

National Conference | Discussions MINUTES

Type of event:	National Conference: "Waste Management sector, challenges and opportunities"	Minutes by:	Erton KASHTA [dldp] Erida DOBRUSHI [dldp]
Organized by:	Council of Ministers, EUD, SCD (DLDP)	Participants:	No 99 (the list will be attached)

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reference	issue	conclusions/recommendations
Mr. Felix Schmidt dldp/CSD	Sessions' conclusions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It has been done a lot of efforts in the legal framework to create laws and bylaws in align with EU directive;• These objectives are ambitious and needs investments which are not available for the moment, but what is clear is that all the operation and maintenance sots of collection transport and treatment should be financed by local funds or local financial means, so it is important to develop a cost and tariff analysis. Develop cost system for cost analysis for planning, and decision for optimization and reduction of cost and the importance of tariff to ensure the sustainability of the service;• There is a need for taking political decision on the principle of "polluters pays";• It is needed political decision for the repartition of tariff on the system financing between people and businesses;• While waiting for international funds to be available and taking into consideration that the landfill cannot be done in little time, it is needed a step by step approach and minimum standards;• LGUs are not in the optimal size to organize collection and transport and then it is needed intervention in the regional level for this topic;• There is a lack of data which are necessary for setting tariffs.
Ms. Ledia Muca EUD, Albania	The approval deadline for 9 waste management plans and harmonization with expected changes to the law on urban planning.	<p>[Comment/answer by Mr. Pellumb Abeshi - MoE]</p> <p>Waste management planning is a continuous exercise of governance, which should be subject to continuous improvement. The above plans are based on the current situation and management intends to do analysis, assessment of situation, analyze the factors and determine the measures to be taken at the regional level. Of course, this should be aligned with the national strategy and waste management.</p> <p>An important part of all legislation adopted, strategic documents that are in the approval process is the consulting and data collection for</p>

		urban planning at regional and local levels. Of course, that should be administratively reviewed and targets set should be improved and harmonized with the strategic objectives and national integration strategy and development.
Ms. Anni Kallfa Albania Development Fund	Inert waste management	[comment/answer by: Viktor Tusha - Mayer of Lezha Municipality] Municipality of Lezha model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lezha does deposit such waste to fill the marsh; • An alternative may be to deposit such waste in the stone carriers, which have been closed.
Ms. Stefania Fantuz Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo	Cooperation with private recycling sector.	Glass waste collection is at very low rates. There are private companies ready to receive different recycled waste, especially glass waste.
Aida Gojani Member of Commission, Water Regulatory Entity	The need for an Regulatory Entity for tariff setting.	It is important to be considered as a good practice the experience of the Water Regulatory Authority in setting tariffs for water management, especially wastewater, and ultimately water treatment plants. It is a fact that the experience and capabilities of local government are clearly insufficient to implement tariff setting methodology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Regulatory Entity may be in charge for defining cost and tariff at the national scale, similarly as it does with the water tariff.
Mr. Blendi Çuçi Minister of Local issues	Need of minimum standard on waste management and the role and responsibility of the state on actual waste situation management and some concerns on cost and tariff calculation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government should define a minimal standard related to waste management, which would be obligatory for the local government; • A new concept of defining tariff should be introduced by setting it on the number of family members and not on individual basis. • The Government should take the responsibility and appropriate measures to provide a solution for the issue of old dump sites, which in case of several LGUs merging, will be faced the problem of a bigger population for the new LGUs. It should not be allowed to base the calculation of the tariff on

		<p>the old dumpsites, and then to become an obligation for the citizens of the newly created LGU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investments on Landfills should be a full responsibility of the central government. Neither local nor regional level should have any responsibility to this regard.
Ms. Sofije Simoni Gesellschaft Schweiz - Albanien	The Swiss experience as a good practice	There are a lot of issues and problems that may be improved referring to good practices and Swiss experience. These experiences will support and help Albania to accomplish the expected standards.
Redion Biba Representative of Co-plan	The impact of administrative and territorial reform on waste management, cooperation schemes and risks evaluation.	Administrative reform will encourage and improve the waste management both in the local and regional level. It is important to clarify institutional and individual roles and responsibilities between central and local government. Also, finding solutions to increase the quality of care should be based on inter-LGUs and PPP schemes (Koplik and Pukë). But we should take in consideration that these schemes have a number of risks which need to be addressed and improved, so that these models can successfully implemented and replicated in other areas and LGUs.
Mr. Artan Rroji Representative of FLAG	Recommendations in respect of government role and the standard of cost and tariff setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be a positive effort if the government will promote the establishment of a minimum standard of waste management as a necessity for waste management process of local governance. • The tariff calculation should be based on landfill costs and this fact is related with the standard of landfill construction. The examples and data analyses given today shows that we do not have a standard on tariff setting, which means that we do not have a standard for the cost of landfill construction. • In addition, the tariff should be calculated based on the number of family members as unit, and not by the family unit itself. • Once the new LGUs will administrate a new territory, which was not under their administration before, the calculation of costs should include also the waste transferring costs for a new/bigger territory.

Mr. Blendi Çuçi Minister of Local issues	The management of waste emergency situation (old dumpsites) and contribution of calculation of cost and tariff in touristic areas/LGUs.	<p>Alternative solutions must be found and the issue should not necessarily be associated with increased cost of service by removing old dump sites created in the country at this point. The government has taken some measures since September 2013 to remove the large amount of waste that we have throughout the territory. In tourist areas, in cooperation with the local government we must engage additional forces including the army – which should not be included in this process, but the government considers an emergency situation created by the waste and the land must be cleaned by the dump sites created these 20 years. In this context, I personally believe that the strategy of waste management and cost calculation methodology should start from the “0 point”.</p> <p>Also, in terms of costs and tariffs in LGUs that are also tourist areas, where production of waste is not made not only by people living in these LGUs, but also by others who benefits and use it for tourism purposes, the calculation of cost and tariffs should not be entirely the responsibility of LGU and its population. In this case, we may estimate the cost, but not the tariff/per citizen, as this bill should not be paid only by the local government, because it is a considerable additional cost.</p>
Ms. Narin Panariti SELEA/ IPA Project, Technical Assistance to Ministry of Environment	Responsibility of state in dumpsites cleaning and the setting of tariffs based on quality of service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumpsites which are actually scattered in different LGUs and which will be within one bigger LGU after the territorial reform takes place, should be considered as hot-spots, thus being a direct responsibility of the state. • I think the cost calculation should be based on the level / quality of services provided and not unified to all territory. The tariff should reflect the quality of service.
Mr. François Begeot, Head of the Operations Section for Infrastructure and Economic	Intervention: conclusions and recommendations.	<p><u>Conclusions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One challenge is Capacity building for the staff dealing with waste management at all levels (securing staff dedicated, informing training on waste management issues, contractual issues for the waste management companies, etc.);

Reform, EUD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another challenge is the waste separation at source, though being a legal request since 2011, is far from being a practise in Albania. Same situation holds with waste transfer centres and recyclable waste separation centres (except Lezha) and other waste related infrastructure; • Another challenge consists in the waste disposal facilities; • Inert waste, hazardous waste, hospital waste and animal waste landfills do not exist; • It seems that no developments of the regulations at the local level has happened so far; <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve definition of cost and tariff. Investments and further operation and management of waste systems must be carefully designed. Waste service has a cost; • Improve recycling, reusing and reducing the waste, along the EU Directive; • Optimize waste collection and transport through interLGU schemes; • Optimization of waste transport through transfer station; • Campaigns on waste quantity and measurement; • Organize public awareness and behavior changes; • It is not only important to have laws but also regulations should be implemented; • Waste legal framework and strategy should be linked with consultation and collection of data for territorial planning at local and regional level as well as harmonized with strategic objectives and national strategy for development and integration • Waste management planning is a continuous exercise of the government and should go through continuous improvement.
Ms. Anne Savary, Deputy Director of SDC – Albania	Findings & closing of Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management has not only a direct impact on the quality of life of the population, but it has to do also with the environment risks and the conditions of life of the future generations; • Good waste management has a direct effect on tourism and

overall economic development of the country;

- In 2014, 3 years after the approval of the National Strategy, the situation described and figures shown demonstrate both that good practices exist, but that more coordinated efforts have to be done, to ensure that investments are realized and sufficient budgets are made available for waste management, involving also the private sector;
- It is suggested that Albania develops a realistic national plan (revising the current action plan), with clear roles and responsibilities throughout government levels. Such plan should be based on an agreed upon waste service standard;
- It is equally advised to develop a country monitoring and benchmarking system, in order to enhance informed decision-making;
- As many aspects have to be organized at a larger scale to be cost-effective, the role of regions and inter-LGUs cooperation remain key;
- The territorial reform is seen as an opportunity, allowing both cost optimized waste management schemes and an easier mobilization of regional and local specialists;
- There is commitment in country and there are capacities and good practices developed that need to be promoted and disseminated further;
- We wish that the recommendations of this conference will be followed-up and remaining committed to the waste management sector – despite the challenges it entails, we look forward the further cooperation.

Closing time: 14: 30 PM

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