A close collaboration and support in the preparations for the negotiations of the environmental Chapter 27.

THE PROJECT

Environment Accession Project 3 (ENVAP 3) is a 4-year project funded by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the period (2016 – 2020) that responds to Serbia’s EU accession environmental challenge.

Working in close collaboration with The Ministry of Environmental Protection the project provides targeted support to prepare for the negotiations of the environmental Chapter 27. The project objective is to strengthen The Ministry’s ability to manage EU environmental approximation processes and efficiently prepare and take part in the upcoming EU accession negotiations for Chapter 27.

VISION STATEMENT

Serbia has successfully opened and closed negotiating chapter 27 and is prepared to implement it.

MISSION STATEMENT – WHAT DOES THIS PROJECT DO?

ENVAP 3 focus on three interlinked activities:

• Support to negotiations
• Support regarding communication of negotiation related to issues for Chapter 27
• Support to Serbian EPA in management of environmental information for Chapter 27 negotiations
ENVAP 3

A close collaboration and support in the preparations for the negotiations of the environmental Chapter 27.

ENVAP ACHIEVEMENTS UNTIL NOW

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has supported Serbia’s preparations for the forthcoming EU accession negotiations since 2011 through Environment Accession Project 1 and 2 (ENVAP1 and ENVAP2). ENVAP1 project focused on increasing understanding regarding EU negotiations process and demands on the environmental sector. ENVAP2 mainly focused on screening stage of negotiations and contributed to the positive assessment from the EU side – proposal to open negotiations without additional conditions (benchmarks). ENVAP3 is fully involved into preparation for negotiations – supporting development of the Negotiating Position in general but also contributing to approximation process of specific directives and regulations. Meetings, workshops, seminars are the main tools for implementation of ENVAP3 activities. From the start of the project until mid 2018 with support of ENVAP3 about 110 events (at the level of chapter 27 or sector and directive specific) were organized with about 2000 participants. When working with national authorities, ENVAP3 is relying on Swedish EPA and other Swedish and international expertise, widely involves national experts, including experts from Serbia’s scientific organisations.

BACKGROUND

The European Council granted Serbia membership candidate status in 2012 and association negotiations with Serbia started in January 2014.

THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS represent the final stage of the integration process of a Candidate Country to the European Union.

SCREENING.

Once accession negotiations are opened, the European Commission investigate the candidate country in a screening process. Positive conclusion of the Screening report means invitation to the country to submit the Negotiating Position and open negotiations on the chapter.

EU RULES (ACQUIS) are divided into 35 different policy fields (chapters), such as transport, energy, environment, etc., each of which is negotiated separately.

CHAPTER 27 is the EU environment and climate change policy, for sustainable development and protection of the environment for present and future generations. It comprises over 200 major legal acts. Compliance requires significant investment and a strong and well-equipped administration at national and local level.

THE PROJECTS ENVAP1 and ENVAP2 have been successful in supporting Serbia with preparations for upcoming EU accession negotiations.

ENVAP 3 continues to support the Ministry in planning and implementing approximation