## ANNEX I – IPA III Action Fiche

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|  | Indicative title of the Action | **EU for Environmental Standards** |
| **CRITERIA FOR RELEVANCE ASSESSMENT** | Key thematic priority | **Environment and climate change** |
| Links with specific policy instruments of the enlargement process | The sector has achieved a high level of transposition of the EU legislation, but additional efforts are still required in the areas of horizontal legislation, integrated pollution and prevention control, nature protection, climate action. . Transposition in the area of climate action is low due to the status of the country within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change, which is different than that EU Member States, and obligations differ accordingly. In order to improve the situation significant efforts are needed for transposition of relevant legislation.  Administrative capacities in the sector at central, and especially local level, are still not developed sufficiently to undertake full implementation of the legislation, despite significant progress achieved in the areas where EU and other donor funded projects have been implemented. Further efforts are needed for implementation of horizontal legislation and strengthening enforcement capacity at national and local level.  Despite the significant EU financial support in the area of waste management, the implementation and enforcement process still does not sufficiently follow the EU aligned national legislation in this domain. The process for establishing integrated regional waste management system is still at early stage. The country requires substantial administrative and financial resources to prepare and implement required investments in this sector to achieve national and (later on EU) recycling targets.  The Annual Progress Reports published within the Enlargement Package in previous years indicate limited progress in Chapter 27. However, low or almost no progress is detected related to specific Directives, Regulations in sub sectors such as horizontal legislation, integrated pollution and prevention control, climate action (ex. INSPIRE, Environmental Crime, Environmental Liability, EU Eco Label Regulations, Environmental Management Audit System, SEVESO III, etc). Setting up a sustainable integrated regional waste management system is continuously outlined, in the Annual Progress Reports under the Chapter 27, as one of the key priorities the country should focus on.  With the path towards EU membership, future developments in North Macedonia are expected to reflect the continuing process of bringing national laws and policies on the environment into line with those of the EU and making sure that the country is technically ready to fulfil EU environmental criteria. Implementing the EU environmental acquis will ensure an adequate level of environmental protection, resulting in healthy ecosystems and improved human well-being.  Moreover, there is an acute need of focusing the efforts of the national systems on implementation of the adopted legislation and application in practice of the environmental standards. This requires substantial investments in the waste water sector, solid waste management, clean-up of contaminated sites, etc. |
| Links with national, regional and global strategies | The Strategy on Environment and Climate Change 2014-2020 defined the need for further approximation of EU environmental *acquis* into national legislation as a key priority. The process of approximation is a huge task, that requires careful planning and management on an ongoing basis. As deadlines for implementing certain provisions from Directives and Decisions arise after EU accession, the current national efforts need to ensure that measures proposed and adopted are adequate leading towards better negotiation process and country positions. The country needs to have in place a legislative and administrative framework that will assure efficient co-ordination on horizontal and vertical level. Implementation of national legislation harmonised with EU acquis involves a wide range of stakeholders (civil society, NGOs, Business, Science, etc.), on the basis of open dialogue, allowing stakeholders and those who are potentially affected to be involved.  The National Waste Management Plan establishes high level actions to improve waste and resource management in North Macedonia over the period from 2018 to 2024. It bridges the gap between the National Waste Management Strategy (2008-2020) and the more detailed Regional Waste Management Plans and Municipal Programmes.  The Plan in combination with the eight Regional Waste Management Plans(RWMPs) , the Management Programmes for Packaging, WEEE and Batteries, the State Statistical Office publications and the Environmental and Climate Change Strategy, fulfils the mandatory elements listed in Article 28(3) of the WFD and the additional elements listed in Article 28(4). One of the priority actions listed in the Plan is establishing regional centres along with the necessary infrastructure (regional landfills, transfer stations etc) based on the RWMPs as well closure of the non compliant landfills.  The need to clean lindane contamination is incorporated in the National strategy for sustainable development. This hot spot was also listed among the highest priorities in the National implementation plan on reduction and elimination of persistent organic pollutants 2004 and later on in its updated version which was adopted by the Government in 2017,  The National Waste Management Plan establishes high level actions to improve waste and resource management in North Macedonia over the period from 2018 to 2024. It bridges the gap between the National Waste Management Strategy (2008-2020) and the more detailed Regional Waste Management Plans and Municipal Programmes. |
| Coherence with the Sector Approach | TheEnvironment Sector has all the main basic elements of the Sector Approach. Sector policy is guided by the Second National Environmental Plan, upon which other planning documents are built, including the Strategy for Environmental Investment, sectoral strategies (for water, waste, nature, air, environmental monitoring) and other planning documents at central and local levels. Additionally, in the area of climate change, the Third National Communication on Climate Change determines the strategic directions, measures and actions towards climate change reduction and mitigation. The sector of environment, i.e. Chapter 27, is one of the most complex chapters requiring strong efforts for coordination, investments and great responsibilities of administrations at central and local level. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is the lead institution in terms of approximation of the environmental acquis across the sector, and leads preparatory activities for negotiation of Chapter 27. The Ministry is also responsible for overall coordination of assistance to the environmental sector and is committed to further strengthening this function, by establishing a Sector Working Group for Environment and Climate aimed at strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and ensuring efficient coordination of activities related to programming and monitoring of EU funds, other bilateral and multilateral assistance, and proposing relevant measures and activities in environment and climate sectors. |
| Regional dimension | The EU investments in waste water sector in North Macedonia decreases substantially the pollution of Varder river basin, which represent two third of the North Macedonia territory and is an important part of the river capacity in North Greece as well. The Vardar river is the largest and most important river in North Macedonia, where it rises; further it crosses the Greek border and inflows into the Aegean Sea. The river Bregalnica is one of the major tributaries of the river Vardar, presenting about 20% of the surface of the Aegean basin in the country. The wastewater generated in Skopje, Tetovo and Veles (gong to Varder river), in the municipalities of Shtip, Kocani and Vinica (going to Bregalnica river) and Bitola (through Dragor and Crna tributaries to Vardar) has a huge impact on the Varder river water quality. The construction of wastewater treatment plants and improved sewerage in Skopje, Tetovo, Veles,  Shtip, Kochani, Vinica and Bitola will significantly decrease the water pollution of the Vardar river and will directly impact the quality of the waters of the northern Greek shores, supporting the development of such a main economic drive in Greece as tourism and agriculture.  The OHIS contaminated site contains, among the others pollutants, also the isomers of the hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) which isomers are classified as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Due to their persistence, toxicity, bio-accumulation properties and long-range transportation through air, water and migratory species, across international boundaries, the POPs chemicals are of global concern and their management is regulated by an international treaty, the Stockholm Convention. |
| Indicative budget | | *Total budget: EUR 12,000,000*  *IPA funding: EUR 10,000,000*  *National funding: EUR 2,000,000* |
| Implementation Modality | | Direct Management  (Possible indirect management with international organisation for cleaning lindane contamination) |
| Budget Support Readiness | | Not applicable |

**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX**

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| **OVERALL OBJECTIVE(S) / (IMPACT(S))** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS** | **BASELINES**  **(INCL. VALUE & REFERENCE YEAR[[1]](#footnote-1))** | **MILESTONES**  **[OPTIONAL]**  **(INCL. VALUE & REFERENCE YEAR )** | **TARGETS**  **(INCL. VALUE & REFERENCE YEAR)** | **SOURCES & MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |  |
| To decrease the pollution-related risks to environment and human health | Number of key environmental indicators in norms | 24% |  | Above 5% | National statistical office/ Performance assessment framework |
| **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) / OUTCOME(S)** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (\*)** | **BASELINES** | **MILESTONES** | **TARGETS** | **SOURCES OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTIONS** |
| To extend the EU environmental standards to North Macedonia | Progress in implementation and enforcement of environment and climate change legislation; | Some progress |  | Good Progress under Chapter 27 | EC Progress Reports; NPAA Reports, Table of Concordance | Continued commitment of government and public administration to the accession process and application of the EU standards for environment  Strong support of the civil society for protection of environment |
| **OUTPUTS** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (\*)** | **BASELINES** | **MILESTONES** | **TARGETS** | **SOURCES OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTIONS** |
| **Output 1**: Legislative framework better aligned with the EU acquis and institutional framework enforced;  **Output 2:** Facilitated extension of the integrated regional waste management system  **Output 3:** OHIS contaminated site free from HCH waste and other hazardous contaminants | * Number of adopted legislative acts for harmonisation with the EU standards; * Number of cases initiated for breaking pollution laws * Planning and technical documentation for solid waste investment projects developed for three new waste water treatment systems * Amount of HCH waste and contaminated soil disposed | 0 (2020)  0(2020)  0 (2020)  0 tons (2020) | Min 5  3 | 10 (2027)  Min 10  6,600 tons (2024) | Official Journal of North Macedonia / Opinion of the relevant services of the Commission  Record of the HCH | Sufficient capacity and resources at national and at municipal level to ensure the contiunous implementation of the adopted legislation  Municipal management possesses the capacity and willingness to drive local development to more sustainable business solutions  All relevant coordination mechanisms are established and functioning |
| **BROAD ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (IF AVAILABLE)** | ***Direct Management*** *with possible indirect management with international organisation for the decontamination of OHIS site* | | | | | |

1. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the Action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later". [↑](#footnote-ref-1)