## ANNEX I – IPA III Action Fiche

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|  | Indicative title of the Action | **EU for Prespa** |
| **CRITERIA FOR RELEVANCE ASSESSMENT** | Key thematic priority | ***Environment and climate change*** |
| Links with specific policy instruments of the enlargement process | The Action will contribute to the practical implementation of the national legislation, which is harmonised with the EU acquis included in Chapter 27. This involves the legislation on solid waste, water sector, and the protection of habitats and birds-related acquis. Further on, the Action addresses the findings of the **EC Country Report 2020** (Chapter 27: Environment and climate change) and is a response to the recommendation to enhance the protection of natural resources, improve the solid waste management, improve the quality of waters, including natural water and depuration of waste water.  The investments in modern infrastructure, along with the improved management of the water supply, waste waters and solid waste in the Resen Municipality, and the sensibilisation of the local communities on the value of the natural resources will decrease the water and soil pollution and save on natural resources. This approach is coupled with active measures to preserve and protect the natural resources, including monitoring and research of the current stage of natural resources, conservation and restoration of habitats, eradication of alien fish species and control of main biochemical and physical parameters in the Prespa Lake and in the main tributaries.  Further on, the action will support the sustainable development of the Prespa Lakes area through encouraging environmentally-focused economic activities in the region, primarily in the area of agriculture and sustainable tourism.  This corresponds to the recommendations of the European Commission under **Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development** to support organic farming and to strengthen rural development. Capacity building measures and financial support to farmers and cooperatives will facilitate the shift to better agricultural practices in apple and other production. Moreover, it will enhance crop diversification, organic & integrated production certification, facilitate the establishment of short supply chains guaranteeing better prices for local producers. The early warning system for water supply will be upgraded to reduce agriculture runoff and to ensure more sustainable use of water resources at watershed level. The action is expected to result into the first national Integrated Crop Protection (ICP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system. In addition, the agricultural waste management system will be improved by expanding the biodegradable waste collection and processing.  The Action will encourage the sustainable tourism through improving the capacities of tourist operators and small businesses to diversify and extend the scope of tourist products compatible with the environmental status of this rural area. Transfer of know-how, advisory support and financial aid will be used to create tourist centres, eco-trails, and landscaping and eco infrastructure solutions, improve and create new accommodation facilities.  The Action will also enhance the dialogue among the authorities in Albania, Greece and North Macedonia and will facilitate the people to people relations. The synergy created through the parallel actions in the three countries – North Macedonia, Albania and Greece, will support the implementation of the International Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Region.  Finally, the Action addresses the conclusion of the **Stabilisation and Association Agreement Committee 2019** requiring that nature protection obligations are recognised and respected when deciding on infrastructure projects and that financial resources for proper management of protected areas should be available. |
| Links with national, regional and global strategies | The Action is relevant to the **European Green Deal**, particularly as regards the objectives *to* p*reserve and restore ecosystems and biodiversity* and *to achieve a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment.*  It also corresponds to the **United Nation’s 2030 Agenda** and the sustainable development goals.  The Action is a response to the obligations deriving from the signature of the **International Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Region**. It will support the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Prespa Park (SAP) developed in 2005, and in particular, will contribute to the following priorities:   * Conservation and management of the natural environment, rare habitats and species; * Fostering the development of small-scale tourism and especially alternative types of tourism; * Strengthening transboundary cooperation   The Action supports the implementation of key national priorities, defined in a number of strategic documents, such as:  1. **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2023** focused on:   * Raising the public awareness on biological diversity and its values, the services provided by ecosystems and the steps to be taken for the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity (Strategic goal A) * Reducing the direct and indirect pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity (Strategic goal B) * Improving the status of biodiversity components aiming to increase the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Strategic goal C). * Building expertise of staff, financially support the research of components of biodiversity, to establish and update the database on national level to better use and sharing of information on biodiversity (Strategic goal D)   2. **National Strategy for Nature Protection for 2017-2027**, which identifies the following objectives:   * To protect, conserve and monitor the components of the geo-diversity, geo-heritage, biological and landscape diversity”, and * To properly identify, research, monitor and make inventory of the geodiversity and geo-heritage and other components of biological and landscape diversity.   The Action also addresses the Governmental **Programme for Sustainable Local Development 2015-2020**, and in particular, the fourth axis focused on the promotion of sustainable growth. |
| Coherence with the Sector Approach | While the Action covers more than one sector, more than one thematic priority and more than one window, its direct effect[[1]](#footnote-1) will fall on the preservation of the environment.  The strategic framework in this thematic priority is well established, based on solid data and enhanced policy dialogue. North Macedonia benefits of well-established monitoring system, allowing regular feedback to the decision-makers and the public on the level of implementation of the strategic objectives. As of 2020 the country put in place a performance assessment framework, streamlining the policy objectives, the indicators and the targets. The Action will contribute to meeting **8 key impact indicators** of the established Performance Assessment Framework:   * Tons of recycled paper, glass and plastic waste; * Percentage of population not using communal services for municipal waste; * Municipal Waste Generation MK; * Final Municipal Waste Generation MK. * Nitrates in Freshwater * Orthophosphate in Freshwater * Water exploitation index * Number of endangered species of Mammals, Birds, Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, Vascular plants, Mosses, Lichens, Fungi, Algae   The institutional set up in the sector Environment and Climate Change is well established. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning is the lead institution responsible for the approximation and implementation of the environmental acquis across the sector and for overall coordination of assistance to the environmental sector. While the institutional capacity is improving, more investments are needed for strengthening the administrative capacity in the solid waste, water and nature protection subsectors. The action addresses this need as well.  The policy dialogue is channelled through the Sector Working Group for Environment and Climate, which is chaired by the Minister and comprises of all relevant national authorities, donors, partners and civil society. The SWG also embeds the IPA programming. The SWG meets regularly – 2 to 4 times in the decision-making format, and at least once per month in the technical format. The public dialogue is smooth and intensive. It is centred on the definition and implementation of the country's sector priorities.  The sector policy budgeting needs improvement. North Macedonia does not yet benefit from a robust medium-term expenditure framework to anchor the costs for the major reforms and ensure their credibility. The ongoing PFM reform programme is expected to address this issue through the adoption of the new organic budget law. Significant IPA support is already allocated to support the country in this challenge. In the absence of a solid MTEF, the country has a quasi-programme for Environment to back up the sector policy objectives. The budget for environment is constantly increasing – 152% from 2015 to 2018, which is a sign of increasing state commitment to the established sector priorities. |
| Regional dimension | This project has a regional dimension since the impact will cover the Prespa area which falls into the territory of North Macedonia, Albania and Greece |
| Indicative budget | | *Total: EUR 23,700,000*  *EU financing EUR 18,000,000*  *National co-financing : EUR 5,700,000* |
| Implementation Modality | | The Action will be implemented under mixed management modality, involving:   * **Direct Management**. This part entails procurement (service, supply and works contracts) and grants * **Indirect Management** with International Organisation |
| Budget Support Readiness (only if the action is implemented through Budget Support) | | Not applicable |

**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX**

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| **OVERALL OBJECTIVE(S) / (IMPACT(S))** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS**  . | **BASELINES** | **MILESTONES**  **(2024)** | **TARGETS (2024)** | **SOURCES & MEANS OF VERIFICATION** |
| To improve quality of life in Prespa lakes area | Number of unemployed people[[2]](#footnote-2) | 1,305 (2019) | < 1,250 | < 1,000 | Official data by State Statistical Office <http://www.av.gov.mk/content/Statisticki%20podatoci/Ноември%202019/P1gradselo112019.pdf> |
| Percentage of young residents in Resen (sex segregated data) (under the age of 45) | 51.5 (2018)  53.4 (Male)  49.5 (Female) | 52.5 (2018)  54.4 (Male)  50.5 (Female) | 53.5 (2018)  55.4 (Male)  51.5 (Female) | Official data by State Statistical Office <http://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/MakStat__Naselenie__ProcenkiNaselenie/126_Popis_Ops80_NasPolStar3112_eng.px/?rxid=46ee0f64-2992-4b45-a2d9-cb4e5f7ec5ef> |
| Volume of income tax collected in Resen | 851,000 Euro (2019) | > 900,000 | > 1,000,000 | Sector for financial affairs, Municipality of Resen |
| **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S)/OUTCOME(S)** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS** | **Baselines (value + year)** | **Milestones**  **2023** | **Targets 2025** | **SOURCE OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTION** |
| SO1: To preserve and improve the ecological system in Prespa lake area | Percentage of solid waste selected collection (Selected collection/selected collection + unselected collection) | 0 (2019) | 15 | 30 | Data from Public Utility Company | GDP growth in North Macedonia is at least 3.5% a year  There is an increasing public interest towards preserving the natural resources of the area, the country, the planet  The national policy on regional development is strengthened allowing for increased national investments in sustainable regions. |
| Tons of compost distributed per year | 0 (2019) | 1,700 | 2,000 | Data from Public Utility Company |
| Volume of sewage treated by the WWTP (in equivalent inhabitants) | 11,000 (2019) | 13,000 | 16,800 | Data from Public Utility Company |
| Average annual value for total nitrogen measured at River Golema petrol station Resen (mg/l) | 0.98 (2016) | < 0.90 | < 0.70 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid  Republic of Macedonia – Monitoring report |
| Average annual value for total nitrogen measured in the lake several locations, deepness 0 to 30 metres (mg/l) | 0.45 (2016) | < 0.45 | < 0.40 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid  Republic of Macedonia – Monitoring report |
| Average annual value for total Phosphorus measured at River Golema petrol station Resen (mg/l) | 0.70 (2016) | < 0.60 | < 0.50 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid  Republic of Macedonia – Monitoring report |
| Average annual value for total Phosphorus measured in the lake several locations, deepness 0 to 30 metres (mg/l | 0.025 (2016) | < 0.025 | < 0.020 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid  Republic of Macedonia – Monitoring report |
| Tons of collected hazardous waste per year  (Packaging from Fertilizers and Pesticides) | 0 (2019) | 10 | 20 | Data from Public Utility Company |
| Number of Hectares of potential Natura 2000 sites with Standard Data Form (SDF) | 19,320 (2020) | 21,000 | 23,000 | Spatial Informative System of the MoEPP |
| SO2: To boost sustainable economic activities in Prespa area | Number of people visiting the Galicica Park (sold tickets) | 150,000 (2019) | 165,000 | 170,000 | <http://galicica.org.mk/> |
| Number of overnights in the hotels and rented houses | 31,644 (2018) | 35,000 | 40,000 | <http://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/MakStat__TirizamUgostitel__Turizam/125_Turizam_Op_BrTurNok_ml.px/?rxid=46ee0f64-2992-4b45-a2d9-cb4e5f7ec5ef> |
| Number of Tourists | 8,112 (2018) | 9,500 | 11,000 | <http://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/MakStat__TirizamUgostitel__Turizam/125_Turizam_Op_BrTurNok_ml.px/?rxid=46ee0f64-2992-4b45-a2d9-cb4e5f7ec5ef> |
| Number of farms registered to provide agri-tourism services | 0 (2020) | 7 | 10 | Department for LED and cross-border cooperation , Municipality of Resen |
| **OUTPUT** | **OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS** | **Baselines (value + year)** | **Milestones**  **2023** | **Targets 2025** | **SOURCE OF VERIFICATION** | **ASSUMPTION** |
| **1.1 Decreased pollution resulting of human activities** | Number of households connected to the sewage system | 3,200 (2019) | 3,600 | 3,928 | Data from Public Utility Company | People in Resen are willing to collect the garbage separately  Farmers are willing to apply more sustainable agricultural practices |
| Number of households benefiting of drinkable water | 4,200 (2019) | 4,500 | 4,850 | Data from Public Utility Company |
| Number of households with separate collection of waste solid | 0 (2019) | 2,450 (Resen settlement) | 4,850 (all settlements) | Data from Public Utility Company |
| Number of illegal dumpsites in the territory of the municipality | 6 (2019) | 3 | 0 | Data from Public Utility Company |
| **1.2 Natural resources preserved and protected** | Number of habitats / Hectares of habitat types and species areas under regular monitoring | 8 / 2,075 (2019) | 15 / 6000 | 20 / 8000 | Spatial Informative System of the MoEPP together with the Monitoring protocol reports |
| Number of species under regular monitoring | 18 (2019) | 32 | 45 | Spatial Informative System of the MoEPP together with the Monitoring protocol reports |
| Additional hectares of habitats under active management | 0 (2019) | 20 | 30 | MES Reports |
| Number of hectares of restored habitat types | 0 (2019) | 6 | 12 | Spatial Informative System of the MoEPP |
| Average alien fish assemblage sampled as per CEN 14757 in the lake | 45 (2015) | ≤ 35 | ≤ 20 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid Monitoring report |
| Number of alien species of fish in the Prespa lake | 7 (2015) | ≤ 7 | ≤ 7 | Hydrobiological Institute – Ohrid Monitoring report |
| Cumulative number of local participants to ecological education activities | 30 (2019) | 100 | 200 | MES Reports |
| Numbers of local pupils (<15years old) reached by tailored Prespa-specific education packages | 80 (2019) | 400) | 750 | MES Reports |
| **2.1 Increased share of environmentally friendly agriculture** | Number of farmers included in a selected-packaging-waste disposing system | 0 (2019) | 1000 | 1500 | UNDP plus PUC Proleter | Propension of people for natural tourism is stable  Positive economic conjuncture in the neighbouring countries  Major worldwide apple buyers are willing to buy the apples produced in Resen |
| Number of hectares of cultivation under transition or certified organic farming | 10 (2019) | 40 | 60 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of hectares of cultivation under integrated crop management | 400 (2019) | 500 | 600 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of hectares under extended early warning system for irrigation optimization. | 0 (2019) | 2500 | 4500 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of farmers certified for organic production in protected areas | 5 | 5 | 50 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of Women associated to the women cooperative | 20 (2020) | 30 | 50 | UNDP Report |
| Number of Non Timber Forest products piloted and branded | 0 (2020) | 1 | 3 | UNDP Report |
| Number of pilot plots cultivated with NTFPs | 3 (2019) | 8 | 10 | UNDP Report |
| **2.2 Sustainable tourism products promoted and diversified** | Additional Kilometres of cycling trails | 0 (2019) | 50 | 100 | UNDP Report |
| Additional Kilometres of hiking trails | 0 (2019) | 30 | 70 | UNDP Report |
| Number of supported hotels/service providers, traditional houses | 0 (2019) | 10 | 20 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of new sustainable tourism products put in place | 0 | 5 | 10 | UNDP Reports |
| **3. Strengthened strategic vision on the development of Prepsa Transboundary Areas** | Number of border crossing | 1 (2020) | 1 | 2 | Annual report of the Customs Office |
| Number of meetings of the Transboundary Prespa Management Body (TPMB) andTransboundary Water Management Working Group (TWMWG) | 0 / 1 (2019) | 1 / 2 | 3 / 6 | UNDP Reports |
| Number of events organised by the Multimedia centres established | 0 (2019) | 0 | 1 | Report of the Municipality of Resen |
| Strategic priorities for the development of Prespa area agreed internationally (qualitative indicator: Yes/No) | No | Yes | Yes | Strategic Plan for Prespa Park adopted |
| Number of new youth initiatives focused on the preservation and development of the Prespa area | 0 (2020) | 5 | 7 | Funded projects reports |

1. At the level of specific objectives [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Measurement at the end of November to capture the seasonal character of the employment offer [↑](#footnote-ref-2)