

Working at the regional level. Results and findings

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NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

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- DCM No.175, date 19.1.2011 "On the approval of the National Waste Management Strategy and Plan"
- Prepared and approved in the political context of the Stabilization and Association Agreement which sets the bases for cooperation between Albania and the European Communities in the field of environment, including waste.
- Follows the principles and requirements of the EU waste legislation, which has also been transposed or on the way to be transposed in national legislation.
- Ambitions for an integrated waste management in Albania, based on the belief that EU and other donors support will follow the adoption of EU policy and legislation in Albania.
- Ambitions of the strategy impossible to be achieved with domestic funding only. EU and international support is crucial.

REGIONAL PLANS

- National strategy and plan to be followed by Regional Plans for each of the 12 regions of Albania
- Regional plans are a reflection of the national ambitions at the regional level
- So far, almost all the regions have a draft Waste Management Plan

Role of regions for waste management

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- Law no. 8652, date 31.7.2000 "On the organization and functioning of the local government"
- Law no. 9869, date.04.02.2008 "On the borrowing of the local government"
- Law no. 10119, date 23.04.2009 "On territorial planning" , changed.
- Law no. 10463, date 22.09.2011 "On the integrated waste management" , changed.

Regional solutions vs. local solutions

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- 10-11 Regional landfills and possibly a Waste to Energy Plant - to benefit from the economies of scale
- Cement factories Infrastructure can be adopted to co-processing (waste recovery – WtoE) in compliance with permitting legislation
- Approximate number of regional landfills was estimated after the consideration of:
 - Distances,
 - state of road and railroad infrastructure
 - transport costs
 - economies of scale - norms for number of population served as per experience of other countries
- Smaller scale landfills can be built in remote areas

Regional plans vs. regional landfills

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- Regional plan – covers the territory of jurisdiction of each region (administrative boundaries) to ease the process of cooperation, coordination, monitoring and reporting
- Regional landfills may be shared between more regions or parts of regions
- The term regional used to contrast the term local, but not necessarily one landfill will be dedicated to only one region
- 10-11 future regional landfills as opposed to more than 65 current dumpsites
- Potential Waste to Energy Plants (using and adopting the existing cement factories)

Own Functions of the Region

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- Preparation and implementation of regional policies and their harmonization with state policies at the level of the region (**this includes waste policy**),
- Every other function of its own given by law (**waste planning**)
- All functions that are delegated by one or more LGUs within its territory, according to an agreement entered into between the parties (**therefore waste management**)
- Functions that are delegated by the central government (**e.g. coordination between more LGUs than the ones under its own jurisdiction**).

Own Functions of the LGUs

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- Collection, removal and processing of waste
- urban planning, land management (also related to the site planning for waste facilities)
- Central government can support financially LGUs to reach the national norms and standards when they do not possess sufficient funds or means

Regions & their waste plans

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- Coordination of LGUs under its jurisdiction (preparation and implementation of regional policies and their harmonization with state policies at the level of the region (therefore waste policy))
- Approval of the Regional Waste Plans (every other function of its own given by law (Waste planning))
- **INPAEL and SELEA at the regional level:**
 - Good relationship with the regions during the preparation of the regional plans
 - However, lack of human capacities in the regions to do this job without outsourcing
 - Must establish a structure on waste, to coordinate the revision of the plans every 6 years, monitor the work of the municipalities and report the regional achievements at the central level (the right to establish administrative structures for carrying their own functions and competencies according to legislation)
 - 12 drafts of regional plans in the period 2008-2014, most of them not considered for approval and none of them implemented yet.

Regional plans

| | Region having a waste plan | Year of completion of the draft | Prepared through | Approved by the Council of the Region |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Korca | 2008 | Outsourcing | |
| 2. | Vlora | 2008 | Outsourcing | |
| 3. | Durres | 2008 | Outsourcing | |
| 4. | Tirana | 2011 | Outsourcing | Po |
| 5. | Elbasan | 2011 | Outsourcing | |
| 6. | Shkodra | 2013 | Outsourcing | Po |
| 7. | Lezha | 2013 | Outsourcing | |
| 8. | Dibra | 2014 | Outsourcing | Po |
| 9. | Fier | 2014 (final draft not presented yet) | Outsourcing | |
| 10. | Kukes | 2014 (final draft not presented yet) | Outsourcing | |
| 11. | Gjirokaster | 2014 (final draft not presented yet) | Outsourcing | |
| 12. Tiranë 20.05.14 | Berat | 2014 (final draft not presented yet) | Outsourcing | |

Working at regional level

- A Regional Waste Working Group was established at each region with the presence of representatives of each municipality (**the right to establish committees, boards, commissions for carrying out their own functions**)
- Regional Waste Working Groups cooperated with SELEA team to prepare the waste plans
- The process was to some extent an on-the job-training, but a lot more is needed to rise both regional and local capacities
- The Regional Waste Working Group needs to be stable to have a chance to improve

the right to

- enter into a contract;

(all functions that are delegated by one or more LGUs within its territory, according to a agreement entered into between the parties (therefore w

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Role of the region

Region may engage with the supervision of the operator of the regional landfill and/or other regional waste operators (**the right to enter into a contract**) when the waste facility covers

1. all the region (**this function can be delegated by the LGUs within its territory, according to an agreement**) Or
2. anonymous companies can be established with the representation of all the LGUs interested to share the same facilities - case of Korca Region Waste Management (**The right to:**
 - be organized in associations
 - create other legal persons;
 - have inter-communal cooperation using one of these methods:
 - an agreement for carrying jointly one or more functions;
 - contracting one or more LGUs to carry one or more functions;
 - establish a subject of joint competencies through joint agreements between two or more LGUs which each other, or LGUs and central government bodies

Comparative feasibility studies

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- Regional plans include information on potential landfill sites as suggested by the municipalities
- Each region may outsource comparative feasibility studies to define the proper location of a regional landfill
- A comparative feasibility study may be undertaken at the national level to identify the best sites that satisfy both environmental and economic criteria for regional landfills
 - distances from residential and recreation areas, waterways, water bodies and other agricultural or urban sites;
 - existence of groundwater, coastal water or nature protection zones in the area;
 - geological and hydrogeological conditions in the area;
 - risk of flooding, subsidence, landslides or avalanches on the site;
 - protection of the nature or cultural patrimony in the area.
 - land ownership,
 - visual impact, etc.

Comparative feasibility studies

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- indicate which LGUs
 - would find it cost-efficient to share the landfill and
 - would be needed to cooperate so to reach the economy of scale.

Comparative feasibility studies

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For each region:

1. Define and compare different possible implementations (scenarios of landfill positions)
2. Compare and define the cheapest solution for the possible positions of regional landfills
3. Simulate and calculate the possibility of reducing the transport and total operation cost with transfer stations in order to reduce the cost.
4. Define the corresponding investment costs and operation costs (LEK/inhab/year.)
5. Define best (cheapest) possible zones of implementation of landfills and transfer station
6. Define most interesting steps of implementation
7. Propose adaptations of regional/national waste management plans that can be used during the 6 annual review of such plans

Detailed design and investment for regional landfills

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- Regions must coordinate pre – agreements between the LGUs that intent to share the landfill before the region can approach the
 - central government (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure - in charge of the financial coordination for ensuring the necessary funding for waste facilities).
 - Donors (the right to create income from: ... grants, ... aids or donations)
 - Banks (the right to borrow funds for local public purposes)
- The above mentioned legal opportunities are **NOT YET** properly exploited for waste management at the regional and local level.

Regional opportunities

- **Public Private Partnership on waste management is possible**
- Possible involvement of the region with regional facilities can be explored
- Elements of integrated waste management infrastructure possible at the regional level:
 - Recycling industry for different waste streams (more than 57 recycling businesses at the regional level: 21 plastic, 16 metal, 7 used oil, 4 paper, 3 batteries)
 - Transfer centers as intermediary between the LGUs and the future regional landfills
 - Regional compost facilities
 - Regional landfills
 - (The right of LGU to carry out an economic activity)
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| | EU DIRECTIVE | CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST (€uro) in the regions | |
|---|--|---|-------------|
| | | REGIONAL | NATIONAL |
| 1 | Waste Framework | 121,000,000 or 78% | 154,464,000 |
| 2 | Landfill directive (infrastructure alone) | 148,000,000 | 168,000,000 |
| | Regional Landfills (11) | 66,000 | 86,000,000 |
| | Closure of existing dumpsites | 35,000,000 | 0 |
| | Windrow composting plants (12) | 24,000,000 | 0 |
| | Inert waste landfills | 12,000,000 | 0 |
| | Hazardous waste treatment facility | 5,000,000 | 0 |
| 3 | Packaging & Packaging Waste | | 1,200,000 |
| 4 | Batteries & Accumulators | | 900,000 |
| 5 | WEEE | | 2,000,000 |

Expected funding resources

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- waste producers (measures they take themselves);
- charges paid by waste producers to waste management service providers;
- environment fund;
- EU pre-accession: grants from the IPA;
- EU post-accession
- grants from other international donors;
- loans from international funding institutions;
- loans from bilateral financing institutions;
- loans from commercial banks;
- private capital (through PPP arrangements).
- others

Conclusions

- Regions, like other LGUs have many legal rights that have not been used so far, at least with regard to waste management
- All the 12 regional plans have been prepared with outsourcing
- 5 draft regional waste plans are ready but not approved since 3-6 years
- None of them is implemented
- Regions are willing to be engaged with waste management
- They should rise capacities, both number and quality people to deal with waste issues
- They should promote or carry through outsourcing the comparative feasibility studies for the new regional landfills and the rest of the integrated waste management network in their territories
- They should coordinate the agreements between the LGUs before they apply for funding
- From the PERL pillars (Policy, Education, Resources, Legislation) E & R are still far from being achieved and need careful commitment

Thank you for your attention!