

ANNEX 1 : FINAL REPORT EX – ANTE EVALUATION BALKAN – MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020

“Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Non-Technical Summary for Ex – Ante Final Report”



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**MANAGING AUTHORITY OF EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES
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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF PRESENT STUDY

The new TNCP "BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN" Programme is a result of a joint decision of the European Commission and the countries of South Eastern Europe to enhance and support cohesion and development of the areas involved. This Programme derives from the splitting of the current South East Europe 2007-13 OP.

The Hellenic Managing Authority of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes was unanimously elected as the Managing Authority of the new Transnational Programme "BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN" of the Programming Period 2014-2020.

The European Commission, along with the countries of South East Europe, jointly decided to establish this new transnational cooperation Programme based on the need to maintain existing cooperation links, on the fragmentation of the region (markets, transports etc.), on the fragile sea environment, with need to manage river basins and the coastal environment better, and also on the European Territorial Cooperation developmental policies in the region.

The TNCP "BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN" Programme shall promote economic, social, environmental and institutional cohesion and development in the wider area by improving socio-economic competitiveness and institutional capacity in the regions.

Its thematic priorities will be:

1. Entrepreneurship and Innovation,
2. Environment and
3. Technical Assistance

The overall project aims at the S.K.AEGIS overall scientific, consulting, organizational and secretarial support to the Managing Authority of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes undertaking the development of:

- The Ex- ante Evaluation (Ex-ante Evaluation) and
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

of the TNCP “Balkan – Mediterranean”, taking account of the relevant time limits and schedules of the European Commission and the Ministry of Development & Competitiveness for designing the Programming Period 2014-2020 .

The object of the project is broken down into two (2) individual subprojects and S.K.AEGIS undertakes to:

- **Task 1: Prepare the Ex- ante Evaluation (Ex-ante Evaluation)** of the Transnational COOPERATION Programme “Balkan – Mediterranean”. The overall objective of the Ex Ante Evaluation is the optimal allocation of the available resources and Programmes to achieve the best possible quality in the Programming of the new Programming period 2014-2020.
- **Task 2: Develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (Strategic Environmental Assessment)** of the Transnational COOPERATION Programme “Balkan – Mediterranean” and support the Contracting Authority and the of the Ministry of Environment throughout the process until the completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The object of the present report is relevant to Task 2 and relates to the application of Directive 2001/42/EK, which was incorporated in the national legal framework of Greece with [KYA] 107017/28-8-2006, in the BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN Programme.

The objective of present study is the investigation of the compatibility of the followed strategy from the Programme, the objectives and its content, with the environmental objectives that are placed in the frame of sustainable growth of regions that constitutes his field of application, taking into consideration the particular characteristics and the needs under study of regions but also the international and\ national objectives and priorities for sustainable growth and protection of environment.

1.2 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF EU - THE DIRECTIVE 2001/42

According to the «Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and Programmes on the environment (SEA)», SEA environmental report is an integral part of the Programmes and the liability for its conduction is laid to the Managing Authority of the Programme.

The term “Strategic Environmental Assessment” means the standard, systematic and comprehensive procedure by which the environmental effects of the proposed development activities as Plans and Programmes are assessed. The SEA procedure starts as earlier as possible containing public consultation, and the use of the aforementioned activities in order to formulate a final decision for the approval and also the documentation of an environmental report.

The issue of the Directive allows the high quality of environmental protection and the embodying of environmental issues during the preparation and institution of Plans and Programmes, aiming to promote sustainable development assuring that there will be an environmental impact assessment for some Plans and Programmes which might pose significant effects to the environment.

The aim of the Plans or Programmes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment is to investigate the environmental effects of the proposals which are contained in the Programmatic texts of the

COOPERATION Programmes, approaching them at a strategic level, and the reasons for choosing one of them is the appointment of the optimal choice among the alternatives highlighting.

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a tool of improvement of the plans and Programmes embodying the environmental dimension into devising the COOPERATION Programmes, focusing to the minimization of the environmental hazards and effects and also to the maximization of the environmental benefits, which occur of the proposed interventions.

In addition the SEA environmental report contributes to the development of effective strategy for the environmental rehabilitation by taking the appropriate retrieving measures.

The Environmental Impact Assessment is a parallel and complementally procedure to the devising of the COOPERATION Programme and the initial evaluation, which will be completed, by devising the final COOPERATION Programme.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as it is determined according to the Directive (article 2b), is consisted of four thematics which are:

- The elaboration of the SEA Environmental Report.
- The consultation with competent authorities and public.
- Assessing the environmental report along with the consultation results at the decision making process.
- The provision of information related to the decision.

Annex I of the Directive designates the information which must be provided in the environmental report:

- An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or Programme and relationship with other relevant plans and Programmes
- The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution there of without implementation of the plan or Programme
- The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected
- Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or Programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC
- The environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or Programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.
- The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural

heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors

- the measures envisaged to the prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or Programme
- an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information
- a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10 of the Directive
- a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

As far as it concerns the consultations, which are described in the Directive, are the following:

- Consultation with competent authorities and public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or Programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or Programme or its submission to the legislative procedure (article 6 paragraphs 1 and 2).
- Trans boundary consultations with member states, which perceive that the implementation of the proposed plan or Programme might pose significant effects to the environment of their territory (article 7).
- Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 21 July 2004

1.3 BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME.

The programme objective is to build on shared territorial assets and promote integrated territorial development and cooperation for a more competitive and sustainable Balkan – Mediterranean area.

To reach this objective the programme builds in local entrepreneurship potential and in natural assets, both supported by a training and capacity building scheme. It is a holistic approach clearly targeting the area’s smart and sustainable growth potential, horizontally supported by a comprehensive training scheme to improve labour force skills and motivate inclusive growth. Therefore the programming framework totally embeds the EU 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The programme is expected to have a significant impact on the area, enhancing regional cooperation through continued EU support as well as promoting further EU integration. Transnational cooperation may contribute to improve regional and territorial practices. Hence, the Balkan – Mediterranean 2014 – 2020 transnational cooperation programme (TNCP) will grant a specific attention to the coherence, complementarity and transfer of experiences and practices with regional and national programmes that can feed transnational actions and benefit of their results. For 2014-2020, the transfer of experience between actors, territories and programme is considered as a major goal for the Balkan-Mediterranean Programme.

This will be done taking into account the potential and challenges of specific sectors related to the blue and green growth. Moreover, the Programme shares large parts of its cooperation area (Greece & Albania) with the EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and with the Danube macro-regional strategy (Bulgaria). Therefore, the Programme may contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan of the above-mentioned Strategies; synergies and coordination activities between Programmes are envisaged on the different priorities axes and investment priorities.

Taking into account the aim to mobilize the growth potential of the participating countries and the region as a whole, the following added value fields have been identified and confirmed through the public consultation process:

- Geography: as the programme addresses actors across from all over the participating countries' areas, transnational cooperation partnerships can be built from all over the five (5) participating countries and not just from a limited number of border regions.
- Diversity: the programme covers internal and external EU borders, both terrestrial and maritime. Consequently, the programme can unfold both strands of the EU 2020 strategy, terrestrial and maritime pillars, triggering green and blue growth accordingly.
- Growth drivers' range: as a result of its extended geography and diversity the programme addresses a wider pool of growth drivers sharing common challenges that can accordingly be addressed by a wider pool of methods and practices.
- Critical mass: transnational territorial cooperation is of particular value as transnational cooperation partnerships can secure economies of scale and critical mass, enhancing mobilisation capacity and innovation potential, both key competitiveness issues to overcome markets' fragmentation.
- Policy learning and governance: learning through cooperation is an effective mechanism for spreading know-how and enhance capacities and skills. Focused transnational cooperation can improve governance delivery in both public and corporate sectors.

- Building structures for further cooperation: structures (administrative, institutional, social and private) set up in cooperation programmes facilitate continuity and sustainability of lessons learned while at the same time they are setting the basis for further and more focused cooperation schemes.

Taking into account the programme’s territorial dynamics as well as limited financial resources, a strong thematic focus has been promoted taking also advantage of the possibility to combine investment priorities from different thematic objectives in order to increase impact, effectiveness and coherence within each priority challenge tackled by the respective priority axis. Thus the programme develops a leverage effect on regional development by investing in the holistic capacity to boost entrepreneurship, to protect the environment and to promote the efficient use of resources.

1.4 BALKAN - MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Two priority axes have been defined in response to the identified transnational key challenges and opportunities above. A third one concerns the Technical Assistance. They are briefly introduced in the following section..

Priority Axis 1: ‘Entrepreneurship and Innovation’

Priority 1 is dedicated to actions that will build the capacity and improve the competitiveness of existing SMEs, while promoting and supporting the emergence of new SMEs in key economic sectors such as tourism as well as with a spatial focus (rural and remote areas). The Priority will encourage SMEs cooperation within and between countries through networks, clusters and clusters policies, in particular that are outward looking and therefore promote their internationalisation.

A special focus of this Priority will be the enhancement of the capacity of SMEs through the implementation of actions related to education and training. Such actions will enable SMEs to acquire the necessary skills/tools to boost their competitiveness, grow towards other markets and introduce innovation in all phases of their business cycle. By linking education and businesses, this Priority will also aim to transpose innovation into business practices and processes. Synergies will also be sought with opportunities provided by Cohesion Policy, in particular via regional innovation strategies involving SMEs and other territorial cooperation programmes.

Priority Axis 2: ‘Environment’

Priority Axis 2 aims at strengthening integrated joint approaches to preserve and manage the rich natural and cultural heritage in the region as a prerequisite and a fundamental basis for sustainable development

and inclusive growth. Among others, the priority will also support the development of the region as a tourist destination, fostering the “Balkan – Mediterranean” identity. Balance between tourism, environmental protection and economic growth will be sought. The programme will bring together different stakeholders dealing with the protection of natural and cultural heritage. The development and implementation of common strategies and approaches will foster for the protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage. Development of common brands is also creating a favourable environment for sustainable tourism practices, which are based on the valorisation of natural and cultural heritage. The priority will encourage networking and partnerships among central, regional and local administrations, as well as non-governmental organisations, business support centres, tourist agencies, other actors. The programme area has a potential to strengthen common approaches to foster green and blue growth opportunities, promote classified sites and areas of community importance (Natura 2000) develop theme paths and joint products, all guided by a shared policy framework.

In addition, implementation of innovative technologies to protect the environment and guarantee resource efficiency will also be in the focus of the priority.

The capacity of local actors to apply innovative approaches in developing the rich environmental potential of the region will be enhanced through joint education and training activities, sharing and implementing of best practices in the field.

Horizontal dimensions

Apart from thematic orientation, the Balkan – Mediterranean 2014 – 2020 transnational cooperation programme addresses horizontal thematic aspects highlighted in the EU regulations: sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women.

Besides the thematic concentration and the choice of Thematic Objectives, specific issues will be addressed in a cross-cutting way in the different investment priorities of the programme contributing to the overall objectives of the Programme:

- **Social cohesion**

In different fields of intervention, a positive attention will be paid to projects involving partners or taking measures that have positive effects on social cohesion. This is especially the case when involving social enterprises or the implementing actions improving the conditions of target groups confronted with economic and social integration difficulties. Additionally, there should be a general effort on reducing unemployment and mitigating the risk of poverty and social exclusion in the Balkan-Mediterranean region and on promoting inclusive growth.

- **Connectivity & Accessibility**

The promotion of connectivity on the Programme area (including ICT products, services and applications) constitutes a relevant support for socioeconomic development, governance, networking, etc. In addition, accessibility can promote activities to improve access to and quality of transport and telecommunications services where these have a clear transnational dimension. Connectivity and accessibility should be considered as a goal which, in a transversal way, might help to reach the objectives of several investment priorities.

- **Territorial cohesion**

In each targeted territory (urban, coastal, islands and remote areas) projects will have to mobilise relevant stakeholders of sectors and institutions from the project intervention field. Approaches must be ‘integrated’, so that the result would not be isolated proposals working on limited aspects of tourism, energy or transports for example, but a coordination effort insisting on the contribution of these domains to the sustainable development of territories (taking into account available means, economic perspectives, on-going public policies, conflict of use, environmental constraints, etc.). Partners will have to explore how to make relevant actors from environment protection, tourism, transport, etc. work together. With this approach, transnational cooperation will contribute to develop strategic planning aspects.

The transnational dimension of the operations is a decisive aspect of the Balkan-Mediterranean 2014-2020 transnational cooperation programme. It will be evaluated during the selection process of the applications and during the selected projects’ implementation. Special attention will be given to the scope of the applications, to their objectives and to the partnerships’ synthesis in order to make sure that they are not merely an aggregate of independent actions but represent genuine transnational cooperation partnerships of a real transnational added-value. The operations must allow carrying out complementary activities associating partners from different countries. They must bring solutions to identified common challenges which could not be solved without a transnational approach.

Priority Axis 3: ‘Technical Assistance’

Priority Axis 3 is dedicated to BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN programme related managerial actions. “Technical Assistance” is a tool for the enhancement of the programme management. Of course proper management and programme implementation enhances the efficiency of the relevant actions. In that sense Priority Axis 3 “Technical Assistance” can be seen as an horizontal action too.

1.5 EXISTING STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1.5.1 Geomorphology -Landscape

The Balkan Mediterranean Programme area is characterised by a diversified and sensitive landscape, consisting of a very long coastline, mountainous regions, rivers and lakes, fertile plains, forests and many islands. For this reason, the area does face difficulties in communication and access between countries, regions (east west connections, islands) and with surrounding areas (with northern Europe notably).

Bulgaria. Located in the heart of the Balkans, Bulgaria offers a highly diverse landscape: the north is dominated by the vast lowlands of the Danube and the south by the highlands and elevated plains. In the east, the Black Sea coast attracts tourists all year round.

Greece. Greece forms the southern extremity of the Balkan Peninsula in south-east Europe. Its territory has an area of 131 957 km² and includes more than 2 000 islands in the Aegean and Ionian seas of which only around 165 islands are inhabited. Greece has a population of 11.2 million. Greece has a large variety of landscape elements.

Cyprus . Cyprus, the third largest island in the Mediterranean is situated just 65 km south of Turkey and 105 km west of Syria. It has an area of 9.250 km² with its greatest length approximately 225 km and its greatest width approximately 96 km. In Cyprus, as in the rest of Europe, agriculture dominates much of the landscape, extending over half of the island’s territory and comprises mainly rain fed but also irrigated, crops. The main characteristic of Cyprus landscape is the island status. Cyprus amounted over 100 small islands and rocky islets, which have rocky, sandy, steeply inclined beaches. It is endowed with a great variety of landscapes ranging from mountainous regions and plains to an extensive coastal line, which is extremely irregular in outline. The barren meadow presents a large diversity similar to geographical characteristics like height, extent, slope.

Albania Albania lies in the Southwestern part of the Balkan Peninsula, covering an area of 28,748 square kilometers. It occupies a strategic geographical location in South-Eastern Europe along the Strait of Otranto, which links the Adriatic Sea with the Ionian Sea and separates Albania from Italy. Albania shares a border with Greece to the south/southeast (282 km), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the east (151 km), Kosovo to the northeast (112 km), and Montenegro to the northwest (172 km)¹. The capital city of Albania is Tirana. Other major cities include Durrës, Vlorë, Fier, and Shkodër. Albania is a country of about 3.6 million inhabitants. Much of Albania’s surface is mountainous – the average height above sea level is 708 m and its highest peak, Mount of Korabi, is 2,753 m. The country is rich in water resources with the main rivers being extensively managed to generate hydro-electricity. The country has nearly 450 km of seacoast along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Over a third of the territory of Albania is

forested and the country is very rich in flora. Other natural resources include petroleum, natural gas, coal, bauxite, chromites, copper, iron ore, nickel, salt, timber, and hydropower.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a landlocked country in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. The population is approximately two million people, with a total area of about 25,700 km². Its territory is mainly mountainous marked by a central valley formed by the Vardar's river and framed by the Sara and Osogovo rivers. Three large lakes (Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran) lie on its southern borders, bisected by frontiers with Albania and Greece.

1.5.2 Solid Waste

Bulgaria. A very large proportion of the municipal waste in Bulgaria is landfilled (with a few exceptions, these landfills do not comply with the new requirements). In relative terms, mining and ore-processing industries generate the most industrial waste. As a new Member State, Bulgaria is facing the challenges of practical implementation of EU legislation in the waste sector.

Greece. There is a slow but gradual increase in waste production throughout the years 2001 and 2010. Recycling increased in Greece in the decade. The future EU targets, already transposed by Greece refer to the Landfill and the Waste Framework Directives, when examining MSW. A great number of plants are in the planning or construction stage, mainly based on MBT technology, which has the potential to contribute to all Greece's targets by simultaneously diverting the biodegradable fraction from landfills and increasing the material recovery.

Cyprus. The generation of MSW increased in Cyprus with 25 % between 2001 and 2010. In general, recycling in Cyprus is at a relatively low/medium level, but there is a very slow steady increase. The hazardous waste in Cyprus is generally disposed of together with other, less harmful waste. In general, although Cyprus has transposed all EU legislation, it faces difficulties in its implementation, mainly due to lack of infrastructure.

Albania . Waste management in Albania is at a low level. The estimation of MSW generation in Albania is based on the number of trucks delivering waste to disposal sites. As with general industrial waste, there is no information available on current hazardous waste management in Albania. Expert studies estimate that hazardous waste may constitute 3-5 per cent of total industrial waste. Overall, a radical change is planned within the Albanian waste management practices. There will be a shift away from the current absolute reliance on landfilling to a long-term target of reducing landfilling to 30%. with 70% recovery by recycling, composting and conversion to energy.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Waste management is one of the most serious environmental issues in the country due to the lack of suitable infrastructure. Vast majority of municipal waste is

landfilled ((with a few exceptions, these landfills do not comply with the new requirements). Recycling and composting of MSW covers a minor 0.26 %. One of the main goals in waste management in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the recovery of valuable ingredients of the waste to be organized by the producers, importers, distributors, and retail traders, as well as specialized service companies.

1.5.3 Water Resources- Wastewater

Bulgaria. Most of surface waters are in relatively good condition. The rivers areas are contaminated in areas around big settlements. Groundwater quality is very much determined by the hydro-geological characteristics of each individual area. A number of catchments are shared with other Member States (Romania and Greece) and with third countries. Diffuse sources are a significant pressure for 42% of surface water bodies, and point sources for 35%. Water abstraction is a significant pressure for one fifth of surface water bodies. Almost a fourth of all surface water bodies are not subject to significant pressures. Significant differences are seen across the RBDs: Diffuse source pollution shows the highest percentage in the Black Sea RBD while water abstractions affect a high percentage of surface water bodies in the West Aegean RBD. In the Danube RBD all the pressure categories are significant for a relatively high proportion of water bodies. Almost 40% of all surface water bodies in Bulgaria have been assessed as being at good ecological status and nearly 5% are at high status. One fourth of the surface water bodies are in poor or bad status. There are differences across RBDs, the highest proportion of poor and bad status WBs can be found in the Eastern Aegean RBD. Bulgaria has reported that more than two thirds of its groundwater bodies have good chemical status while 30% of them are in poor status.

In relation to Water use according to EEA (2010) data the total amount of water abstracted during last decade was around 6-7 billion cubic metres a year. Around 7-10% abstracted from groundwater.

Greece. In Greece, the driving forces represent major social, demographic and economic developments, the corresponding changes in lifestyle, and overall consumption and production patterns. Environmental pressures on surface freshwater ecosystems are almost entirely anthropogenic. They are related, directly or indirectly, to human activity in the proximity or the greater catchment area of the water body. The major sources of pollution of surface and groundwater are Urban wastewater discharge, Industrial wastewater discharge, Pollution from agricultural activities (use of fertilizers), Use of pesticides and insecticides, Excessive fishing, Pollution from aquaculture, Nuisance from mining activities.

The state of freshwater may be described by adequate structural (e.g. river morphology), physical (e.g., temperature), chemical (e.g., phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations) and biological (e.g. phytoplankton or fish abundance) indicators. Following any possible changes in the state, society may suffer positive or negative consequences.

The state of Greece's freshwater bodies is generally good. Water quality is commonly fit for various uses (irrigation, industry, production of drinking water). Greece has an especially good record in terms of water quality at the more than 2000 coastal sites designated under the EU Bathing Water Directive: virtually all sites comply with mandatory values and 96-98% also comply with the more stringent guide values. However, Greece still faces serious water challenges, in particular in terms of its agricultural water use, which represents vast majority of the overall abstraction.

freshwater bodies is generally good. Water quality is commonly fit for various uses (irrigation, industry, production of drinking water). However, Greece still faces serious water challenges, in particular in terms of its agricultural water use, which represents about 85% of overall abstraction.

Cyprus. In general surface water bodies in Cyprus have been assessed as being at good or better ecological status but the same is not valid for groundwaters.

Three quarters of the surface water bodies are reported to be in good chemical status in Cyprus and only less than 5% failing good status. For 56 surface water bodies, the chemical status is unknown for similar reasons to that mentioned above for ecological status..

More than half of the groundwater bodies have good chemical status in Cyprus while 8 GWBs are in poor status. Only one groundwater body have not been assessed.. Only every fifth GWB is assessed at good quantitative status in Cyprus while three quarters of them are reported to be in poor quantitative status. The status of only one GWB is unknown.

39% SWBs were assessed as being of good status in 2009. According to the information reported to WISE, the number of good status is expected to increase to 58% in 2015.

Water scarcity is also a very serious problem for Cyprus.

Albania. Albanian water resource water quality is often a problem due to pollution through discharge of untreated wastewater from urban settlements, as well as from industries with obsolete technology and by the extensive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture. The uncontrolled dumping of urban waste on the banks of rivers exacerbates the problem of the quality of surface water.

This high pollution load in surface water is leading to a deterioration of groundwater quality and especially concerns low-lying areas, where most of the population lives and most industrial and agricultural activities take place.

Concerning the quality of marine waters at coastal resorts, monitoring results for 2009 in the coastal area of Dunes indicate not compliant to standards water quality, on the basis of the WHO classification for bathing seawater.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The country has a very rich network of rivers, the status of some of which is poor. Urban wastewater is the main pollution source, discharged directly into the rivers and streams without treatment.

The main water resources that provide clean fresh water accumulation are three natural lakes-Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran. In addition there are also 35 rivers and 53 overall artificial and natural lakes. Although Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia is rich with drinking water and there is no problem with the amount of water in the country, there are problems with the infrastructure and the poor management of the water resources that prevent the water to reach in some villages.

Around 50-60% of households are connected to the public sewage system-while around 20% use septic tanks and 10% discharge their wastewater directly. Connection to the public sewage system is relatively low, especially considering the higher connection to the water supply system (close to 90%).

The country's rivers are exposed to contamination from agriculture and industrial activities, especially the metallurgical, chemical and mining industries. Water quality is also seriously affected by the lack of waste water treatment, as most towns do not possess treatment plants, and effluent from industrial and mining facilities, livestock farms and landfills has been largely uncontrolled.

Although former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is rich with drinking water and there is no problem with the amount of water in the country. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia shares rivers and lakes with neighbouring countries and due to this a high priority is given on the cooperation and the use of Transboundary Rivers and lakes.

1.5.4 Marine Pollution

Bulgaria. Marine pollution in Bulgaria is a low level. Bulgaria reports a good environmental status for non-indigenous species. In Black Sea in general there is a decrease in phenomenon of eutrophication. However, hot spots of contaminants (metals, PCBs, agrochemicals) have been identified.

Greece. The marine pollution is generally at a low level. Greece has a rich marine biodiversity, however there is a relatively high number of non-indigenous species. The agriculture sector is mainly responsible for the phenomenon of coastal waters eutrophication. The atmospheric depositions are significant contributors to inputs of heavy metals.

Cyprus. The marine pollution is at a very low in Cyprus. Cyprus has a rich marine biodiversity, however there is a relatively high number of non-indigenous species. Cyprus does not have a significant problem in eutrophication or from contaminants.

Albania. In Albania there is a eutrophication problem in coastal regions. On top of that, overexploitation of marine living resources, as well as industrial activity, shipping, and transport, further contribute to mainly coastal waters. The lack of proper Wastewater treatment in Urban Coastal areas, along with poor planning has also deteriorated the aesthetics of the coastlines.

1.5.5 Population-Human Health-Natural Hazards and risks (emphasis on water issues).

Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia can be characterized as a high risk countries in the aspect of natural hazards, while Cyprus can be characterized as a middle risk country in the aspect of natural hazards.

Average Disaster Per Year for these countries is depicted at the following table.

Table ES 1. BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Countries. Average Disaster Per Year.

	Bulgaria	Greece	Cyprus	Albania	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Drought/	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.03
Earthquake*	0.10	0.65	0.03	0.13	
Epidemic			0.03	0.06	0.03
Extreme temp	0.23	0.19	0.10	0.10	0.10
Flood	0.42	0.58		0.29	0.23
Insect infestation					
Mass mov. Dry				0.03	
Mass mov. Wet					
Volcano					
Storm	0.16	0.19	0.10	0.06	0.03
Wildfire	0.13	0.42	0.03	0.03	0.06

1.5.6 Fauna-flora-Biodiversity

Bulgaria. Bulgaria is one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity in Europe. The diversity of Europe flora and fauna has significant economic dimension as a biological resources of importance to the Bulgarian people and the national economy. The flora of Bulgaria is characterised by the considerable number of species it includes. Forests in Bulgaria constitute 30% of the territory of the country and are the safest refuges for rare plant and animal species. The forests are concentrated mainly in the mountain regions, where most of the wildlife is to be found as well.

Greece. Species and ecosystems diversity is high due to the great range of climatic and geomorphologic conditions. Greece entirely lies in the Mediterranean bio-geographical region, with ecosystems ranging from semi-desert and maquis, to cold climate mountain forests of birch, scots pine, and spruce. Wetlands (rivers, estuaries, deltas, lagoons, shallow lakes, shallow marine formations, and marshes) cover a relatively wide area (210 000 hectares), despite their large degradation over the past decades. Forests cover nearly 30% of Greek territory (although tree cover has decreased as a result of the 2007 fires); 29% of the land is cultivated, and 36% is grassland (much of it upland and sparse). Greek flora and fauna are among the richest in Europe: more than 5 500 plant species have been recorded, with a large number of endemic species, due to the isolation of mountains and islands. The fauna includes a large number of indigenous species.

Cyprus . Cyprus’s biodiversity is a result of its long isolation history, its geology and geomorphology and the Mediterranean climate, along with the effect of human intervention. The coastal zone of Cyprus is characterized by rich wildlife of high ecological value. Approximately 18 percent of Cyprus’ area is covered by forest and 47 percent is considered arable land, 21 percent of which is irrigated. The dominant types of woody plants are the extensive pine forests, the sclerophyllous evergreen, high and low maquis, and garigue ecosystems. The great diversity of plant and animal species derives from a sharp altitudinal gradient of climatic conditions.

Albania. Albania is distinguished by its rich biological and landscape diversity in two main bio-geographical regions: the Mediterranean and the Alpine regions. This can be attributed to the country's geographic position as well as its geological, hydrological, climatic, soil and relief characteristics. The high diversity of ecosystems and habitats – marine and coastal ecosystems, wetlands, river deltas, sand dunes, lakes, rivers, Mediterranean shrubs, broadleaf, conifers and mixed forests, alpine and sub-alpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems – provides rich habitats for a variety of plants and animals. The high Albanian forests maintain communities of large mammals such as wolf, bear, lynx, and wild goat, and also characteristic bird communities.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a remarkable wildlife diversity, which reflects the varied relief, geology, natural history and human influence. The Red List of endangered plant species within Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has yet to be prepared, but it is considered that about 10% of the higher plants species are threatened. The fauna also reveals a high degree of taxonomic diversity, which includes more than 9.000 species. The abundance of ecosystems, habitats, communities and species places the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the very top of the list of countries with impressive biodiversity in Europe. Species diversity is represented by more than 16000 taxa of wild flora, fungi and fauna.

1.5.7 Air Pollution

Bulgaria. Air quality remains low in many cities and hot spots, continuing to present a significant threat to human health. Overall, national emissions are still high compared with those of either western European countries or other central and eastern European countries. Emissions from large industrial facilities remain major problems, as do those from residential/commercial sector use of low-quality solid fuels. Motor vehicle emissions are a concern in cities, especially in Sofia, and are likely to increase, unless counteracting measures are taken.

Greece. Exceedances of the mean hourly concentrations of nitrogen oxides and (8 hours limit) ozone target have been recorded mainly in major cities Athens and Thessaloniki, while sulfur dioxide does not seem to be a problem with the exception of Western Macedonia and Peloponese-Megalopolis. Air pollution in Greece is a significant problem mainly in Athens and Thessaloniki. The main air pollution sources are transport, industrial and urban sources.

Cyprus. Most of the air pollutants do not exceed the limits, with the exception of Ozone and PM10. The Ozone exceedances of the 8-hour target value, observed mainly in non-urban areas, while PM10 exceed both the annual and the daily limit value all over Cyprus. Regarding the emissions of pollutants in Cyprus, the main contributors are road transport and industrial sources.

Albania. Exceedances of the mean hourly concentrations of nitrogen oxides have been recorded mainly in Tirana, while sulfur dioxide does not seem to be a problem. Exceedances of limits by Particulates concentrations seems to be a problem all around Albania. Activities that cause the most pollution are transport, industry and urban development.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Exceedances of the mean annual concentrations of nitrogen oxides and mean annual and winter concentrations of sulphur dioxide have been recorded mainly in Skopje while exceedances of limits by Particulates concentrations seems to be a problem all around Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia cities. Air pollution in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia seems to be a major problem. The three sectors largely responsible for air emissions are energy production, especially electricity production based on lignite burning, road traffic and industry.

1.5.8 Climate Change – Energy Efficiency

Bulgaria. Mostly climate models simulate air temperature increases in Bulgaria of between 2°C and 5°C and a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. Latest GHG inventory shows that overall GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalent came to 75,793 gigagrammes (Gg) without taking land use, changes in land use and forestry (LULUCF) sector sinks into account. Net emissions, taking account LULUCF sinks, were 68,991 Gg. CO₂ emissions, expressed as CO₂ equivalent, had the greatest share of overall GHG

emissions at 77.7 %, followed by methane (CH₄) emissions at 15.3% and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions at 6.7 %; polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (F) gases had a 0.3 % share. The energy sector occupies more than 74 % of aggregate GHG emissions while CO₂ contributes the greatest share of aggregate GHG emissions in the sector, at up to 91 %. Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets for the Country are as follows:

Table ES 2. Bulgaria. Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets

Europe 2020 headline targets	Current situation in Bulgaria	National 2020 target
20% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction compared to 1990	-12% (2020 projected emissions compared to 2005) +11% (2010 emissions Compared to 2005)	+20% (national binding target for non-ETS sectors compared to 2005)
20% of energy from renewables	13.8 % (2010)	16 %
20% increase in energy efficiency	17.4 Mtoe (2010)	- 3.20 Mtoe = 15.8 Mtoe

In this framework, the priorities of funding in order for the country to tackle the main Climate Change and Energy Efficiency development challenges and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy are towards Environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy (Promote a low-carbon economy, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, Invest substantially in the water and waste processing sectors, Protect the environment, improving management of natural resources, investing in adaptation to climate change, addressing specific natural and man-made risks)

Greece. According to the results from worldwide climate models, average temperatures in Greece are projected to increase from 3.1°C to 5.1°C by 2100, with an average value of 4.3°C. According to EEA2012 report base year GHG emissions in Greece were estimated at 107.71 Mt CO₂ while 2007, greenhouse gas emissions were 131.85 Mt CO₂. Major sectors in GHG emissions are Energy excluding Transport sharing 64% of total GHG emissions. Transport 18% and Industrial processes 7%.

Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets for the Country are as follows:

Table ES 3. Greece. Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets

Europe 2020 headline targets	Current situation In Greece	National 2020 target
Energy efficiency	N/a (the Commission is not yet able to provide this overview)	2,7 Mtoe
Renewable Energy	Starting from 5,8% in 2005, the share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption has been	18% of gross final energy consumption from renewable sources

Europe 2020 headline targets	Current situation In Greece	National 2020 target
	increased to 8.2% (in 2011)	
20% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction compared	+3% (2020 projected emissions compared to 2005) -8% (2010 emissions compared to 2005)	-4 % (National binding target for non-ETS sectors compared to 2005)

In this framework, the priorities of funding in order for the country to tackle the main Climate Change and Energy Efficiency development challenges and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy are towards an Environment friendly and resource-efficient economy for growth and jobs (Improve management of natural resources and environmental protection, Climate change adaptation and mitigation, Shift to an energy efficient, low-carbon economy and promotion of Renewable Energy Resources (RES)

Cyprus. According to the available information from the National Meteorological Service (2009), temperature has increased by 1oC and precipitation reduced by 100mm (corresponding to 17%) during the last 100 years. These changes, are not only been noticed in statistical data, but have already caused significant impacts to the everyday life of the country. During the last 10 years the extreme weather events are showing an increasing trend and so is their intensity, droughts are more often and longer. Emission of greenhouse gases without LULUCF increased by 93.6% between 1990 and 2008, which corresponds to GHG emissions of 4,932 Gg CO₂ equivalents. 76% of the emissions without LULUCF in 2008 were from the sector of energy, compared to 67.5% in 1990. Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets for the Country are as follows:

Table ES 4. Cyprus. Implementations of Europe 2020 Climate Change and Energy Targets

Europe 2020 headline targets	Current situation In Cyprus	National 2020 target
20% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction compared to 1990	-19% (2020 Projected emissions compared to 2005)	-5%
20% of energy consumption from renewable	-5% (2010 emissions compared to 2005)	(National binding target for
20% increase in energy efficiency	5.7% (2010)	Non-ETS sectors compared to

In this framework, the priorities of funding in order for the country to tackle the main Climate Change and Energy Efficiency development challenges and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy are towards promoting environment-friendly and efficient use of resources, and climate change resilience for sustainable growth and jobs (Shift to an energy efficient, low-carbon economy and promotion of renewable energy resources, Improve management of natural resources and environmental protection,

Climate change mitigation and adaptation including risk management, Promote sustainable urban mobility)

Albania. Based on EEA2012 data, according to computer models projections the climate change scenarios for Albania project an annual increase in temperature up to 1°C, 1.8°C, and 3.6°C respectively by 2025, 2050 and 2100. The seasonal temperature and precipitation changes suggest changes towards milder winters, warmer springs, drier autumns, drier and hotter summers.

The main contributor of CH₄ emissions is agriculture (74-77 %), followed by waste (8-22 %) and energy (5-20%) while the main contributor of CO₂ is the energy sector (44–79 %) followed by land-use change and forestry which contributed 33 % in 1990 but just 16 % in 2000. Industrial processes contributed 2.6-4.9 % while CO₂ emissions from the waste, solvents and agriculture sectors were not significant.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. YEAP 2000, GHGs emissions from the six main economic sectors, recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) are as follows: energy 64,44%, extraction, transportation, processing and combustion of fossil fuels, industrial processes 6,24%, agriculture 9.64%, land-use change and forestry 13.79%, and waste 5.89%, while CO₂ and CH₄ correspond roughly to 80.00% and 12,00% of total GHG. The country ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2004. According to its first greenhouse gases (GHGs) inventory, the country was responsible for the emission of 15.08 million tonnes CO₂-eq of GHGs in 1998, of which over 74% came from the energy sector, followed by agriculture (10%). waste (>8%). industrial processes (7%). and land use change and forestry (<1%). Climate change in the country is expected to cause negative effects on soil production, causing degradation, desertification, and further soil erosion. The change in temperature regime and perturbation of precipitation distribution over the year will cause disturbances to ecosystems. Considerable movement of plant and animal species in a south-north direction, as well as along the vertical gradient is expected. According to hydrological analysis, the most vulnerable regions will be the eastern and south-eastern parts, while the most vulnerable water economy sectors are water supply and irrigation.

1.5.9 Soil

Bulgaria. The basic dangers for soil deterioration in Bulgaria are coastal erosion, soil and inadequacy of plans and infrastructure for treatment and environmentally accepted disposal of urban and industrial solid wastes. . Industry contaminated soil by disposal of hazardous wastes seems to be a problem, too.

Greece. In Greece the main soil deterioration problem is desertification and salinity issues especially in South Greece and Coastal areas, and inadequacy of plans and infrastructure for treatment and environmentally accepted disposal of urban and industrial solid wastes.

Cyprus. In Cyprus the main dangers is soil erosion and coastal erosion and inadequacy of plans and infrastructure for treatment and environmentally accepted disposal of urban and industrial solid wastes.

Albania. Soil erosion and deterioration is a major problem for Albania, and inadequacy of plans and infrastructure for treatment and environmentally accepted disposal of urban and industrial solid wastes. Industry contaminated soil by disposal of hazardous wastes seems to be a problem, too.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The basic dangers for soil deterioration in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are soil erosion and inadequacy of plans, and inadequacy of plans and infrastructure for treatment and environmentally accepted disposal of urban and industrial solid wastes.

1.5.10 Protected Areas

Bulgaria. Bulgaria has long - standing traditions on the domain of the protected areas. The dominant part of the protected areas is included into the NATURA 2000 network.

Greece. Greece has an almost untouched natural environment, a characteristic of the majority of the areas of the country. The dominant part of the protected areas is included into the NATURA 2000 network.

Cyprus. All major habitats and ecosystems are included in Cyprus Natura 2000 network.

Albania. The surface area legally declared as protected areas in Albania has more than tripled from 108,475 ha to 378,748 ha, bringing the total proportion of protected areas in different management categories to 13.17 per cent in 2011. Compared with only 5.7 per cent in 2002.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a large number of protected areas. The country is making progress in developing a balanced, representative, and effective network of Protected Areas as per the UNDP/GEF/MoEPP project "Strengthening the Ecological, Institutional and Financial Sustainability of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Protected Area System" and the Spatial Plan of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

1.5.11 Cultural Heritage

The history of the Balkan Mediterranean area is important in understanding the origin and development of the western civilization. History, culture and favorable climate generate a strong attractiveness, which boosts the tourism industry, but are as well a source of pressure on cultural and natural heritage.

Bulgaria. A number of ancient civilizations, including the Thracians, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Ostrogoths, Slavs, Varangians and especially Bulgarians, have left their mark on the culture, history and heritage of Bulgaria. Because of this Bulgarian nation has one of the richest folk heritage in the world. Thracian artifacts include numerous tombs and golden treasures, while ancient Bulgarians have left traces of their heritage in music and early architecture. Thracian rituals such as the Zarezan, Kukeri and Martenitza are to this day kept alive in the modern Bulgarian culture.

There are nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Bulgaria. The first four properties were inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1979, and the last in 1985. Bulgaria currently has fourteen additional properties on the Tentative List

Greece. The culture of Greece has evolved over thousands of years, beginning in Mycenaean Greece, continuing most notably into Classical Greece, through the influence of the Roman Empire and its successor the Byzantine Empire. Other cultures and states such as the Persian Empire, Latin and Frankish states, the Ottoman Empire, the Venetian Republic, Genoese Republic, and British Empire have also left their influence on modern Greek culture. In ancient times, Greece was the birthplace of Western culture. Modern democracies owe a debt to Greek beliefs in government by the people, trial by jury, and equality under the law. The ancient Greeks pioneered in many fields that rely on systematic thought, including biology, geometry, history, philosophy, and physics. They introduced such important literary forms as epic and lyric poetry, history, tragedy, and comedy. In their pursuit of order and proportion, the Greeks created an ideal of beauty that strongly influenced Western art. There are seventeen UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Greece. Greece currently has fifteen additional properties on the Tentative List.

Cyprus. The History and Culture of Cyprus is among the oldest in the world. The first signs of civilization traced in archaeological excavations and research date back 9,000 years to the 7th millennium BC. This rich cultural landscape involves hundreds of archaeological sites scattered throughout the island, representing various historical periods in the island's evolution. The discovery of copper in Cyprus in the 3rd millennium BC brought wealth to the island and attracted trade from its trading neighbors. Yet, although geographically placed at the crossroads of three continents Europe, Asia and Africa and a meeting point of great world civilizations, Cyprus has developed and for centuries maintained, its own civilization. It remained a center of Greek culture with Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, French, Venetian, Ottoman and British influences. According to the UNESCO World Heritage List there are three sites in Cyprus and twelve sites are in tentative list.

Albania. According to the tentative Unesco world heritage list only one sight located in Albania. Butrint inhabited since prehistoric times. Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the

Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city’s development.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a rich cultural heritage in art, architecture, poetry, and music. It has many ancient, protected religious sites. Poetry, cinema, and music festivals are held annually. former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia music styles developed under the strong influence of Byzantine church music. former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a significant number of preserved Byzantine fresco paintings, mainly from the period between the 11th and 16th centuries. There are several thousands square metres of fresco painting preserved, the major part of which is in very good condition and represent masterworks of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia School of ecclesiastical painting.

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1.6 EXISTING STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. ANTHROPOGENIC

1.6.1 Population - Demographic elements

The Balkan Mediterranean 2014-2020 Programme area includes a population of about 24.1 million people (24,8% of the EU28 population). Greece and Bulgaria account for the 75.9% of the programme area population. Demographic trends are very heterogeneous between and within the countries of the Programme area, depending on economic, social and cultural and spatial factors.

1.6.2 Economic Performance

Strong national and regional disparities characterize the socio-economic performance of the programme area. The analysis of the regional GDP per capita performance reveals that the programme area is far from being cohesive. The international economic crisis has put a pressure in the Balkan Mediterranean countries, especially on the countries that are EU-members. This pressure shows a still important position of traditional economic sectors, **which** are based on the activity of a high percentage of fragmented SMEs with often-low added value (DG Enterprise and Industry). The most important point is that the share of the people employed in the SMEs on the total number of employees in the five counties is much higher than the average share in the EU27. These enterprises and the respective sectors will require modernization; partnership and diversification to better compete on national and international markets. The service sector is the prominent economic sector of the whole Programme area despite the national disparities between the five participating countries. Referring to the other sectors, Albania still shows an important agricultural activity, while Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia show an important secondary sector activity.

1.6.3 Employment

The international economic crisis has worsened the economic performance of the Balkan Mediterranean countries, leading to high unemployment rates. These rates are quite high in the three EU members, as well as in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Albania, the unemployment rate is moderately high, leading in any case to the need for the country to solve the problem of the joblessness.

1.6.4 Social Situation

In 2011, 16.9 % of the EU-27 population was assessed to be at risk of poverty. This share already conceals considerable variations across the EU Member States. In five countries, including Bulgaria and Greece one

fifth or more of the population viewed as being at risk of poverty (European Social Statistics, 2013). The at-risk-of-poverty threshold is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income.

In Albania, as incomes and employment rates are low across the board, most people’s average income hovers close to the poverty line. This leads to many people being vulnerable to the effects of downturns in the economy.

The differences in poverty rates are more notable when the population is classified according to activity status. The unemployed are a particularly vulnerable group: those in employment were far less likely to be at risk of poverty. The level of education also represents a relevant factor in terms of poverty. People with low educational attainment are at higher risk of poverty than those with high educational attainment. Moreover, children whose parents’ highest level of education was low are at-risk-of-poverty, compared to those whose parents had high level of education.

High education attainment levels are close to the EU-28 average (28.4%) with Cyprus showing a record high of nearly 40% of the population aged between 25 and 64 years tertiary educated. Also in the two candidate countries of the programme, tertiary education is in permanent development: between 2001 and 2011 Albania has more than doubled the number of students attending tertiary education while the EU-27 increase over the same period was on average 2% per year.

1.6.5 Innovation

The number of Science and Technology graduates has increased in all the Balkan Mediterranean countries, becoming a sign of an increasing recognition of the importance of human capital as an engine of growth. Also this is definitely the basis for introducing innovative activities in these regions. In countries like Greece and Cyprus many young people do not graduate in their home country, but abroad.

In all Balkan Mediterranean countries the R&D expenditure is well below the EU average. The general picture shows, that these regions are lacking behind in R & D activities in comparison to other EU regions.

The investments in telecommunications and IT are linked to the e-society, which is emerging rapidly. The e-society can become instrumental for better social cohesion and future economic development within the Balkan Mediterranean space. However, the impact of ICT on business development is as well depending on the level of internet access of households, which is in general lower than the average of the EU27.

1.6.6 Accessibility

In the Balkan Mediterranean area there is a lack of satisfactory accessibility from the coast to the internal zones and the traffic density in the main corridors and most urbanized areas cannot be solved only by

developing road infrastructures. An integrated approach is required with the adaptation of existing transport means and with the development of multimodal/intermodal transport systems (road-rail-sea connections).

In general the Balkan Mediterranean Programme regions have invested in ICT technologies over the last years, but have still not reached a level that come close the EU27 average. Moreover, in terms of using ICT technologies, most of the Balkan Mediterranean regions are lagging behind

1.7 RELEVENCE TO EU STRATEGY

Following table shows the Environmental Aspects/issues relevant for the Programme-Applicable Legislation and European environmental objectives and targets of the legal framework.

Table ES 5. BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020- Environmental Aspects/issues relevant for the Programme-Applicable Legislation and European environmental objectives/targets of the legal framework.

Environmental Aspects/issues relevant for the Programme / Applicable Legislation	European environmental objectives/targets of the legal framework
General – Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Environmental Action Programme EUROPE 2020 Strategy EU Sustainable Development Strategy 	<p>EUROPE 2020 Targets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed 2. R&D 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D 3. Climate change and energy sustainability Greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990 20% of energy from renewables 20% increase in energy efficiency 4. Education Reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10% At least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education 5. Fighting poverty and social exclusion At least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion
Water Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) 	<p>The WFD provides a framework for water protection and management in the European Community (Directive 2000/60/EC). Under its implementation, Member States must first identify and analyse European waters, by individual river basin and district. They shall then adopt management plans and Programmes of measures to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) • EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) • EU Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC) 	<p>protect water bodies in all European river basins. The adoption of the WFD has completed earlier EU water policies that are still in place, such as those concerning urban wastewater or bathing water.</p> <p>In 2012, the Commission published the communication A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Water Resources (COM(2012) 673). It focuses on policy actions that can help improve implementation of current water legislation, and on the integration of water policy objectives into other policies.</p> <p>The Blueprint enhances water policies related to water quantity and water resource efficiency for sustainable water management in the timeframe of the EU's 2020 Strategy up to 2050.</p> <p>Besides the WFD and the Blueprint, four water directives contribute to measures ensuring the good status of Europe’s waters (the Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC), the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).</p> <p>The Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), which aims to foster flood risk management plans, also significantly enhances the WFD objectives.</p>
<p>Solid Waste Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) 	<p>Directive 2008/98/EC sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, and recovery. It explains when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a secondary raw material (so called end-of-waste criteria), and how to distinguish between waste and by-products. The Directive lays down some basic waste management principles: it requires that waste be managed without endangering human health and harming the environment, and in particular without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals, without causing a nuisance through noise or odours, and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.</p>
<p>Soil Issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670) • Soil Thematic Strategy (COM (2006) 231) • Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (COM (2006) 232) • UN Convention to Combat Desertification 	<p>Different EU policies (for instance on water, waste, industrial pollution prevention, nature protection, pesticides, agriculture) are contributing to soil protection. But as these policies have other aims and other scopes of action, they are not sufficient to ensure an adequate level of protection for all soil in Europe.</p> <p>The communication of the commission (COM (2006) 231) describes the thematic strategy regarding soils protection. The overall objective is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions; - Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the Restoration of soil. <p>To achieve these objectives, action is required at different levels – local, national and European. Action at European level is a necessary addition to the action by Member States</p>

<p>Air Quality Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) • Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM (2005) 446) 	<p>This legislation has established health-based standards and objectives for a number of air pollutants and includes:</p> <p>The Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC). This describes the basic principles concerning the assessment and management of air quality in the Member States. The Directive also lists the pollutants for which air quality standards and objectives have been developed and specified in subsequent legislation</p> <p>The ‘Exchange of Information’ Decision, which establishes a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the EU Member States.</p> <p>The thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM (2005) 446):</p> <p>Compared with the situation in 2000, the Strategy sets specific long term objectives (for 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47% reduction in loss of life expectancy as a result of exposure to particulate matter; - 10% reduction in acute mortalities from exposure to ozone; - Reduction in excess acid deposition of 74% and 39% in forest areas and surface freshwater areas respectively; - 43% reduction in areas or ecosystems exposed to eutrophication. <p>The strategy is completed by the EU’s new air quality directive: the Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe is one of the key measures in place to address air pollution under the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. It is the first EU directive to include limits on ambient concentrations of PM2.5 (fine particulate matter). It also consolidates various existing pieces of air quality legislation into a single directive. Governments had been given two years (as from June 11, 2008) to bring their legislation in line with the provisions of the Directive.</p>
<p>Climate Change Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Strategy on Climate Change Winning the battle against global climate change" (COM (2005) 35) • European Framework on Climate Change and Energy (Green Book-COM (2013)169) • Kyoto II on basis of UN Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change 1998 • UN and EU Strategy for adaptation to the climate change UNFCCC 	<p>The threat of climate change is being addressed globally by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The long-term objective is to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p> <p>The UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol sets binding emission targets for developed countries that have ratified it, such as the EU Member States. It is a first step towards achieving more substantial global emission reductions.</p> <p>A EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (COM(2013) 216)</p> <p>The overall aim of the EU Adaptation Strategy is to contribute to a more climate-resilient Europe. This means enhancing the preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change at local, regional, national and EU levels, developing a coherent approach and improving coordination.</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency Issues</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Energy Efficiency (2012/27/EC) and 2010/31/EU • Directive 2009/28/EU on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Use • Energy Road-Map for 2050 (White Bible) 	<p>Union in order to ensure the achievement of the Union’s 2020 20 % headline target on energy efficiency and to pave the way for further energy efficiency improvements beyond that date.</p> <p>All EU-28 countries are thus required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain – from the transformation of energy and its distribution to its final consumption. The new Directive will help remove barriers and overcome market failures that impede efficiency in the supply and use of energy and provides for the establishment of indicative national energy efficiency targets for 2020.</p>
<p>Public Health Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC) • EU Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) (COM (2011) 709) • EU Health Strategy Together for Health (2008- 2013) • WHO Parma Declaration on Environment and Health 2010 	<p>The END aims to “define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to the exposure to environmental noise”. For that purpose several actions are to be progressively implemented. It furthermore aims at providing a basis for developing EU measures to reduce noise emitted by major sources, in particular road and rail vehicles and infrastructure, aircraft, outdoor and industrial equipment and mobile machinery.</p> <p>The Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) is the third multi-annual Programme of European Union (EU) action. It helps/supports Member States in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake the necessary reforms to achieve innovative and sustainable health systems; - Improve access to better and safer health care for citizens; - Promote good health of European citizens and prevent diseases; - Protect European citizens from cross-border threats.
<p>Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) • EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy • UN Convention on Biological Diversity • EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) • IUCN Global Species Programme 	<p>In its 2001 Strategy for Sustainable Development, the EU sets itself the target to halt the loss of biodiversity and restore habitats and natural systems by 2010</p> <p>The European Commission's 2006 Biodiversity Communication has provided the main policy framework up to 2010.</p> <p>EU nature conservation policy is based on two main pieces of legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Birds Directive • The Habitats Directive <p>Both directives provide the basis for the Natura 2000 network, a network of nature reserves which extends across the Union to safeguard species and habitats of Special European interest. EU nature conservation policy benefits from a specific financial instrument, the LIFE-Nature fund.</p> <p>In May 2011, the European Commission adopted a new strategy that lays down the framework for EU action over the next ten years in order to meet the 2020 biodiversity headline target set by EU leaders in March 2010 (COM (2011) 244).</p>

	<p>According to the strategy and by 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – should be protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human well-being and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.</p> <p>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU</p> <p>Contribution to averting global biodiversity loss is priority objectives.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity - Better protection for ecosystems - More sustainable agriculture and forestry - Better management of fish stocks - Tighter controls on invasive alien species - A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss
Cultural Heritage Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention 1972 • Treaty of Lisbon 2007 	<p>Treaty of Lisbon 2007</p> <p>Article 3.3. “(...) The Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe’s cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced”.</p>
Landscape Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Landscape Convention 2000 • European Landscape Convention 2004 • EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (COM (2005) 718) 	<p>The European Landscape Convention, also known as the Florence Convention, is the first international treaty to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of European landscape. It applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. The Convention is aimed at: the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape</p>
Marine Pollution Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU_Marine Strategy Framework. • Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention • EU Maritime strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Basins • Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the 	<p>Solving environmental problems of Europe’s coasts and seas requires a policy response that operates across policy domains related to water, nature, pollution, fisheries, climate change and spatial planning. Historically these have been considered separate policy domains, but with the adoption of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in 2008, an integrated response is being pursued; the management approach considers the entire ecosystem and sets the objective of achieving good environmental status for many specific environmental aspects. The MSFD is supported by the Water Framework Directive (WFD), which regulates ecological status in coastal and transitional waters by considering nutrient, chemical and hydro morphological pressure and by the Habitats and Birds directives that set conservation objectives for some marine and coastal habitats and species.</p>

<p>Black Sea (1996)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea Adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria, 17 April 2009. • EU Directive on safety of offshore oil and gas operations (2013/30/EU). • EC Marine Strategy Directive 2008/56/EC • 2008 PROTOCOL ON INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 	<p>Growth of the maritime, agriculture and tourism sectors is expected to continue; an important future objective for the MSFD will be to ensure that this growth is environmentally sustainable, via management strategies. Such strategies can be supported through the implementation of planning principles in line with Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).</p>
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The following table shows the Environmental Aspects/issues relevant for the Programme-Applicable Legislation and How the Programme environmental strategy takes into account these Issues, per thematic objective (TO)

Table ES 6. BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020- Environmental issues relevant for the Programme-Applicable Legislation and How the Programme environmental strategy takes into account these Issues, per thematic objective (TO).

Environmental issues relevant for the Programme / Applicable Legislation	How the Programme environmental strategy takes into account these Issues, per thematic objective (TO)		
	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	ENVIRONMENT	HORIZONTAL OBJ.
Priority Axes	TO3	TO6	
BALCAN-MED Specific Objectives			
General – Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Environmental Action Programme EUROPE 2020 Strategy EU Sustainable Development Strategy 			
Water Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) EU Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC) 			
Solid Waste Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) 			
Soil Issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670) Soil Thematic Strategy (COM (2006) 231) Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (COM (2006) 232) UN Convention to Combat Desertification Soil Thematic Strategy (COM (2006) 231) 			

Air Quality Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) • Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM (2005) 446) 			
Climate Change Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Strategy on Climate Change Winning the battle against global climate change" (COM (2005) 35) • European Framework on Climate Change and Energy (Green Book- COM(2013)169) • Kyoto II on basis of UN Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change 1998 			
Energy Efficiency Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Energy Efficiency (2012/27/EC) 			
Public Health Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC) • EU Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) (COM (2011) 709) • EU Health Strategy Together for Health (2008-2013)8 • WHO Parma Declaration on Environment and Health2010 			
Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) • EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy • UN Convention on Biological Diversity • EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) • IUCN Global Species Programme 			
Cultural Heritage Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention 1972 • Treaty of Lisbon 2007 			
Landscape Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Landscape Convention 2000 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Landscape Convention 2004 EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (COM (2005) 718) 			
Marine Pollution Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU_Marine Strategy Framework. Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention EU Maritime strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Basins Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (1996) Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea Adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria, 17 April 2009. EU Directive on safety of offshore oil and gas operations (2013/30/EU). 			
LEGEND	Targeted potential Impact	Non-targeted potential Impact	No targeting

1.8 ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT





For the assessment of the BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Programme potential impact on the environment the analysis of the impacts on the environment is based development of a Environmental Thematic Targets (ETT) per Environmental Aspect/Issue relevant to the programme on a synoptic grid of questions; the grid will show for each action that effects can turn out to be positive or negative for the environment. The question cover the spectrum of the environment aspect mentioned at the directive and compatible to the environmental legislation.





Based on the above methodology, the environmental criteria are presented below.


Table ES 7. Environmental Questions, criteria for BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 potential Environmental impacts assessment

Environmental issues relevant for the Programme / Applicable Legislation/Environmental Targets	Environmental Questions, criteria for BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 potential Environmental impacts assessment
General – Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Environmental Action Programme EUROPE 2020 Strategy EU Sustainable Development Strategy 	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 will enhance or not achieving EUROPE 2020 Targets?</p> <p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact the need for networks for transport, energy and the relative construction/operational cost? Impact balanced city-country growth? Impact regional accessibility? Impact on green or blue economy? Impact social cohesion and protection of vulnerable part of population? Impact the abundance of population in semimountaineous-mountainous-rural regions? Impact access to social goods?
BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to General Sustainable Development Issues based on EU strategies ". REMARK EUROPE 2020 is a basic rationale for the Programme BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020. Therefore implementation of BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 measures will enhance achieving EUROPE 2020 Targets	

<p>Water Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) • EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) • EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) • EU Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC) 	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 will enhance or not achieving legislation target, of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFD targets • Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC), targets • Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) targets • Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) targets • Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) targets • Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) targets.
<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to Water bodies Protection and improvement of their quantitative and qualitative characteristic based on EU legal strategies ".</p>	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact water erosion processes? • Impact surface or groundwater withdrawals? • Impact on water management?
<p>Solid Waste Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) 	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 will enhance or not achieving the targets of EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)</p>
<p>BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to efficient Solid Waste Management based on EU legal strategies ".</p>	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste production (household and industrial), their composition or hazardous characteristics? • Waste recovery (household and industrial)?
<p>Soil Issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (COM (2005) 670) • Soil Thematic Strategy (COM (2006) 231) • Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (COM (2006) 232) • UN Convention to Combat Desertification • Soil Thematic Strategy (COM (2006) 231) 	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 will enhance or not achieving the targets of EU Soil Thematic Strategy</p> <p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of critical for economy or habitat land? • On soil pollution due to solid wastes or agricultural residues? • Soil decontamination/remediation?
<p>BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to Soil protection from pollution and conservation of productive land based on EU legal strategies ".</p>	

<p>Air Quality Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC) • Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (COM (2005) 446) 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact atmospheric pollution?</p>	<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target</p> <p>" Contribution to improvement of air quality based on EU legal strategies ".</p>
<p>Climate Change Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Strategy on Climate Change Winning the battle against global climate change" (COM (2005) 35) • European Framework on Climate Change and Energy (Green Book-COM (2013)169) • Kyoto II on basis of UN Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change 1998 		<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target</p> <p>" Participation to National and International Effort to adaptation and combat of Climate Change".</p>
<p>Energy Efficiency Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Energy Efficiency (2012/27/EC) 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on achieving the legislative renewable energy penetration and energy efficiency targets? • Increase the share a more efficient, greener, more competitive and low-carbon economy • Impact energy efficiency in the productive sector? 	<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target</p> <p>" Contribution to Energy Efficiency Issues based on EU strategies ".</p>
<p>Public Health Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC) • EU Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020) (COM (2011) 709) • EU Health Strategy Together for Health (2008- 2013) • WHO Parma Declaration on Environment and Health 2010 	<p>Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 will enhance or not achieving the targets of Health for Growth Programme (2014-2020).</p> <p>How may Implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact the atmospheric environment? • Impact the acoustic environment? • Impact management and resilience to natural hazards? • Impact management and resilience to industrial risks? • Impact odour pollution? • Impact accessibility to health services? 	<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target</p> <p>" Contribution to protection of Public Health based on EU and International legal strategies ".</p>

<p>Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) • EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy • UN Convention on Biological Diversity • EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) • IUCN Global Species Programme 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact the surface and cohesion of protected areas? • Impact the protection levels and pressures of protected areas and forests? • Impact the loss of biodiversity? • Impact the ecological coherence of territories? • Impact habitats (terrestrial and aquatic)? • Impact the preservation of rare endemic and protected species?
<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target «Contribution to decreasing the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant improvement in their status”.</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention 1972 • Treaty of Lisbon 2007 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact landscapes, preservation and promotion of natural and cultural monuments/sites?</p>
<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to landscapes protection and promotion of natural and cultural monuments/sites based on EU and International legal strategies ”.</p>	
<p>Landscape Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Landscape Convention 2000 • European Landscape Convention 2004 • EU Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (COM (2005) 718) 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact landscapes, preservation and promotion of natural and cultural monuments/sites?</p>
<p>BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to landscapes protection and promotion of natural and cultural monuments/sites based on EU and International legal strategies ”.</p>	
<p>Population Material Asset Management Issues</p> 	<p>How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of critical for economy or habitat land

BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Enhancing Protection of Public Properties and Social Cohesion".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Prices, and land ownership? • Standards of living and labour of the citizen? • Regional accessibility? • Economic growth? • Business compositeness?
Marine Pollution Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU_Marine Strategy Framework. • Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention • EU Maritime strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Basins • Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (1996) • Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea Adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria, 17 April 2009. • EU Directive on safety of offshore oil and gas operations (2013/30/EU).  	How may implementation of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality of transitional waters and coastal waters? • Marine water quality? • Commitments for Coastal Zone protection? • Fish recourses?
BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Thematic Target " Contribution to Mediterranean, Adriatic and Baltic Sea Protection and improvement of their quantitative and qualitative characteristic based on EU legal strategies ".	

1.9 ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME ALTERNATIVE

In this chapter the potential alternatives in planning the Programmes implementation are presented and evaluated according to the Directive 2001/42/EU.

The frame of Regulations that govern the Programme incorporate the basic principles of the EU policies, so consequently the potential of deviation from these is limited.

The fact that the Programmers of the Programmatic period 2014-2020 maintain the level of analysis and distribution of resources at the level of their priority axes should be considered, since it constrains the potential of formulation of alternative solutions regarding the content of the BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN Programme.

Zero Solution: The alternative, which will be examined, is the zero solution. Zero solution is assessed as the most unfavorable in general and environmental level for the following reasons:

It is opposed to the general principle of the EU for the cohesion and balancing of inequalities in governmental and regional level.

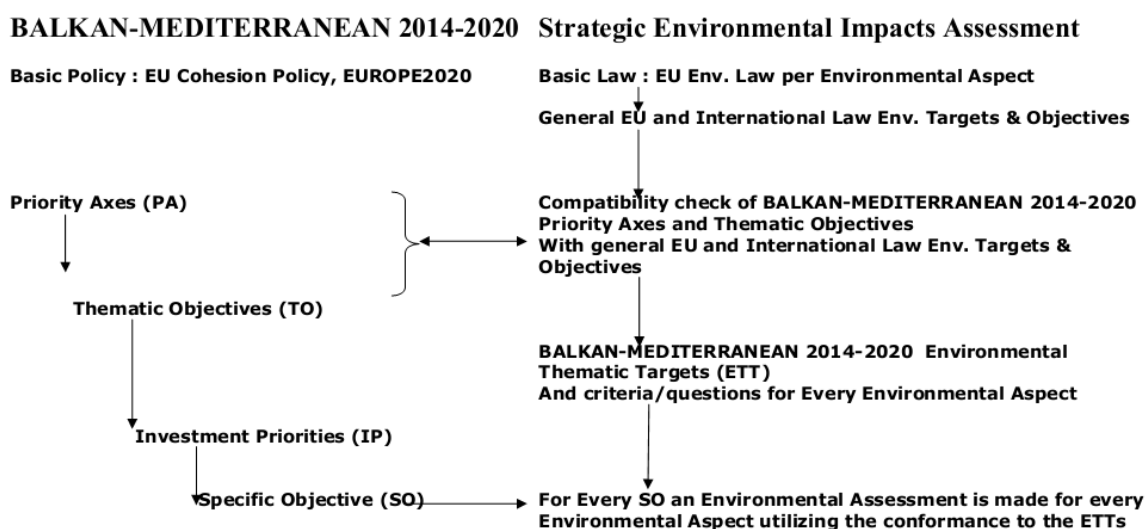
The advantages, which occur due to the cross-border cooperation of the countries, are lost. These advantages occurred from the cooperation in sectors that have been tried in the past and are related with mainly environmental subjects of the five countries. Especially in the environmental sector this will have negative long term effects mainly in the implementation of innovative methods in vital subjects that increase competition and environmental performances.

The cooperation and contact between five neighbouring countries is limited. This cooperation concerns exchange of experience and know-how and the development of linkages between institutions and stakeholders of public and private sector of the five countries in subjects that need coordinated common actions. Especially in the environmental sector (mainly in water management, marine environment, sensitive sites and species management, sustainable tourism, abatement technology dissemination), this will have negative long term effects mainly in the implementation of innovative methods in vital subjects that increase competition and environmental performances.

1.10 EVALUATION & POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of potential environmental impact methodology that was followed is presented at the following table.

Figure ES 1. Evaluation of potential environmental impacts methodology.



For every Specific Objective of BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Priority Axes, and Thematic Objectives the questions related to each ETT of the Programmes are evaluated. These questions can be found previously in this chapter, which is provided in chapter 3. Based on these questions the environmental thematic targets, which the implementation of each Specific Objective might have an impact upon, are identified.

The varieties of these potential environmental impacts are the following:

Positive impact: when the impact of the Specific Objective activities to the environmental target is directly positive. **Symbolism +**

Indirect positive impact: when the impact of the Specific Objective activities to the environmental target is indirectly positive. **Symbolism (+)**

Neutral impact: when the impact of the Specific Objective activities to the environmental target is neutral. **Symbolism 0**

Indirect negative impact: when the impact of the Specific Objective activities to the environmental target is indirectly negative. **Symbolism (-)**

Negative impact: when the impact of the Specific Objective activities to the environmental target is directly negative. **Symbolism -**

Within the framework of the Programme a number activities will be implemented, the Programme does not fully designate these activities but just describe them. Thus the evaluation of the environmental impacts, which will occur by the Programme’s implementation, is rather qualitative than quantitative.

1.11 ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1.11.1 Priority Axis 1: “ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

The analysis of the assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the Priority Axis 1 “Entrepreneurship” to the specific environmental targets per specific TO, IP and SO, is presented at the following table

Table ES 8. Assessment of the impacts of Priority Axis 1 “Entrepreneurship” to the specific environmental targets.

PRIORITY AXIS 1: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION							
Thematic Objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs’							
Selected Investment Priority: IP3.a.: Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators.		Specific Objective: SO1.1: Promote entrepreneurship and business creation on the basis on new ideas, innovation and new types of business models.					
Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets							
General –sustainable Development Issues	+	Water Issues	0	Solid Wastes Issues	0	Soil Issues	0
Air Quality Issues	0	Climate Change and Energy Issues	0	Public Health Issues	0	Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues	0
Cultural Heritage Issues	0	Landscape Issues	0	Population-Asset Management	0	Sea Pollution Issues	0
Comments on Potential Impacts							
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact.							

The TO3- IP3.a -SO1.1 sets goals that do not include objectives that could harm or influence the environmental status. Taking into consideration that these actions don't include large scale construction works, which may have been negative and possibly non reversible environmental impacts, the before mentioned SO1.1. isn't expected to have negative impacts to the biotic and abiotic environment of the selected site. This SO is expected to enhance business competitiveness, something that is very important for the entrepreneurship development and business openings to European markets. Important role to this enhancement is the geographical position of the region. *Therefore implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable development Issues.*

Selected Investment Priority: IP3.d.: Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	Specific Objective: SO1.2: Facilitate innovation in business models and allow a maximum number of SMEs to innovate and adjust their business models to the changing socioeconomic and policy/regulatory circumstances.
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Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets

General –sustainable Development Issues +	Water Issues 0	Solid Wastes Issues 0	Soil Issues 0
Air Quality Issues 0	Climate Change and Energy Issues 0	Public Health Issues 0	Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues 0
Cultural Heritage Issues 0	Landscape Issues 0	Population-Asset Management 0	Sea Pollution Issues 0

Comments on Potential Impacts

Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO **are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact.**

The TO3-IP3.d- SO1.2 sets goals that do not include objectives that could harm or influence the environmental status. Taking into consideration that these actions don't include large scale construction works, which may have been negative and possibly non reversible environmental impacts, the before mentioned SO1.2. isn't expected to have negative impacts to the biotic and abiotic environment of the selected site. This SO is expected to enhance business competitiveness through innovation, something that is very important for the entrepreneurship development and business openings to European markets. Important role to this enhancement is the geographical position of the region. *Therefore implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable Development Issues*

Thematic Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure

Selected Investment Priority: Developing and implementing joint education and training systems	Specific Objectives: SO1.3: Support entrepreneurial learning and knowledge transfer for more competitive SMEs.
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Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets

General –sustainable Development Issues +	Water Issues 0	Solid Wastes Issues 0	Soil Issues 0
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Air Quality Issues 0	Climate Change and Energy Issues 0	Public Health Issues 0	Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues 0
Cultural Heritage Issues 0	Landscape Issues 0	Population-Asset Management 0	Sea Pollution Issues 0
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments on Potential Impacts</p> <p>Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SOs are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact.</p> <p>TO10-SO1.3 sets goals that do not include objectives that could harm or influence the environmental status. Taking into consideration that these actions don't include large scale construction works, which may have been negative and possibly non reversible environmental impacts, the before mentioned SO1.3 is not expected to have negative impacts to the biotic and abiotic environment of the selected site. This SO is expected to enhance business knowledge transfer and provide relevant skills to entrepreneurs, something that is very important for the entrepreneurship development and business openings to European markets. Important role to this enhancement is the geographical position of the region. <i>Therefore implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SOs are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable Development Issues</i></p>			

1.11.2 Priority Axis 2: “Environment”

The analysis of the assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the Priority Axis 2 “Environment” to the specific environmental targets per specific TO, IP and SO,, is presented at the following table

Table ES 9. Assessment of the impacts of Priority Axis 2 “Environment” to the specific environmental targets.

PRIORITY AXIS 2: ENVIRONMENT			
Thematic Objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency			
Selected Investment Priority: IP6.C.: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage.		Specific Objective: SO2.1: Maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems by strengthening networking and management of protected areas, including Natura 2000.	
Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets			
General –sustainable Development Issues +	Water Issues +	Solid Wastes Issues +	Soil Issues +
Air Quality Issues +	Climate Change and Energy Issues +	Public Health Issues +	Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues +
Cultural Heritage Issues +	Landscape Issues +	Population-Asset Management +	Sea Pollution Issues +
Comments on Potential Impacts			
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact. On the contrary the rational of this PA, IP and SO are promoting environmental protection in every aspect			
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable Development Issues			
Selected Investment Priority: IP6.f.: Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution.		Specific Objective: SO2.2: : Promote cooperation and networking aiming to introduce innovative technologies for efficient management of the waste sector, the soil and the water sector	
Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets			
General –sustainable Development Issues +	Water Issues +	Solid Wastes Issues +	Soil Issues +
Air Quality Issues +	Climate Change and Energy Issues +	Public Health Issues +	Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues +
Cultural Heritage Issues +	Landscape Issues +	Population-Asset Management +	Sea Pollution Issues +

Comments on Potential Impacts							
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact . On the contrary the rational of this PA, IP and SO are promoting environmental protection in every aspect							
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable Development Issues							
Thematic Objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration							
	Specific Objective: SO2.3: Develop skills for better environmental management and increase governance capacities.						
Assessments of the Impacts of Thematic Objectives to Specific Environmental Targets							
General –sustainable Development Issues	+	Water Issues	(+)	Solid Wastes Issues	(+)	Soil Issues	(+)
Air Quality Issues	(+))	Climate Change and Energy Issues	(+)	Public Health Issues	(+)	Biodiversity-Fauna-FloralIssues	(+)
Cultural Heritage Issues	(+)	Landscape Issues	(+)	Population-Asset Management	(+)	Sea Pollution Issues	(+)
Comments on Potential Impacts							
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are not expected to have any potential negative environmental impact . On the contrary the rational of this PA, IP and SO are promoting indirectly environmental protection in every aspect							
Implementation of programme BALKAN-MEDITERREAN above mentioned specific IP and SO are expected to have direct positive impact related to sustainable Development Issues							

1.11.3 Priority Axis 3 – Technical Assistance

Priority Axis 3 “Technical Assistance” is a tool for the enhancement of the programme management and is not expected to have a negative impact on the environment. Of course proper management and programme implementation enhances the efficiency of the relevant actions. In that sense Priority Axis 3 “Technical Assistance” can be seen as an horizontal action with an indirect positive potential impact on the environment

1.12 ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAMME

The assessment of the overall impacts of the Programme to the nine examined environmental aspects is presented in the following table. The table is extracted by providing scores to the direct and indirect positive or negative impacts of each specific objectives of the priority axes in each environmental target. The total scores are presented below according to the following rule:

Positive impacts: **+2 units**

Indirect positive impact: **+1 unit**

Neutral impact: **0 units**

Indirect negative impact: **-1 unit**

Negative impact: **-2 units**

In the last vertical column, the total assessed impact for each environmental aspect is presented taking into account the measures in both priority axes. In the last horizontal column, the total impact in each priority axis is presented.

By assessing the environmental impacts of the BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN Programme, the following conclusions can be derived:

Table ES 10. Cumulative Assessment of BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN implementation impacts to the Environmental Targets

ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS.	PRIORITY AXIS 1: ENTREPRENSHIP AND INNOVATION	PRIORITY AXIS 2: ENVIRONMENT	TOTAL
General –sustainable Development Issues	6	6	12
Water Issues		5	5
Solid Wastes Issues		5	5
Soil Issues		5	5
Air Quality Issues		5	5
Climate Change and Energy Issues		5	5
Public Health Issues		5	5
Biodiversity-Fauna-Flora Issues-Flora-Fauna		5	5
Cultural Heritage Issues		5	5

Landscape Issues		5	5
Population-Materials Asset Management Issues		5	5
Sea Pollution Issues		5	5
TOTAL	6	61	67

1.13 MEASURES TO MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The main points that need to be addressed, so that the environmental effectiveness of the BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN Programme is enhanced and the maximum results are accomplished, are summarized below:

- Promotion of the maximum cooperation for the utilization of the Programme funds and development possibilities. In order for the maximum results to be achieved, the cross – border character of the Programme must be utilized and priority should be given to activities that enhance the cooperation between the two countries, targeting to the jointly facing of the environmental problems. This cooperation will result to the effective short and long-term improvement of the natural and human environment.
- Aim to the maximum synergy of the sectoral strategies and the regional relevant Programme. Both the limited available resources of the Programme and the cross – border character demand the supplementation by sectoral and regional strategies. In this framework, and especially for the environmental sector, the maximum possible synergy with the business Programme of the new Programming period must be investigated.
- Focus on the special environmental needs of the cooperation area. Before the funding of the activities, the sectors of the Programme must be set in order of precedence, focusing on the needs of the area.
- Aim to maximum result through the assessment of the cost and benefit of the proposed projects. It is very important to assess as many as possible parameters during the selection of the proposals, so as to fund actions that will bring the maximum results.
- Evaluation of the local disparities that are detected in the area during the selection of the projects that will be funded, aiming to the development of the less developed parts of the cooperation area. Through this direction, the maximum utilization of the fund will be accomplished and the strategic objectives of the Programme will be succeeded.

- Aim to communication and exchange of best practices and methods. The cross – border cooperation may contribute to the exchange of know-how between the two countries. This exchange is very important for the development of new business sectors and the competitiveness improvement in the area, securing the economic development and increasing employment. The transfer of best practices is of great importance, especially in cases where one country is more developed than the other.
- Utilization of the existing infrastructures and human scientific resources of the cooperation area.
- Full implementation of the European and national legislative framework regarding the environmental licensing of projects and activities that are included in the field of the BALKAN-MEDITERRANEAN 2014-2020 Programme

1.14 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM

The monitoring of the BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN Programme is one of the main factors for the successful implementation of the Programme and one of the main requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The monitoring of the Programme and of its environmental impacts should be ensured at all stages in order to identify immediately and deal with the non-conformities. This is important in order to undertake all the necessary corrective activities, if required.

The correct choice of the indicators is an essential precondition for the successful monitoring of the Programme. The indicators will contribute to the evaluation of the Programme results. The proposed indicators that are presented below are specific and qualitative and can be monitored during the approval of the projects.

In table ES 12, that follows in the next page , suggested Indicators Monitoring the Environment are presented

Table ES 11.Suggested Environmental Monitoring Indicators for BALKAN- MEDITERRANEAN

Selected thematic objective	Selected IP	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
PRIORITY AXIS 2 ENVIRONMENT.										
Thematic Objective 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6c: Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage	SO 2.1. Maintain biodiversity and natural ecosystems by strengthening networking and management of protected areas, including Natura 2000	IP 6.c SO 2.1	Level of sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage	Rating on a scale from 1 - 10	Established through survey	2014	To be established after baseline survey: increasing sustainability	Survey among selected key actors	2018, 2023
			IP 6.c SO 2.1	Strategies/policies/plans/models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number			10 (2023)	Project reports	annually
				Designated areas addressed (of which Natura 2000 sites)	Number			15 (7) (2023)	Project reports	annually
				Networks of transnational cooperation established for natural & cultural conservation	Number			8 (2013)	Project reports	annually

Selected thematic objective	Selected IP	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
	6 f: Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution	SO 2.2. Promote cooperation and networking aiming to introduce innovative technologies for efficient management of the waste sector, the soil and the water sector .	IP 6.f	Efficient resources' management increased (scale to be established)	Rating on a scale from 1-10	Established through survey	2014	To be established after baseline survey: increasing sustainability	Survey among selected key actors	2018, 2023
			SO 2.2							
			IP 6.f	Strategies/policies/plans/models and tools jointly developed and tested	Number			8 (2013)	Project reports	annually
			SO 2.2	Technologies' implementation related to the water efficient management	Number			5 (2013)	Project reports	annually
				Networks of transnational cooperation established to improve resource management efficiency	Number			3 (2013)	Project reports	annually

Selected thematic objective	Selected IP	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
Thematic Objective 11 Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations		SO 2.3. Develop skills for better environmental management and increase governance capacities	IP 11 SO 2.3	Increase in compliance with EU specific environmental legislation	%	0%	2014	5%	Projects reports Programme annual report	2018, 2023
			IP 11 SO 2.3	Trained stakeholders (of which public servants)	Number			100 (70) (2013)	Project reports	annually
				Training programmes' implemented	Number			12 (2013)	Project reports	annually
				Networks of transnational cooperation established between public administrators dealing with environmental legislation enforcement	Number			4 (2013)	Project reports	annually

LEGEND	Strictly Environmental Indicator	Sustainable Development Indicator	
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