

# ENVAP4



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

## THE PROJECT

Environment Accession Project 4 (ENVAP4) is a four-year project that responds to Serbia's EU accession environmental challenge, funded by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and carried out by The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for the period 2022–2026.

Working in close collaboration with The Ministry of Environmental Protection the project provides targeted support to Serbia's Chapter 27 environment and climate change negotiations and approximation\*.

**ENVAP1, ENVAP2 and ENVAP3** have been successful in supporting Serbia with preparations for the upcoming EU accession negotiations.

**ENVAP4** continues to support the Ministry in the planning and implementation of the environment approximation. Working methods include exchange of the Swedish EPA expert knowledge, information and experience, review of selected approximation and negotiations related materials, developing assessments, approaches, plans and other documents as part of agreed activities, organising conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings, meetings, study tours, expert missions.

**THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE** is to strengthen the Ministry's capacity in an inclusive management of the approximation and negotiations process, to align Serbia's standards and policies for environmental protection and climate change with EU requirements.

## VISION STATEMENT

Serbia has successfully negotiated and closed Chapter 27, the approximation of Chapter 27 is advanced, leading to a higher level of environmental protection and contributing to an improved quality of life for Serbian citizens.

## MISSION STATEMENT

ENVAP4 focuses on two interlinked groups of activities while supporting the Ministry:

- Strengthening a leading role in coordinating Chapter 27 approximation and negotiations, progress monitoring, reporting and priority-based planning.
- Strengthening the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the Chapter 27 requirements.

When working with national authorities, ENVAP4 is relying on Swedish EPA, other Swedish and international expertise and widely involving national experts, including experts from Serbia's scientific organizations.

\* Approximation includes transposition, implementation and enforcement.

# ENVAP4

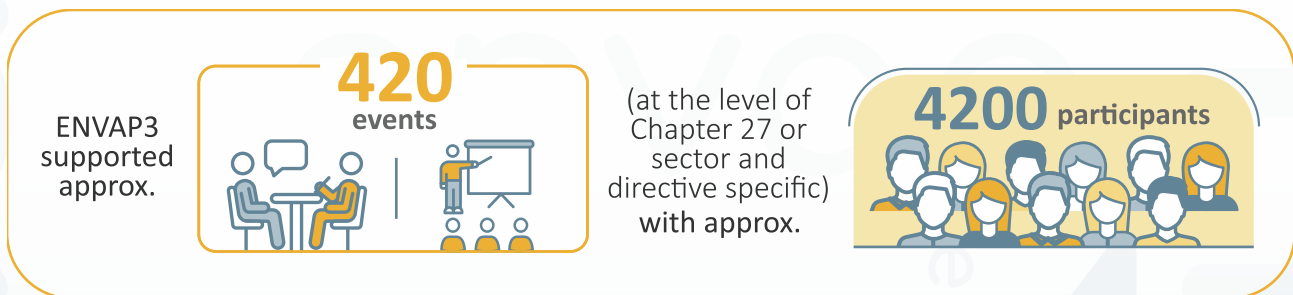
A close collaboration and support in the preparations for the negotiations and approximation of Chapter 27



## 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 in three phases. ENVAP1 focused on increasing understanding regarding the 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 was fully involved in the preparation for negotiations and supporting Negotiating Position development process, but also contributing to the approximation process of specific directives and regulations. Meetings, workshops and seminars were the main tools for the implementation of ENVAP3 activities.



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.

Cluster 4 “Green agenda and sustainable connectivity” was opened during the Accession Conference with Serbia at Ministerial level on 14 December 2021, also meaning opening of Chapter 27 for negotiations together with other cluster 4 chapters (14-Transport policy, 15-Energy and 21-Trans-European networks).

**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 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 accession negotiations with Serbia started in January 2014.

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.