



## IN BRIEF...

# Sustainable use of natural resources

Environmental quality and the safeguarding of ecosystems are key challenges and requirements for enabling sustainable development and growth in Serbia and Montenegro. International undertakings as the EU integration process, the UN Millennium Development Goals and environmental conventions commit the country to address these issues. Sida's activities aim at supporting Serbia and Montenegro to meet these challenges and requirements.

Early Swedish support aimed at addressing urgent problems with environmental services and remediation of infrastructure. A Strategic Environment Assessment for the country has been financed by Sida. Another example is cleanup of the environmental hotspot at Pancevo industrial complex, where a new biological wastewater treatment plant is in operation. Support to rehabilitation of the power transmission and distribution network in South Serbia has led to a safer supply of electricity in this region. Support to the Serbian railways for rehabilitation of workshops was also part of the early reconstruction support with positive results.

Today, Sida continues the support with an aim to further develop and increase cooperation aiming at sustainable use of natural resources and concern for the environment. Priority is put on European integration and compliance with international and EU standards and legislation. This involves the restructuring and strengthening of environmental administration, along with addressing

urban environment and lack of basic infrastructure. Improved efficiency, capacity and operations are as important as support to key environmental investment priorities for water supply services, solid waste treatment, wastewater treatment, heating, and major pollution hotspots.

### Ongoing programs

*Sustainable Development Strategy in Serbia.* The project is a response to the World Summit of Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002 where countries undertook to start the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategies. Swedish support aims at capacity building including advisory services, participatory dialogues, study tours and workshops.

*Support to capacity building of environmental authorities.* The project aims to improve the management capacity within the Serbian Directorate for Environmental Protection through advisory and supporting activities.



Sida supports the sustainable use of natural resources and concern for the environment in Serbia and Montenegro. This involves the restructuring and strengthening of environmental administration.

*Local Environment Action Programmes (LEAPs)* in Serbia and Montenegro, through the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). The programme involves support to three municipalities in addressing environmental issues through public participation in dialogue with local government.

*Strengthening physical planning processes in Montenegro:* Improvements in physical planning processes – urban planning, spontaneous/illegal settlements and infrastructure provisions, carried out by UNDP and Montenegrin authorities and organisations. The expected results are more efficiency, accountability, transparency in the physical planning and development sector at government level in general and in five pilot municipalities in Montenegro.

*Financial Management System, Electric Power Systems of Serbia (EPS).* Preparations for a new Financial

Management System (FMS) for the EPS, implemented under a World Bank Trust Fund arrangement. The FMS is to be initiated in four pilot departments of EPS and aims at transition to International Accounting Standards and a unified management system.

*Twinning between Grid Operators EPS Elektroistok and Svenska Kraftnät.* The cooperation aims at support to Elektroistok in the restructuring process of the energy sector, and at practical training e.g. in investment planning and procurement.

*Improvements for the District Heating System in Belgrade.* Sweden supports the City of Belgrade and the district heating company in efforts to reconstruct the district heating system.

*Improvement of electricity distribution system in South Serbia.* The project builds on cooperation and emergency reconstruction of the distribution network in South Serbia

*Twinning Arrangements between Republic of Serbia Roads Directorate and Swedish Road Administration.* The cooperation aims at enhancement of road maintenance and road safety in Serbia. The assistance and training targets staff from the Road Directorate, but also local consulting firms, maintenance and construction companies as well as other stakeholders in road transport sector.

## **Regional activities**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has initiated a South Eastern Europe programme, involving *partnerships between environmental authorities in Serbia and in Sweden*. The cooperation aims at water management, nature conservation, ecotourism etc.

*Regional training programmes:* Regional capacity building for professionals in South-East Europe in form of regional training programmes related to European environmental standards.

*Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.*



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