

Environmental cooperation and Urban Development in South East Europe

The main aim of the Swedish development cooperation with South-East Europe is poverty reduction and European integration through the EU Stabilisation and Association process (SAP).

Environmentally sustainable development is a key area of the Swedish support.

Background

Many countries in South-East Europe suffer from serious environmental consequences from the recent Balkan conflicts, further aggravated from a long period of neglect and mismanagement of natural resources under the previous socialist system. Environmental quality and ecologically sustainable development are key challenges and requirements for enabling peace, stability and economic development in all the countries in the region. Government agencies need to strengthen political and institutional capacity to address environmental problems and enforce regulations. Municipalities need capacity to respond to the needs of the citizens for access to water, waste removal, heating etc.

Sida's Environmental cooperation in SEE

Environmental considerations need to be integrated and mainstreamed in all cooperation. Environmental degradation and its health impact needs to be addressed in order to improve living conditions for poor people.

Sida initiated its environmental cooperation in year 2000 with support to undertake Strategic Environmental Analysis in the different countries and support to hot spot remediation. Approximately



Belgrade, Serbia

PHOTO: JOHN-LOF VINTERHAV

10 MEuro has been allocated for environmental cooperation during the period 2000–2005. The main areas of support have been Environmental Policy Development, Capacity Building of national and local authorities and Environmental improvements in local communities.

For the period 2006 and onwards the indicative budget is 5.5 MEuro/year for the SEE. Countries of cooperation include Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina and Macedonia.

The continued cooperation

Swedish support will increase its focus on linking poverty reduction and environmental management. Cities without slums and sustainable cities are the main objectives in urban areas.

The main areas for support for the next few years will be:

- Capacity development including the regulatory framework of local and national authorities
- Development and implementation of national and local environmental strategies such as National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP) and Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAP).
- Improving local service delivery/municipal infrastructure in areas such as water and sanitation,

waste management including utility reform and investments.

- Strengthen capacity for urban planning at municipal level and improved land tenure in urban areas
- Promoting greater awareness on environmental issues and its link to health impact.

Development Cooperation Approaches

Sida emphasises ownership, commitment and participation of the local partner.

Sida has a range of instruments available, but in the SEE grants are predominant. Working together with other donors and International Financing Institutions and multilateral agencies is increasingly important to improve aid effectiveness.

Swedish public agencies have extensive experience of working with environmental management and are increasingly active in development cooperation. Institutions presently active in development cooperation include: Statistics Sweden, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. Sweden also has a broad range of private enterprises in the field of environment and urban development active in development cooperation.

Examples of Sida support in South East Europe

■ **LEAP** – Development and implementation of Local Environmental Action Plans in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. The programme involves support to municipalities in addressing and prioritising environmental issues through public participation and implementation of selected priority projects.

■ **Twinning** arrangement between the Albanian, Serbian and Montenegro Ministries of Environment and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with the aim of supporting the countries environmental institutions to develop an effective environmental management that can fulfil national and international obligations. The programme includes on the job training, study visits and possibilities for regional cooperation.

■ **Municipal Spatial Planning in Kosovo** – Over the last few years Kosovo has experienced an unprecedented construction boom and urban growth. Due to the very limited capacity for managing these changes, Sida support enhanced municipal development

planning in six municipalities in Kosovo, to help meet the significant need for spatial and urban development planning

■ **Solid Waste Management** in Albania – aims to facilitate the work on implementing the new Law on Solid Waste Management at the national, regional and local level. It includes putting in place the structures and mechanisms needed to instruct, regulate, monitor and if necessary sanction local governments to abide by the law. Local authorities will be assisted to improve their solid waste management through capacity development, pilot projects and minor investments. Recyclers, mainly marginalised groups will be assisted to improve their businesses and working conditions.

■ **National Strategies for Sustainable Development in Serbia and Macedonia** – many countries committed itself at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002, to develop a National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Serbia and Macedonia requested support from Sida to embark on such a process. The process of

planning and preparation of the strategies will support awareness creation on the concept of sustainability among all segments of society. Networking across the public sector, private sector, and the civil society will be strengthened in order to formulate an effective strategy for sustainable development.

■ **Environmental civil society support** – The objective is to promote the development of a vibrant and democratic environmental civil society in the SEE countries in order to positively influence society towards a sustainable development and in improving living conditions in urban areas.

■ **International Training Programmes (ITP)** – The aim is to contribute to capacity development and processes of change in partner countries and other developing countries by offering key persons training programmes in subject areas given priority in Swedish development cooperation, for example Solid Waste Management, Integrated Urban Planning and Air Pollution Management.

Sida references

Available at www.sida.se

Fighting Poverty in an Urban World, Sida Policy (2006)

Urban Issue Papers such as:

Public Environmental Management

Solid waste Management

Water Supply and Sanitation

Published separately

Tannerfeldt, G and Ljung, P (2006) *More Urban – Less Poor, An introduction to urban development and management*, London, Earthscan

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