

SERBIA AND SWEDEN FOR CHAPTER 27

CHAPTER 27 APPROXIMATION

CHAPTER 27 - Chapter 27 on Environment and Climate Change, comprises over 200 major legal acts covering various sectors. EU environmental requirements are divided into about 75 main legal acts or groups of legal acts into the following subchapters:



When aspiring to join the European Union, a country aligns its national laws, rules and procedures in order to give effect to the entire body of EU law. This is called the approximation process. Further on, the country has to implement and enforce these aligned requirements.

The Chapter 27 approximation is a demanding process for national institutions – both to increase its capacity and to make large scale investments in infrastructure. Support from EU, multilateral and bilateral assistance plays an important role to strengthen the environment and climate reform in Serbia.

SWEDISH – SERBIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Sweden is the lead donor for this sector in Serbia. The scope of the Swedish support covers all the main aspects of Chapter 27 from negotiations to legal, institutional and investment support.


SWEDEN

<p>1 Lead Donor for Chapter 27</p>	<p>4 Cooperation agreements with the Ministry for Environmental Protection, municipalities and NGOs</p>	<p>7 Supports policy planning, legal system development, investment planning, implementation and public participation</p>
<p>2 12 MEUR for environmental improvements (2016–2020)</p>	<p>5 Links environment reforms and democracy reforms</p>	<p>8 Supports infrastructure investments (i.e. Western Balkans Investment Framework) and is catalytic to EU support and the Green Agenda and Economic Investment Plan for the Western Balkans</p>
<p>3 About 2 MEUR/year for the Chapter 27 reform</p>	<p>6 Contributes to donor coordination on topics such as waste, water and air pollution</p>	


In the beginning of 2021, these are 12 important projects being implemented:

- Environmental Accession Project, **ENVAP3**, focusing on Chapter 27 negotiations support. Implemented in cooperation between the Swedish EPA and Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) (2016–2022)
- Chemical Management project, **KEMI**, implemented together with the Swedish Chemicals Agency and MEP, focusing on improved chemical management (2016–2022)
- Support to Local Self-Governments in Serbia** on the Road to EU Accession: Improving Service Quality, Stakeholder Dialogue and Local Self-Government Efficiency, implemented in cooperation between Standing Conference of Towns- National Association of Serbian Local Authorities and Municipalities and Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, focusing on environmental service delivery including waste management and waste reporting in Serbian Municipalities (2015-2021)
- Climate Smart Bio-waste Management Challenge project** with UNDP supports practical pilot solutions for bio-waste treatment and climate mitigation, implemented together with MEP (2019–2021)
- Eco-system project** with Young Researchers on environmental NGO network support including Coalition 27 and Chapter 27 Shadow report (2019–2023)


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NGO
Employment opportunities project with HELP organization, supporting socially vulnerable groups, including informal waste collectors (2017–2020)




Support to regional cooperation, including activities in Serbia, on **nature protection** with the NGOs: Nature based solutions, implemented in cooperation with IUCN, and Protected areas for nature and people, implemented in cooperation with WWF Adria (2020–2022)




Priority Environmental Infrastructure for Development, **PEID**, focusing on wastewater in Niš and Čačak, implemented in cooperation with MEP (2016–2021).



Industrial Emission Directive Project, **IED project**, implemented in cooperation with Belgrade University and MEP, focusing on improving environmental standards in industry and inspection capacity on municipal level (2018–2021)



Environmental Infrastructure Support Program, **EISP2**, focusing on investment planning and implementation (for example, introduction of solid waste separation and green waste composting together with EU funding in 25 municipalities), implemented in cooperation with MEP (2016–2022)



Climate Pact for Impact project with WWF Adria Serbia focusing on climate education (2019–2021)

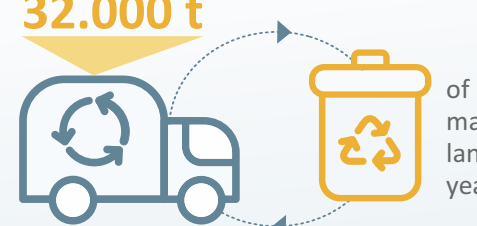
The Swedish support strategy to the Western Balkans is under review for a possible extension up to 2027, aligning with EU support to the Green Agenda.

SWEDEN IS SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES AIMING FOR:



Prevention of about **40.000.000 tons** of untreated sewage entering Serbian waters (PEID project)

Increase of recycling rate to 15% across the four regions Duboko, Pirot, Srem-Mačva and Pančevo, and diverting over **32.000 t** of recyclable material from landfills each year (EISP2)



Introduction of IED requirements enabling a potential reduction of up to

- 70%** of particulate matter
- 50%** of sulphur oxides
- 70%** of nitrogen oxides
- 65%** of volatile organic compounds

and saving about **20%** of energy and water for large industrial plants (IED project)

Climate education:

- 29** trainers
- 100** teachers
- 1500** school children
- 250** students

(Climate Pact for Impact project)

