

ENVAP 3

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

THE PROJECT

Environment Accession Project 3 (ENVAP 3) has been four-year project funded by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and carried out by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for the period 2016–2020 that responds to Serbia's EU accession environmental challenge. Under the request of Serbian government, the implementation period for ENVAP 3 was extended to April 2022.

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.

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 investments 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 the upcoming EU accession negotiations.

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

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 focuses on three interlinked activities:

- Support to negotiations.
- Support regarding communication of negotiations related to issues for Chapter 27.
- Support to Serbian EPA in management of environmental information for Chapter 27 negotiations.

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ENVAP ACHIEVEMENTS UNTIL NOW

Since 2011 The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has supported Serbia's preparations for the forthcoming EU accession negotiations 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 the screening stage of negotiations and contributed to the positive assessment from EU – a proposal to open negotiations without additional conditions (benchmarks).

ENVAP3 is fully involved in preparation for negotiations supporting development of the Negotiating Position in general, but also contributing to the approximation process of specific directives and regulations. Meetings, workshops and seminars are the main tools for the implementation of ENVAP3 activities. From the start of the project until mid-2020 with support of ENVAP3 approx. 260 events (at the level of Chapter 27 or sector and directive specific) were organized with approx. 3600 participants. When working with national authorities, ENVAP3 is relying on Swedish EPA, other Swedish and international expertise and widely involving national experts, including experts from Serbia's scientific organizations.

The approval by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the official submission of the Negotiating Position for Chapter 27 in January 2020 for negotiations is the major achievement of the ENVAP3 supported preparatory process.

THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS represent the final stage of the integration process of a candidate country to the European Union. The European Council granted Serbia membership candidate status in 2012 and the association negotiations with Serbia started in January 2014.

SCREENING

Once accession negotiations are opened, the European Commission investigate the candidate country in a screening process. A positive conclusion of the Screening report enables an invitation to the country to submit a Negotiating Position and open negotiations on the chapter. For Chapter 27 such an invitation to submit the Negotiating Position was received by Serbia in December 2016.

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

