the EU *acquis* in these fields also lags behind. For example, there is no harmonisation with the EU Regulation 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and for reporting other information at national and EU level relevant to climate change. Moreover, the process of drafting and adoption of several laws, strategies, programmes and plans needs to be speed up (e.g. finalisation and adoption of the National Flood Risk Management Plan, the National Climate Change Strategy and the new Law on Waste Management.).

Another major issue is that legislative activities lack adequate public debate and horizontal coordination among stakeholders. Insufficient horizontal coordination between state authorities and delay in fulfilling certain obligations proves that the capacities of state administration are limited. The systematic integration of environmental concerns into sectoral legislation, strategies, policies and plans is not yet a reality in Serbia. Although several strategic and planning documents have been developed, systemic environmental management is missing.

Furthermore, awareness-raising concerning key environmental issues, such as waste management, water protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation, is lacking.

#### *Organizational needs*

Insufficient organization, poor coordination and communication between institutions which are responsible for individual aspects of environmental policy making and implementation, as well as for the harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU *environmental acquis*, are obstacles to achieve progress in these areas. Moreover, the lack of an effective coordination between the central level authorities and local self-governments hampers the implementation process on environment. A precise division of responsibilities amongst relevant ministries and between them and the local authorities is needed.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group is not enough active to boost the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets. As such, it is not enabling cross-sectoral cooperation between environment-related institutions and other sectoral institutions in order to effectively integrate water, wastewater, flood risk, waste and climate change policies.

Synergies from the activities of existing working groups and councils (e.g. sectoral Working Groups for Chapter 27, National Water Council, National Council for Sustainable Development, Special Working Group on the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of drinking water, National Climate Change Committee, National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction) are not enough used for enhancing the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets.

#### *Financial needs*

The funds allocated for the implementation of national environmental strategies, programmes and plans as well as for investments in environmental infrastructure are not sufficient. Adequate funds to improve capacity for action at both the central and local government level are also lacking. Moreover, additional funds are urgently needed to ensure that institutions responsible for environment matters have necessary financial resources to function effectively and ensure implementation and enforcement of measures under the Chapter 27 of the EU accession process and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Economic instruments in place to support the implementation of environmental management objectives are not efficient enough and should be strengthened through the review of the current financing system (e.g. the introduction of an adequate water pricing policy, a market-based support scheme for renewable energy production, payments for ecosystem services in water resources management, a mechanism to improve the low rate of collectability of tax and penalties from private sector, etc.). The current situation is expected to improve with the recently established Green Fund.

#### *Human capacity needs*

Pursuant to the Law on amendments to the Law on Ministries (No. 62/2017), the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection continued its work as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (including the Water Directorate), and a new Ministry of Environmental Protection was established. In the Water Directorate, in addition to regular jobs, 5 employees are engaged in monitoring water directives<sup>7</sup>, which is insufficient both for transposition and for the subsequent implementation of the provisions of EU directives on water. The new structure of the Ministry of Environmental Protection adopted in 2017 established two new Divisions in the Waste and Wastewater Management Department: Division of Water Pollution Prevention, planned to have 7 employees to deal with water protection tasks (including transposition and implementation) and the Division for Wastewater (with 6 planned employees)<sup>8</sup>. Within the Department, the Group for legal affairs in the field of waste and wastewater management, with 2 employees, works on compliance of regulations, as well as the Group for planning, preparation and monitoring projects in the field of waste and wastewater management, with three employees. The current human capacity is not enough to fulfil the huge tasks these bodies are expected to accomplish.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection also includes a Department for Nature Protection and Climate Change. Within this Department, there is a Division for Climate Change that includes two units: Climate Change Mitigation Group and Climate Change Adaptation Group. This new structure foresees the increase of posts in the Division for Climate Change from 5 to 8, of which 7 employees (currently three)<sup>9</sup> would perform tasks related to the fulfilment of obligations toward UNFCCC (and UNCCD as well) and harmonisation with the EU legislation in the climate change area. SEPA, responsible for the preparation and improvement of the GHG Inventory, also lacks adequate staff number.

The Ministry's staff number has not increased as planned according to the new structure and the institutional capacities have remained inadequate. Currently, there is no timeframe for the reinforcement of its capacity.

In addition, there is not enough training of staff responsible for implementation of the environment-related laws (e.g. Law on Waste Management, Law on Water, Law on Climate Change, etc.) at the national, provincial and local level. Also, the lack of environmental inspection capacities for control and supervision remains a key

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<sup>7</sup> 2018-2021 NPAA 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision Chapter 27, Negotiating Group 27  
(<http://www.pregovarackagrupa27.gov.rs/dokumenti/?lang=lat>)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

issue. Moreover, knowledge and skills of professional staff in key institutions, crucial for the integration and implementation of EU Acquis on water, waste and climate change, are not adequate.







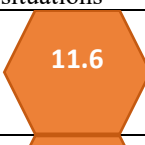



## CHAPTER 3: Policy packages


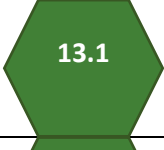

### 3.1 Proposed policy packages

Following the assessment of different types of needs to achieve EPR-relevant SDGs targets, three packages of required national policies were developed. The policy packages proposed below could be used as a road map for policy implementation or serve as a basis for the development of a National Action Plan, both aimed at enabling the country to strengthen efforts to implement SDGs identified in this context. They highlight the SDGs' integrated nature by establishing an approach that is holistic, multi-sectoral and multidimensional. Moreover, they set out detailed measures for the development of an enabling framework that facilitates both the achievement of SDGs and the EU Chapter 27 obligations. Therefore, this study could also serve as a guidance document for the country in implementing the obligations stemming from the EU Chapter 27. Table 1 shows the relevant SDGs and targets that would be covered by the policy packages.

The proposed approach seeks to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs by introducing measures for additional policies, adoption of a coherent inter-sectoral policy, improved implementation financing and establishment of effective inter-sectoral coordination.

**Table 1: Relevant SDGs and targets to be considered in the priority packages**

Goals		Relevant targets	
	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all		By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable		By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
			By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
			By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.
	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns		By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

 <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	 <p>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p>
	 <p>Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p>

The policy packages comprise a set of concrete actions to achieve the established goals, included into three thematic policy packages:

1. Water quality, wastewater management and flood risk management;
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
3. Waste management.

### Policy package 1: Water quality, wastewater management and flood risk management



Third EPR recommendations	Issues from the EU Progress Report for Serbia (2018)
<p><b>Recommendation 7.1:</b> <i>The Government should:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize, adopt, ensure funding for and implement the water management strategy until 2034;</li> <li>Adopt the necessary subsidiary legislation to the Law on Waters;</li> <li>Establish a national water council;</li> <li>Launch a programme of investments for the construction of new and the maintenance or renovation of existing water infrastructure.</li> </ol> <p><b>Recommendation 7.2:</b> <i>The Government, through the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, should:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the efficient use of water resources, and control the sustainability and vulnerability of water resources;</li> <li>Adopt innovative solutions for the extensive reuse of treated wastewaters;</li> <li>Promote the implementation of water safety plans by operators.</li> </ol> <p><b>Recommendation 7.3:</b> <i>The Government should:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement adequate measures in the existing flood risk management system, and establish flood hazard maps and flood risk assessment;</li> <li>Ensure adequate protection from floods and water erosion and develop appropriate policies and financial instruments to ensure the management of water risks at the least cost to society.</li> <li>Review water scarcity and drought policies on climate change adaptation.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A national strategy and action plan on water protection should be adopted.</li> <li>Serbia needs to make significant efforts to further align its water management legislation with the acquis, and to strengthen administrative capacity, in particular for monitoring, enforcement, interinstitutional coordination and local governance.</li> <li>Serbia needs to further strengthen its capacity for disaster prevention, disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management including flood risk management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Actions</b></p>	

### Administrative

- Finalize and adopt the new Water Law.
- Prepare and adopt the Water Management Plan for Serbia 2021- 2027.
- Improve water management and municipal wastewater collection (sewage) and wastewater treatment, including physical infrastructure, in the largest agglomerations in line with the relevant EU Directives.
- Establish a complete monitoring program for water bodies of surface and groundwater.
- Establish a legal basis for determining vulnerable areas.
- Develop a National Sludge Management Strategy with implementation plan.
- Establish the legal basis for the reform of public utility companies and start the reform.
- Improve the current procedures for obtaining permits and licenses for collecting and treatment of wastewater.
- Continue the ongoing development of a strategic framework for civil protection, including an action plan on disaster risk management, by adopting the corresponding law.
- Review the preliminary risk assessment of floods to take also into account the effects of climate change.
- Continue to develop hazard maps and flood risk maps.
- After the development of these maps, revise the Draft Plan for Flood Risk Management.
- Finalize and adopt the National Flood Risk Management Plan in accordance with the EU Floods Directive.
- Increase resilience to climate change impacts through enhanced implementation of water scarcity and drought policies.
- Draft a specific plan for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (within the IPA 2013 project "Further Implementation of the Environmental Approximation Strategy").
- Develop a specific plan for the implementation of the Municipal Wastewater Directive (within the IPA 2013 project).

### Organizational

- Task the National Water Council and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group with the implementation of the EPR-relevant SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between water-related institutions as well as with other sectors in order to effectively integrate water and wastewater management policies as well as flood risk management policy.
- Facilitate and speed up the operation of the National Water Council by appointing its presidency and members.
- Conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the National Council for Sustainable Development and consider the possibility of merging it with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group.
- Increase synergies between the Special Working Group on the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of drinking water and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the preparation and implementation of disaster risk reduction policy in line with the SDGs and the 2015–2030 Sendai Framework.
- Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Water Management in view of enhancing the implementation of related SDGs targets.

### Financial

- Ensure that available resources for environmental financing are being managed taking into account that funds should be allocated for priority public infrastructure and that IPA funds should be shared among priority infrastructure needs (primarily water).
- Set up an adequate water pricing policy.
- Establish a mechanism to improve the low rate of collectability of tax and penalties from private sector.
- Introduce payments for ecosystem services in water resources management.
- Facilitate the effective functioning of the Green Fund and that the allocation of the funds is made in a transparent manner with an adequate monitoring in place.
- Secure adequate funding for the completion and implementation of water management plans and relevant measures for water protection.
- Allocate adequate funds for the regular meetings and activities of the National Water Council and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group.

### Human capacity

- Urgently provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities, by employing adequate number of professional staff in the Ministry of Environmental Protection (Division for Water Pollution Prevention, Division for Wastewater and Group for Planning, Preparation and Monitoring of Projects in the Field of Waste

and Wastewater Management, Group for Soil Conservation and Erosion and Flood Prevention), SEPA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Protection (Water Directorate), and the Ministry of Interior (Sector for Emergency Situations), improving their knowledge and skills, crucial for the integration and transposition of EU Acquis on water and flood risk management, as well as for the implementation of EPR-relevant SDG targets.

- Training of bodies responsible for implementation of the Water Law and regulations in this area at the national, provincial and local level.

## Policy package 2: Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Third EPR recommendations	Issues from the EU Progress Report for Serbia (2018)
<p><b>Recommendation 6.1:</b> <i>The Government should:</i> (a) <i>Develop and adopt a national climate change adaptation strategy and related action plan, ensure that all relevant sectors are included and secure funding for the strategy's implementation;</i> (b) <i>Ensure that adaptation issues are included in all sectoral strategic documents.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendation 6.2:</b> <i>The Government should develop and adopt a low-emission development strategy with an action plan and secure funding for the strategy's implementation.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendation 6.3:</b> <i>The Government should:</i> (a) <i>Introduce a one-stop-shop for investors to obtain all the necessary permits for the construction of renewable energy plants, and streamline and harmonize the licensing procedures;</i> (b) <i>Conduct a comprehensive study on the potential of renewable energy sources and the necessary investments for their development, and adopt targets accordingly.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Serbia should speed up implementation on the climate change area; a national cross-sectoral strategy on climate change, consistent with the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, is currently being developed, it also addresses adaptation to climate change.</i></li> <li>• <i>The National Climate Change Committee should do more to integrate climate action into other sectors, although some progress has been noticed (e.g. in May 2017, Serbia ratified the Paris Agreement; in October 2017, Serbia submitted its second communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)).</i></li> <li>• <i>Serbia needs to reinforce its administrative and technical capability to fully align with climate acquis monitoring and reporting through the work of its environmental protection agency (GHG inventories);</i></li> <li>• <i>Considerable strengthening of administrative capacity is needed, together with awareness-raising activities on climate change.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed Actions</b></p> <p><u>Administrative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize and adopt the new national Climate Change Strategy, which includes adaptation and low-carbon emissions measures.</li> <li>• Start the drafting of the Action Plan for the adopted Climate Change Strategy.</li> <li>• Increase efforts to finalise the harmonisation with the national legislation with the EU Regulation 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.</li> <li>• Design a comprehensive awareness-rising campaign with an action plan.</li> <li>• Increase the use of renewable energy in line with the Energy Community Treaty obligations.</li> <li>• Review of the national energy objectives and policies in accordance with Paris Agreement.</li> <li>• Streamline the permitting and connection procedures.</li> <li>• Adopt adequate measures to reduced GHG emission intensity of energy sector.</li> <li>• Consider the introduction of a competition-oriented auction procedure for the allocation of future renewable energy capacities.</li> <li>• Continue to develop scenarios with enhanced use of renewable energy, considering environmental impact as well as alternatives to solid fuels used for domestic heating.</li> <li>• Conduct assessments of high impact areas for climate action and identify where the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency can make the most cost-effective interventions; design policies to promote the incorporation of this knowledge into national and regional strategies and planning.</li> </ul>	



Organizational

- Establish a system of clear division of responsibilities in the climate change sphere and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.
- Strengthen the administrative capacity of the National Climate Change Committee that could play a major role in the implementation of relevant SDGs targets and EU legislation.
- Task the Inter-Ministerial Working Group with the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions dealing with climate change in order to effectively integrate climate change policies into sectoral policies and strategies.
- Enhance the collaboration between the institutions involved in the implementation of the EU Regulation No 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level (MMR).
- Establish a fully independent energy regulatory body.
- Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Climate Change in view of enhancing the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets.

Financial

- Secure the necessary funds to improve capacity for climate change action at both the central and local government level.
- Move to market-based support schemes for renewable energy production.
- Ensure that investments to reduce losses in the electricity transmission and distribution grid are in line with the targets and needs of a higher share of renewable energy.
- Further improve the conditions for investors in renewable electricity production by verifying and, if necessary, adapting requirements on grid connection to avoid exceeding connection costs.

Human capacity

- Urgently enhance administrative capacities of the Division for Climate Change of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, which includes the Climate Change Mitigation Group and the Climate Change Adaptation Group, by increasing staff, improving their knowledge and skills to better fulfil the obligations under UNFCCC, implement related SDGs and carry out harmonisation with the EU legislation in the climate change sphere.
- Provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities by employing adequate number of professional staff in SEPA that is responsible for the preparation and improvement of the GHG Inventory.
- Strengthen current administrative and institutional capacities, though, inter alia, organising a series of trainings for the Division on Climate Change and SEPA employees.

**Policy package 3: Waste management**



Third EPR recommendations	Issues from the EU Progress Report for Serbia (2018)
<p><b>Recommendation 8.1:</b> <i>The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection together with the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency should improve:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Cooperation with municipalities in the collection and verification of data on municipal waste;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Reporting procedures on all types of waste.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The national waste management strategy and municipal waste management plans need to be updated to reflect legal provisions on waste minimisation and waste separation at source, and to include quantitative targets for waste recovery and recycling.</i></li> <li>• <i>A national integrated waste management plan and additional economic instruments for special waste streams need to be developed</i></li> </ul>

**Proposed Actions**

Administrative

- Speed up the adoption of the new Law on Waste Management.
- Draft the bylaws that need to be adopted in accordance with the new Law on Waste Management.
- Finalise and adopt the new Waste Management Strategy for the period 2019–2024, which includes the National Waste Management Plan.
- Finalise drafting and adopt the new Law on Communal Activities (under the leadership of the Ministry of Infrastructure).
- Develop and adopt a Waste Prevention Programme and ensure a broad participation of all stakeholders in the consultation process.
- Adopt Regional Waste Management Plans.
- Introduce a system for achieving a better recycling rate of municipal waste (of at least 50 per cent by 2030).
- Establish a system for the management of special waste streams such as waste tires, waste batteries and accumulators, waste oils, waste vehicles, waste from electrical and electronic equipment (achieve in the future a quantity of 4 kg per inhabitant of separately collected waste).
- Finalise and adopt the Specific Implementation Plan for the EU Waste Framework Directive (with the support of the IPA 2013 project).
- Improve the waste management physical infrastructure and increase recycling rates at the largest waste collection areas.
- Increase awareness raising on waste management through communication campaigns, including in the regional and communal level.
- Improve the quality of waste reports, in particular communal waste reports, through related training activities to companies.
- Develop public awareness about Hazardous Waste Management, including the proper method of removal of asbestos-containing products as well as the disposal of asbestos.
- Finalise and adopt the Green Economy Strategy for Serbia.

#### Organizational

- Enhance coordination between the institutions involved in waste management: Ministry of Environmental Protection, SEPA, competent authority of the autonomous province, local self-government units, professional organizations of waste testing, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy.
- Task the Inter-Ministerial Working Group with the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions dealing with waste management in order to effectively integrate related policies into sectoral policies and strategies.
- Use synergies from the activities of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group Chapter 27 on Waste Management in view of enhancing the implementation of related SDGs targets.

#### Financial

- Development of a set of economic instruments to support the implementation of waste management objectives through the review of the current waste management financing system.
- Secure the necessary funds for the implementation of the 2019–2024 Waste Management Strategy, National Waste Management Plan and Waste Prevention Programme.
- Provide adequate financing for closing non-compliant landfills as well as investments in waste separation and recycling.

#### Human capacity

- Urgently provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities, by employing adequate number of professional staff in the Division of Waste Management of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and SEPA, improving their knowledge and skills, crucial for the integration and transposition of EU Acquis on waste management as well as for the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets.
- Provide training of bodies responsible for implementation of the Law on Waste Management and regulations in this area at the national, provincial and local level.
- Strengthen inspection capacities in this field.

### **3.2 Identifying existing inter-ministerial coordination groups**

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which started being operational in October 2017, is the main coordination body for the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Serbia. Thus, it is currently the major structure identified to support the implementation of SDG targets relevant for the EPR recommendations. Other bodies that could support the implementation of EPR-relevant SDG targets are:

- The National Council for Sustainable Development
- The National Water Council
- The National Council for Climate Change.
- The Sectoral Working Groups on Chapter 27
- The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- The Special Working Group on the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of Drinking Water.

The existing working groups/bodies could provide a good contribution to the achievement of the EPR-relevant SDG targets as well as the Chapter 27 requirements in an integrated manner, through active collaboration and engagement within ministries and other related bodies. However, for their effective operation, adequate financial and human resources are required, what is currently a matter of deep concern that has been identified through the needs assessment exercise.

## **CHAPTER 4: Conclusions**

The present assessment indicates that Serbia has strengthened the process of developing national sustainable environmental policies and established an institutional framework for monitoring the achievement of SDGs. The establishment of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the integration of environmental requirements into sector-specific policies and legislation are significant advancements, but implementation and enforcement of environment-related requirements of the sector-specific legislation still represent a challenge for Serbia.

A certain progress has been achieved in implementing the third EPR recommendations as 7 recommendations have been fully implemented so far, while the majority of recommendations implementation is ongoing. However, the needs assessment pointed to a lack of adequate administrative, financial, organizational and human capacities of environmental institutions in order to function effectively and ensure implementation and enforcement of measures under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Chapter 27 of the EU accession process.

Accession to EU is a key national priority and implementing reforms aiming at achieving criteria for EU accession can significantly contribute to the achievement of SDGs, and vice versa, achievement of SDGs can bring Serbia closer to EU membership. This assessment indicates dense interlinks between EU negotiations driven reforms and the 2030 Agenda. However, to ensure effective implementation of both reforms and SDGs, it is necessary to provide adequate staff number, training, equipment and overall coherence between plans for alignment and timeframe for the reinforcement of capacity. Strengthening institutional capacities, in particular in the water, waste and climate change sectors, is therefore a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the EU directives, SDGs and EPR recommendations. Enhancing the current capacities of public utility companies, local self-governments, institutions responsible for monitoring and other relevant institutions is also crucial to ensure effective implementation.

Having in mind that Serbia does not have a roadmap, which would clearly define fully correspondent targets with the 2030 Agenda, but instead has a policy framework made of numerous sectoral strategies with different levels of correspondence and status in terms of implementation, the role of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group is very complex. Moreover, the absence of internal action plan or rules of operations undermined the effectiveness of this coordination mechanism in both horizontal and vertical coordination as well as in engaging broader groups of stakeholders. These issues should be urgently tackled to enable progress in the implementation of SDGs in the country.

The three environmental policy packages proposed as a result of the present analysis could thus serve as a road map for an effective implementation of EPR recommendations related to water management, waste

management and climate change, as well as for EPR-relevant SDG targets. Synergies between the policy packages and actions required by the Chapter 27 could also act as catalysers to support the implementation of the EU environmental acquis.

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# ANNEXES

## Annex I

**Table 1. Status of the third EPR recommendations implementation**

EPR Recommendations	On-going activities, priorities and difficulties on the recommendation's implementation	Status of implementation
<p><i>1.1 The Government should improve the implementation of environmental legislation by ensuring that the necessary implementation capacities are in place, time frames for implementation of specific measures are realistic and relevant resources are available.</i></p>	<p>No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p><i>1.2 The Government should:</i>  <i>(a) Improve the quality of strategic environment-related planning by:</i>  <i>(i) Ensuring timely development and adoption of strategic documents;</i>  <i>(ii) Preparing action plans for environmental strategies simultaneously with the strategies themselves;</i>  <i>(iii) Ensuring regular reporting on the implementation of strategic documents;</i>  <i>(b) Ensure the development and adoption of the Action Plan for the National Environmental Protection Programme;</i>  <i>(c) Define the institution responsible for coordination of monitoring and implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and ensure the regular preparation of implementation reports for the Strategy.</i></p>	<p>(a) and (b) No feedback on these recommendations from the Serbian focal points            (c) Not implemented.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p><i>1.3 The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection should:</i>  <i>(a) In cooperation with the competent environmental authorities at the provincial and local levels, evaluate the implementation of the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Law on SEA) and enhance capacity for its implementation at the provincial and local levels, as needed;</i>  <i>(b) Consider amending the Law on SEA, in particular by:</i>  <i>(i) Introducing requirements to consult health authorities at the screening and scoping stages and during the evaluation of the SEA report;</i>  <i>(ii) Providing opportunities for the participation of the public concerned during the screening and scoping stages;</i>  <i>(c) Raise awareness in other sectors, especially at the provincial and local levels, about the requirement to conduct an SEA;</i>  <i>(d) Ensure implementation of the Law on SEA, in particular by strengthening the role of the competent and interested authorities, especially health authorities, during all stages of an SEA.</i></p>	<p>According to the 2018 report “Chapter 27 in Serbia: No progress report”, the Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment has been partly transposed into domestic legislation, but planned amendments and modifications to the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment and the adoption of the missing bylaws have been lagging.            No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points.</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>

<p>1.4 The Government should:</p> <p>(a) Designate a governmental institution to develop and coordinate green economy approaches and facilitate green economy initiatives;</p> <p>(b) Integrate green economy considerations when revising existing or developing new strategic documents at all levels.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment has created a Group for Circular and Green Economy in his new structure of 2018, which is formed by one officer. The integration of green economy considerations when revising existing or developing new strategic documents at all levels is at first steps.</p> <p>No further feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>1.5 The Government should ensure that an independent analysis of the institutional framework in the environmental sector is conducted, in order to identify problems, needs and ways to improve that framework.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment has been established and its structure adopted. There is no further information on the fact that an independent analysis of the institutional framework in the environment sector was conducted prior to the establishment of the Ministry of Environment</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>1.6 The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, should:</p> <p>(a) Strengthen regular exchange of information with local self-government authorities on the implementation of delegated environmental protection responsibilities and assist them in the implementation of such responsibilities through the provision of necessary guidance and training;</p> <p>(b) Continuously involve local self-government authorities in the development of environmental policies and legislation that affect them;</p> <p>(c) Ensure that efficient mechanisms and adequate resources are provided to local self-government units for the implementation of delegated environmental protection responsibilities.</p>	<p>(a) Implemented</p> <p>(b) Implemented</p> <p>(c) Not implemented</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>1.7 The Government should improve horizontal coordination on environmental and sustainable development matters, and in particular:</p> <p>(a) Develop mechanisms for horizontal coordination;</p> <p>(b) Ensure the effective operation of the National Council for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>The National Council for Sustainable Development does not operate effectively.</p> <p>No further feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p>	<p>Not implemented</p>
<p>2.1 The Government should assess and redefine the division of compliance assurance mandates and reinforce the relevant coordination arrangements within and across all levels of governance, including by:</p> <p>(a) Concentrating responsibilities for regulating large installations at the national level to overcome the problem of low capacity;</p> <p>(b) Improving cooperation between the competent regulatory authorities and the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency so that the information collected by the Agency is fully used for monitoring and ensuring compliance;</p> <p>(c) Strengthening horizontal coordination and cooperation between inspection and permitting authorities;</p> <p>(d) Establishing a system of regular reporting on compliance from the lower levels to the central authorities, and issuing a consolidated national environmental compliance report.</p>	<p>(a) is ongoing with the review of the IPPC law</p> <p>(b) and (c) no information on this topic from the Serbian focal points</p> <p>(d) Annual reports on the evaluation of the activities of environmental control (in compliance with the Law on Inspection of 2015) are prepared and published on the inspection's website.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>

<p>2.2 The Government should further improve and streamline environmental impact assessment (EIA) and permit issuing procedures by:</p> <p>(a) Harmonizing planning and construction activities with the environmental conditions and requests under the EIA and IPPC procedures;</p> <p>(b) Ensuring an integrated approach and the coordination of the competent authorities in issuing IPPC permits;</p> <p>(c) Following up on the best available techniques requirements in procedures preceding the IPPC permitting;</p> <p>(d) Simplifying the regulatory regime for small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>	<p>(a) In 2018, the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure carried out public consultations on the Draft Law on Amendments and Modifications to the Planning and Construction Law. According to the 2018 report “Chapter 27 in Serbia: No progress report”, the presented Draft Law still did not address the existing inconsistencies with the Law on EIA. No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p> <p>(b) (c) and (d) implementation on going with the current review of the IPPC law</p>	<p>Partially implemented (on-going implementation)</p>
<p>2.3 The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection should enable access to information and public participation in compliance mechanisms by:</p> <p>(a) Developing and applying proactive strategies for involving the public;</p> <p>(b) Strengthening public involvement in the integrated permitting of IPPC installations;</p> <p>(c) Regularly disclosing compliance and enforcement information and tailoring it to the needs and understanding of the general public.</p>	<p>(a) No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p> <p>(b) on going with the review of the IPPC law</p> <p>(c) No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p>	<p>Partially implemented (on-going implementation)</p>
<p>2.4 The Government should promote further improvements in the management of inspection authorities, in particular in the planning and performance measurement and disclosure phases.</p>	<p>There is an annual planning of inspections that are published on the website of the environmental inspectorate. The annual performance reports are also available on the website.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p>2.5 The Government should enable an improvement in the procedures for and outcomes of judicial enforcement by:</p> <p>(a) Continuously providing joint training and other forms of capacity-building for inspection and judicial authorities;</p> <p>(b) Strengthening communication mechanisms between the executive and the judicial authorities, and improving feedback from the judiciary on all environmental cases brought before the courts, including those deemed inadmissible at a preliminary stage;</p> <p>(c) Developing standard operating procedures and manuals on the enforcement of environmental laws with a focus on the application of administrative fines.</p>	<p>(a) Implemented (e.g. training and seminars organized last year for inspectors and judges)</p> <p>(b) Not implemented. There are still difficulties in getting feedback from the judiciary.</p> <p>(c) Implemented (e.g. several checklists for inspections)</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>3.1 The Government, through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, should:</p> <p>(a) Conduct a regular assessment of the various pollution and product charges and adapt these instruments accordingly, considering, to the extent possible, damage caused by polluting behaviour as well as producer/importer responsibility;</p> <p>(b) Examine the environmental benefits of combining pollution charges with effective specific emission limit values for individual pollution sources.</p>	<p>(a) Some partial assessments have been carried out (e.g. by the ME, the EPR of Serbia and some projects).</p> <p>(b) This has not been done</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>

<p>3.2 The Government, in cooperation with local self-governments and public utility companies, should introduce economic principles for the operation and management of public utility companies with the aim of increasing the cost-effectiveness of their operations, including through the promotion of the regionalization of communal services to benefit from economies of scale, and specialization and greater attractiveness for private sector involvement (public-private partnerships). This would also involve:</p> <p>(a) Adopting a formal tariff methodology for the calculation of full cost recovery tariffs;</p> <p>(b) Gradually raising tariffs to cost-reflective levels, taking into account affordability issues;</p> <p>(c) Phasing out the strong cross-subsidization of household tariffs by enterprises;</p> <p>(d) Providing targeted social assistance for vulnerable groups that are using communal services;</p> <p>(e) Improving bill collection rates and reducing technical losses;</p> <p>(f) Creating greater incentives for the rational use of water services by introducing individual metering of water consumption by households in multi-family buildings;</p> <p>(g) Considering the introduction of household waste tariffs on a per capita basis (rather than per square metre of premises) and the feasibility of waste charges for enterprises per unit of volume or weight.</p>	<p>(a) to (f): No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points (g) This has been considered under the current preparation of the new law “On communal activities”</p>	<p>(a) to (f) unknown (g) Partially implemented</p>
<p>3.3 The Government should:</p> <p>(a) Establish an effective financial mechanism to support the implementation of environmental policy and legislation;</p> <p>(b) Regularly review environmental expenditures (current and capital) and, inter alia, ensure that they are effectively aligned with priorities in environmental and other sectoral strategic documents;</p> <p>(c) Assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the projects financed and ensure that outputs are produced at the lowest possible cost;</p> <p>(d) Ensure that foreign financial assistance is aligned with national and local environmental priorities.</p>	<p>(a) The Government established the “Green Fund”, however, the effectiveness of such a mechanism has to be proved as it has started being operational in 2018 (b) and (c): No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points (d) It is.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>
<p>3.4 The Statistical Office should establish a comprehensive information system on environmental expenditures covering the government sector and the private sector, using methodologies that conform to international standards such as the Eurostat/OECD methodology for pollution abatement and control (PAC) expenditure and the United Nations Classification of Environmental Protection Activities (CEPA).</p>	<p>No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>4.1 The Government, through the relevant ministries, should ensure that resources are provided and effective monitoring is performed for environmental media and themes, and in particular:</p>	<p>(a) The SEPA is not in charge of introducing regulation; it is the duty of the Ministry. Nevertheless through ad hoc and/or pilot projects the SEPA has been initiated accreditation of soil sampling and soil analysis.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>











<p>(a) Introduce regulation on the monitoring of soil and designate competent authorities for the monitoring functions;</p> <p>(b) Establish a monitoring programme for biodiversity;</p> <p>(c) Improve the groundwater monitoring network;</p> <p>(d) Clarify the responsibility of small-scale water supply systems for drinking water monitoring;</p> <p>(e) Ensure that noise monitoring is systematically carried out at the local level.</p>	<p>(b) No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points</p> <p>(c) Due to the reduction of staff and funding there was no improvement in systematic groundwater monitoring. During 2018, Ministry funded a project that introduced additional monitoring sites and the SEPA will collect the data once available</p> <p>d) The SEPA is not in charge of drinking water monitoring it is the duty of public health institutes.</p> <p>e) The SEPA is not in charge of noise monitoring. As defined by law, it is the duty of local municipalities, public enterprises, etc.</p>	
<p>4.2 The Government should:</p> <p>(a) Introduce, where relevant, joint data collection activities to avoid double collection;</p> <p>(b) Develop the environment-related databases that are lacking and accelerate the integration of all environment-related databases into one environmental system;</p> <p>(c) Reconsider the frequency with which the state of the environment report is produced.</p>	<p>(a) The SEPA is applying state-of-art IT solutions in order to introduce concepts that will reduce double data collection</p> <p>(b) The SEPA is continuously developing components of the national environmental information system. For example, during 2018 new components were developed and are fully operational: database on waste streams, soil monitoring database, cadastre of contaminated sites, etc.</p> <p>(c) This is defined in the Law on the Environmental Protection and the frequency will be reconsidered once the Law will be revised.</p>	Partially implemented
<p>4.3 The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, together with the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, should ensure that the Ecoregister is properly maintained, through the provision of adequate national funding and human resources, so that it serves its function of providing the public with access to an array of up-to-date environmental information and data.</p>	<p>The Ecoregister is properly maintained</p>	Implemented
<p>4.4 The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection should:</p> <p>(a) Further improve access to and the availability of environmental protection and sustainable development training and teaching aid materials for teachers;</p> <p>(b) Develop and implement a strategic approach to informal and non-formal education on environmental protection and sustainable development and strengthen the involvement of the media in this regard.</p>	<p>(a) In 2010, the Institute for the Improvement of Education innovated the teaching programme in elementary schools related to the subject “World around us” - first and second grade, as well as “Nature and Society” - third grade. These programs have been enriched with the theme "sustainable development and the protection of the human environment".</p> <p>In secondary vocational schools (in all areas of work) in the curricula, contents with the topic "sustainable development and the protection of the environment" were implemented in a timely manner with the emergence of these topics. New educational profiles in their curricula also contain these topics, and some also have subjects in which they deal only with the sustainable development and the protection of the environment.</p> <p>(b) The Strategy for Education Development in Serbia by 2020 contains the concept “development driven by future“. The Law on the fundamentals of the education system as one of the goals of education recognizes the development of sustainable development importance awareness, nature and environment protection and ecological ethics and animal welfare. This goal translates into other education laws and curricula.</p>	Implemented







5.1 <i>The Government should speed up the ratification procedure for the multilateral environmental agreements that have not yet been ratified.</i>	The ratification procedure has been speed up and is now effective, e.g. ratification of the Nagoya Protocol	Implemented
5.2 <i>The Government should systematically and gradually reduce the country's dependence on international aid in order to fulfil its obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and aim to raise its capacity to act within a scenario in which most of the funds are provided from domestic sources.</i>	This is an ongoing process.	Partially implemented
5.3 <i>The Government should analyse trends related to each specific target of MDG7 and ensure that adequate funding is made available for implementation of the country's commitments on MDG7.</i>	Not relevant anymore.	No longer relevant
6.1 <i>The Government should:</i> <i>(a) Develop and adopt a national climate change adaptation strategy and related action plan, ensure that all relevant sectors are included and secure funding for the strategy's implementation;</i> <i>(b) Ensure that adaptation issues are included in all sectoral strategic documents.</i>	a) Currently, there is no National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, but there are adaptation policies in place in different sectors (e.g. water management, forestry, agriculture, etc.). b) In accordance with the Draft Law on Climate Change, that is planned to be adopted in 2019, the Ministry of Environmental Protection shall prepare a Concept policy paper on adaptation that will enable mainstreaming of adaptation policies into other relevant sectoral policies through adoption and implementation of sectoral strategies, plans, programmes and other documents that will incorporate prescribed adaptation policies and ensure involvement of all relevant stakeholders.	Partially implemented
6.2 <i>The Government should develop and adopt a low-emission development strategy with an action plan and secure funding for the strategy's implementation.</i>	The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are currently being developed through the support of EC and IPA funding. The Strategy and Action Plan will be key documents to provide a basis for low carbon development as it will assess possibilities, costs and benefits for an optimal pathway to GHG emission reduction, in line with EU climate acquis.	Partially implemented
6.3 <i>The Government should:</i> <i>(a) Introduce a one-stop-shop for investors to obtain all the necessary permits for the construction of renewable energy plants, and streamline and harmonize the licensing procedures;</i> <i>(b) Conduct a comprehensive study on the potential of renewable energy sources and the necessary investments for their development and adopt targets accordingly.</i>	No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points	Unknown
6.4 <i>The Government should:</i> <i>(a) Speed up the development of the missing secondary legislation for implementation of the Law on Efficient Use of Energy;</i> <i>(b) Control and enforce the application of energy performance standards for new residential and public buildings and major renovations of existing ones.</i>	No feedback on this recommendation from the Serbian focal points	Unknown
7.1 <i>The Government should:</i> <i>(a) Finalize, adopt, ensure funding for and implement the water management strategy until 2034;</i> <i>(b) Adopt the necessary subsidiary legislation to the Law on Waters;</i>	(a) The Government adopted on its 27 Session on December 23, 2016, the Strategy for Water Management up to 2034 (No. 3/2017). It has been prepared in accordance with the Water Law (No. 30/10, 93/12). The Strategy for Water Management up to 2034 is a comprehensive planning document determining	Partially implemented










<p>(c) <i>Establish a national water council;</i>          (d) <i>Launch a programme of investments for the construction of new and the maintenance or renovation of existing water infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>long-term water management policy to be pursued on the national territory. It includes the directions of sustainable action in the areas of water use, water protection, the regulation of water flow and protection against the harmful effects of water. In the planning period, we expect a significant improvement in the water sector. This upgrade will be carried out in accordance with the social and economic capabilities of the state, and with respect to the introduction of standards, technologies and regulations of EU on water management.</p> <p>(b) The priority is the adoption of a new Water Act that will be harmonized with EU regulations on water. In this regard, a working group for the drafting of the Law on Waters was formed and the first Draft of the Law was drafted. Also, the priority is the adoption of by-laws based on the Water Law necessary for the full implementation of that law, which will harmonize national legislation with EU regulations on water.</p> <p>(c) The National Water Conference (or National Water Council) was established by the Decision on the Establishment of the National Water Conference (No. 55/11). This act stipulates that the Government will issue a special decision to appoint the President and members of the National Water Conference.</p> <p>(d) Currently, activities are under way on a preparation of a multiannual program of investments for the construction of new and maintenance or renovation of existing water infrastructure.</p>	
<p>7.2 <i>The Government, through the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, should:</i>          (a) <i>Ensure the efficient use of water resources, and control the sustainability and vulnerability of water resources;</i>          (b) <i>Adopt innovative solutions for the extensive reuse of treated wastewaters;</i>          (c) <i>Promote the implementation of water safety plans by operators.</i></p>	<p>(a) The Water Management Plan is in progress of drafting. This plan will include measures related to the regulation and use of water, as well as water protection. Measures relating to water development and use refer to: the conservation of water quantities, including abstraction control measures; artificial recharge or augmentation of aquifers, including control measures for the quantity and quality of waters used for such purposes; ensuring that the hydromorphological conditions of water bodies are compatible with the achievement of the required ecological status or good ecological potential of artificial and heavily modified water bodies; efficient and economically-viable water use; cost recovery for water use.</p> <p>(b) The reuse of treated wastewater was not integrated in the Water Law. It is planned to be included in the new upcoming law and this will be the basis for preparation by-laws (e.g. the quality requirements for reused water for agricultural irrigation) and guidelines for extensive, systematic and innovative reuse of treated wastewaters.</p> <p>(c) The implementation of water safety plans by operators should be promoted and supported by all stakeholders including assistance on preparation of modules for monitoring of risk assessment, management framework, monitoring of the control measures, assistance in the development of</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>






	infrastructure and support programs, etc. Serbia is a signatory to the Protocol on Water and Health, which was ratified in January 2013.	
<p>7.3 The Government should:</p> <p>(a) Implement adequate measures in the existing flood risk management system, and establish flood hazard maps and flood risk assessment;</p> <p>(b) Ensure adequate protection from floods and water erosion and develop appropriate policies and financial instruments to ensure the management of water risks at the least cost to society;</p> <p>(c) Review water scarcity and drought policies on climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>(a) For territory of Serbia, it is defined 99 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR), for fluvial floods only (available on web site www.rdvode.gov.rs). 27 of 99 APSFR have been mapped using different methodologies supported by various projects. The Rulebook on determining the methodology for development of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps was adopted in 2017. For the remaining APSFR, flood hazard maps and flood risk maps will be developed with the support of IPA 2014–2020 project.</p> <p>(b) Flood protection is carried out in accordance to the Law on Water, General Plan for Flood Defence and the Operational Plan for Flood Defence, which is updated every year.</p> <p>(c) A Special Working Group was created for the development of the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of drinking water. Based on the Guidelines on Methodology for Preparation of Assessment of the Impacts of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents and Emergency Response and Emergency Plans (No. 18/2017), the Working Group identified the danger of a lack of drinking water on two aspects: quantitative and qualitative and to prepare scenarios for the danger of "lack of drinking water" for two types of events: (1) the most probable, an unwanted event, and (2) an unwanted event with the most severe possible consequences.</p>	Partially implemented
<p>8.1 The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection together with the Serbian Environmental Protection Agency should improve:</p> <p>(a) Cooperation with municipalities in the collection and verification of data on municipal waste;</p> <p>(b) Reporting procedures on all types of waste.</p>	<p>This has been done as almost all public companies (more than 80 per cent) are preparing related reports, but the lack of capacities of local self-governments for waste management hampers the improvements desired.</p> <p>Reporting procedures now include different waste streams (e.g. tires, oils, etc.)</p>	Implemented
<p>8.2 The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, should speed up the process of accession to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.</p>	<p>These conventions have been signed and ratified.</p>	Implemented
<p>8.3 The Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency should carry out a nationwide inventory of radioactive waste.</p>	<p>A full radioactive waste inventory of Serbia was carried out under the First National Report of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (and published on IAEA website). This inventory can be spited in two parts: (i) Legacy (historical) waste (from 1948 until 2009) – this inventory is not complete; (i) Waste collected since 2009 (when the Public Company for Nuclear Facilities of Serbia and the Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency were established) – this inventory is regularly updated.</p>	Implemented

**Table 2. EPR recommendations implementation vis-à-vis SDG targets and indicators**









EPR Recommendations	SDGs	Targets	Indicators	Implementation status	SDGs targets and indicators relevant to Chapter 27	SDGs targets and indicators under the Ministry of Environment
1.2 Define the institution responsible for coordination of monitoring and implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and ensure the regular preparation of implementation reports for the Strategy.			17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	No information available from the Serbian focal point	No	No (Government)
1.7 Improve horizontal coordination on environmental and sustainable development matters and ensure the effective operation of the National Council for Sustainable Development.			17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	Not implemented	No	No (Government)
4.4 (a) Further improve access to and the availability of environmental protection and sustainable development training and teaching aid materials for teachers; (b) Develop and implement a strategic approach to informal and non-formal education on environmental protection and sustainable development and strengthen the involvement of the media in this regard.			4.7. 1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Implemented	No	No (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)
			12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b)		No	No (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)

			curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment			
6.1 Develop and adopt a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan		 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population 13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Partially implemented	Yes	Yes
6.2 Develop and adopt a National low-emission development strategy and action plan		 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low GHG emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)	Partially implemented	Yes	Yes
6.3 Develop the renewable energy potential and improve the related permitting and licensing procedures		 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	No information available	Yes	Yes, partially (Group for Renewable Energy Sources of the

						Ministry of Environment)	
6.4 Improve energy efficiency		 7.3	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	No information available	Yes	No (Ministry of Mining and Energy)
7.1 Enhance the framework for water management and improve existing water infrastructure		 6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Partially implemented	Yes	No (Water Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
		 6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality		Yes	Yes, partially (Division for Wastewater of the Ministry of Environment)
7.2 Ensure an efficient use/reuse of water resources		 6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Partially implemented	Yes	No (Water Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
		 6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution and safe reuse globally	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality		Yes	Yes, partially (Division for Wastewater of the Ministry of Environment)
		 6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources		No	No (Water Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)

		scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity				
7.3 Enhance flood risk management and climate change adaptation policies		 <p>By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters...</p>	<p>11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p> <p>11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters</p>	Partially implemented	Yes	Yes, partially (Group for Soil Conservation and Erosion, and Flood Prevention of the Ministry of Environment)
		 <p>By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.</p>	<p>11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030</p> <p>11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p>		No	Yes, partially (Group for Soil Conservation and Erosion, and Flood Prevention of the Ministry of Environment)
		 <p>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p>	<p>13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p> <p>13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030</p>		Yes	Yes



			13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies			
8.1 Improve the collection and verification of data on municipal waste and reporting		 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle...	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	Implemented	Yes	Yes
		 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	Partially implemented	Yes	Yes
8.2 Improve radioactive waste management through acceding to related international agreements		 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle...	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste... 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	Implemented	Yes	No (Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency)
8.3 Carry out a national inventory of radioactive waste		 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle...	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste... 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and	Implemented	Yes	No (Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and Public Company for

			proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment			Nuclear Facilities of Serbia)
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**Table 3. Leading ministries/governmental bodies for the implementation of SDGs in Serbia.**



Leading implementing institution	Goal																	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
<b>Ministry of Environmental Protection</b>																		<b>11</b>
Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure																		12
Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development																		8
Ministry of Finance																		11
Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs																		7
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management																		7
Ministry of Mining and Energy																		7
Ministry of European Integration																		4
Joint national Steering Committee																		8
Ministry of Economy																		6
Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications																		5
Council for the Implementation of Action Plan for Chapter 23																		1
Coordination Body for Gender Equality																		4
Ministry of Health																		2
Office for Human and Minority Rights																		4
Ministry of Interior																		5
Ministry of Justice																		3
Coordination Unit for Development of Industry in Serbia																		1
Agency for Environmental Protection																		3
Ministry of Youth and Sport																		3
Coordination Body for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women																		3
National Council for Minorities																		3
Commissariat for Refugees and Migration																		2
Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government																		4
Statistical office of Serbia																		1
Ministry of Culture and Media																		2
Republic Secretariat for Public Policies																		2
<b>Total number of leading institutions per SDG</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	




**Table 4. Links between SDGs and Chapter 27**

	<b>SDGs</b>	<b>Chapter 27</b>
	<i>SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere</i>	
	<i>SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</i>	X
	<i>SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</i>	
	<i>SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</i>	
	<i>SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</i>	
	<i>SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</i>	X
	<i>SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</i>	X
	<i>SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</i>	X
	<i>SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</i>	X
	<i>SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries</i>	
	<i>SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i>	X
	<i>SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</i>	X
	<i>SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</i>	X
	<i>SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</i>	X
	<i>SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</i>	X
	<i>SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</i>	X
	<i>SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</i>	

## Annex II. SDGs targets needs assessment

SDGs	Relevant targets	Corresponding EPR recommendations	Administrative needs	Organizational needs	Financial needs	Human capacity needs
 <p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	 <p><b>6.3</b></p>	<p>7.1 Enhance the framework for water management and improve existing water infrastructure</p> <p>7.2 Ensure an efficient use/reuse of water resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize and adopt the new Water Law.</li> <li>Prepare and adopt the Water Management Plan for Serbia 2021-2027.</li> <li>Improve water management and municipal wastewater collection (sewage) and wastewater treatment, including physical infrastructure, in the largest agglomerations in line with the relevant EU Directives.</li> <li>Establish a complete monitoring program for water bodies of surface and groundwater.</li> <li>Establish a legal basis for determining vulnerable areas.</li> <li>Develop a National Sludge Management Strategy with implementation plan.</li> <li>Establish the legal basis for the reform of public utility companies and start the reform.</li> <li>Improve the current procedures for obtaining permits and licenses for collecting and treatment of wastewater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task the National Water Council and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the implementation of the EPR-relevant SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between water-related institutions as well as with other sectors in order to effectively integrate water and wastewater management.</li> <li>Facilitate and speed up the operation of the National Water Council by appointing its presidency and members.</li> <li>Conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the National Council for Sustainable Development (established in 2002) and consider the possibility of merging it with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</li> <li>Use synergies from the activities of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that available resources for environmental financing are being managed considering that funds should be allocated for priority public infrastructure and that IPA funds should be shared among priority infrastructure needs (primarily water).</li> <li>Set up an adequate water pricing policy.</li> <li>Establish a mechanism to improve the low rate of collectability of tax and penalties from private sector.</li> <li>Introduce payments for ecosystem services in water resources management.</li> <li>Facilitate the effective functioning of the Green Fund and that the allocation of the funds is made in a transparent manner with an adequate monitoring in place.</li> <li>Secure adequate funding for the completion and implementation of water management plans and relevant measures for water protection.</li> <li>Allocate adequate funds for the regular meetings and activities of the National Water Council and the Inter-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities, by employing adequate number of professional staff in the Ministry of Environmental Protection (Division for Water Pollution Prevention, Division for Wastewater, Group for Planning, Preparation and Monitoring of Projects in the Field of Waste and Wastewater Management), SEPA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Protection (Water Directorate), improving their knowledge and skills, crucial for the integration and transposition of EU Acquis on water and flood risk management, as well as for the implementation of EPR-relevant SDG targets and indicators.</li> <li>Training of bodies responsible for implementation of the Water Law and</li> </ul>


			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft a specific plan for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (within the IPA 2013 project "Further Implementation of the Environmental Approximation Strategy").</li> <li>• Develop a specific plan for the implementation of the Municipal Wastewater Directive (within the IPA 2013 project).</li> </ul>	Working Group Chapter 27 on Water Management in view of enhancing the implementation of related SDGs targets and indicators.	Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	regulations in this area at the national, provincial and local level.
		<p>6.3 Develop the renewable energy potential and improve the related permitting and licensing procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the use of renewable energy in line with the Energy Community Treaty obligations.</li> <li>• Review of the national energy objectives and policies in accordance with Paris Agreement.</li> <li>• Streamline the permitting and connection procedures.</li> <li>• Consider the introduction of a competition-oriented auction procedure for the allocation of future renewable energy capacities.</li> <li>• Continue to develop scenarios with enhanced use of renewable energy, taking into account environmental impact as well as alternatives to solid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a system of clear division of responsibilities in the climate change sphere and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.</li> <li>• Task the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions dealing with climate change in order to effectively integrate climate change policies into sectoral policies and strategies.</li> <li>• Establish a fully independent energy regulatory body.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to market-based support schemes for renewable energy production.</li> <li>• Ensure that investments to reduce losses in the electricity transmission and distribution grid are in line with the targets and needs of a higher share of variable renewable energy.</li> <li>• Further improve the conditions for investors in renewable electricity production by verifying and, if necessary, adapting requirements on grid connection to avoid exceeding connection costs.</li> </ul>	

			<p>fuels used for domestic heating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct assessments of high impact areas for climate action and identify where the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency can make the most cost-effective interventions; design policies to promote the incorporation of this knowledge into national and regional strategies and planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Climate Change in view of enhancing the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets and indicators.</li> </ul>		
	 	<p><i>7.3 Enhance flood risk management and water scarcity and drought policies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the ongoing development of a strategic framework for civil protection, including an action plan on disaster risk management, by adopting the corresponding law.</li> <li>Review the preliminary risk assessment of floods to take also into account the effects of climate change.</li> <li>Continue to develop hazard maps and flood risk maps.</li> <li>After the development of these maps, revise the Draft Plan for Flood Risk Management.</li> <li>Finalize and adopt the National Flood Risk Management Plan in accordance with the EU Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase synergies between the Special Working Group on the Threat Assessment of Elementary Disasters and Other Accidents - Lack of drinking water and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the preparation and implementation of disaster risk reduction policy in line with the SDGs and the 2015–2030 Sendai Framework.</li> <li>Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Water Management in view of enhancing the implementation of related SDGs targets and indicators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure adequate funding for the completion and implementation of flood risk management plans and relevant measures for disaster risk reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities, by employing adequate number of professional staff in the Ministry of Environmental Protection (Group for Soil Conservation and Erosion and Flood Prevention), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Protection (Water Directorate), and the Ministry of Interior (Sector for Emergency Situations), improving their knowledge and skills, crucial for the integration and transposition of EU Acquis on flood risk management, as well as for the implementation</li> </ul>

						of EPR-relevant SDG targets and indicators.
		<i>8.1 Improve the collection and verification of data on municipal waste and reporting</i>	Idem target 12.4 below	Idem target 12.4 below	Idem target 12.4 below	Idem target 12.4 below
		<i>8.1 Improve the collection and verification of data on municipal waste and reporting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed up the adoption of the new Law on Waste Management.</li> <li>• Draft the bylaws that need to be adopted in accordance with the new Law on Waste Management.</li> <li>• Finalise and adopt the new Waste Management Strategy for the period 2019–2024, which includes the National Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>• Finalise drafting and adopt the new Law on Communal Activities (under the leadership of the Ministry of Infrastructure).</li> <li>• Develop and adopt a Waste Prevention Programme and ensure a broad participation of all stakeholders in the consultation process.</li> <li>• Adopt Regional Waste Management Plans.</li> <li>• Introduce a system for achieving a better recycling rate of municipal waste (of at least 50 per cent by 2030).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance coordination between the institutions involved in waste management: Ministry of Environmental Protection, SEPA, competent authority of the autonomous province, local self-government units, professional organizations of waste testing, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy.</li> <li>• Task the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions dealing with waste management in order to effectively integrate related policies into sectoral policies and strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a set of economic instruments to support the implementation of waste management objectives through the review of the current waste management financing system.</li> <li>• Secure the necessary funds for the implementation of the 2019–2024 Waste Management Strategy, National Waste Management Plan and Waste Prevention Programme.</li> <li>• Provide adequate financing for closing non-compliant landfills as well as investments in waste separation and recycling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgently provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities, by employing adequate number of professional staff in the Division of Waste Management of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and SEPA, improving their knowledge and skills, crucial for the integration and transposition of EU Acquis on waste management as well as for the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets and indicators.</li> <li>• Provide training of bodies responsible for implementation of the Law on Waste Management and regulations in this area at the national, provincial and local level.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a system for the management of special waste streams such as waste tires, waste batteries and accumulators, waste oils, waste vehicles, waste from electrical and electronic equipment (achieve in the future a quantity of 4 kg per inhabitant of separately collected waste).</li> <li>• Finalise and adopt the Specific Implementation Plan for the EU Waste Framework Directive (with the support of the IPA 2013 project).</li> <li>• Improve the waste management physical infrastructure and increase recycling rates at the largest waste collection areas.</li> <li>• Increase awareness raising on waste management through communication campaigns, including in the regional and communal level.</li> <li>• Improve the quality of waste reports, in particular communal waste reports, through related training activities to companies.</li> <li>• Develop public awareness about Hazardous Waste Management, including the proper method of removal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Waste Management in view of enhancing the implementation of related SDGs targets and indicators.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen inspection capacities in this field.</li> </ul>
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			<p>of asbestos-containing products as well as the disposal of asbestos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise and adopt the Green Economy Strategy for Serbia.</li> </ul>			
	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;">13.1</div> <div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 10px;">13.2</div> </div>	<p><i>6.1 Develop and adopt a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan</i></p> <p><i>6.2 Develop and adopt a National low-emission development strategy and action plan</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize and adopt the new national Climate Change Strategy, which includes adaptation and low-carbon emissions measures.</li> <li>Start the drafting of the Action Plan for the adopted Climate Change Strategy.</li> <li>Increase efforts to finalise the harmonisation with the national legislation with the EU Regulation 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.</li> <li>Design a comprehensive awareness-rising campaign with an action plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a system of clear division of responsibilities in the climate change sphere and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.</li> <li>Strengthen the administrative capacity of the National Climate Change Committee that could play a major role in the implementation of relevant SDGs targets and indicators and EU legislation.</li> <li>Task the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the implementation of the relevant clusters of the inter-related SDG targets to enable cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions dealing with climate change in order to effectively integrate climate change policies into sectoral policies and strategies.</li> <li>Enhance the collaboration between the institutions involved in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the necessary funds to improve capacity for climate change action at both the central and local government level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgently enhance administrative capacities of the Division for Climate Change of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, which includes the Climate Change Mitigation Group and the Climate Change Adaptation Group, by increasing staff, improving their knowledge and skills to better fulfil the obligations under UNFCCC, implement related SDGs and carry out harmonisation with the EU legislation in the climate change sphere.</li> <li>Provide conditions for strengthening the administrative capacities by employing adequate number of professional staff in SEPA that is responsible for the preparation and improvement of the GHG Inventory.</li> <li>Strengthen current institutional capacities through, inter</li> </ul>

				<p>implementation of the EU Regulation No 525/2013 on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level (MMR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use synergies from the activities of the Working Group Chapter 27 on Climate Change in view of enhancing the implementation of EPR-relevant SDGs targets and indicators.</li></ul>		<p>alia, organising a series of trainings for the Division on Climate Change and SEPA employees.</p>
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