



Albania: Resource Efficiency

CSO Position paper on engagement of CSOs in planning, programming and monitoring of IPA Funds in Albania – On Resource Efficiency related Funds

This position paper is directed to the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administrations, the Ministry of European Integration, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, the Ministry of Finance, and the European Union Delegation to Albania. It addresses Resource Efficiency issues and comes from a group of CSOs interested in the planning, programming and monitoring of IPA Funds in Albania.

We consider IPA Funds to be very crucial for the sustainable development of our country and we think that the existence of a constructive dialogue between the government and CSOs will help to achieve a more democratic and inclusive process. This paper follows our requests³ to take part in the planning, programming and monitoring of IPA Funds in Albania regarding resource efficiency projects.

Regarding resource efficiency projects, the main IPA Funded projects have been focused on the water supply sector (improvement of drinking water), sewage sector (construction of sewage systems and waste water treatment plants) and also waste management projects (buying sweep machines, waste collection machines and pick up). Even though according to the Albanian 2012 progress report⁴ some progress was made on waste management, uncontrolled dumpsites still remain the main place for waste disposal. According to the law on integrated waste management, each local governmental unit has to design its waste management plan. Until 31 December of 2018 local governmental units must collect waste separately at least for paper, metal, plastic and glass. Waste is currently one of the biggest environmental problems in Albania and separated waste collection is a top priority need for Albania.

Giving the conditions that we as civil society actors do not have any policy dialogue instrument to express our views, opinions and thoughts about potential projects, which would contribute to the sustainable development of the country, as well as to the improvement of the environment state of art⁵, we are presenting this position paper.

Through this position paper CSOs are trying to bring the following recommendations related to the resource efficiency field to your attention:

- Apply the waste management hierarchy in financing of projects: Prevention; Preparation for re-use, Recycling, Energy recovery operations and only then Disposal (construction of landfills). Start planning and implementing incentives to environmentally sound means of managing waste according to the hierarchy.
- Incinerators as the most expensive waste solution should not be financed through the IPA
- Financing of waste prevention, waste separation facilities and waste management standards to be applied throughout the whole country.
- We strongly support financing of waste water treatment plants.

3 Letters sent to Ministry of Integration, line Ministries and EUD to Albania ("Request on engagement of CSOs in the programming of IPA Funds through presence in the consultations of SIF and PIF") on 8 July and 7 September 2012.

4 http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2012/package/al_rapport_2012_en.pdf

5 As recognized by Commission Opinion on Albania's application for membership of the European Union the full compliance with the *acquis* in the field of the environment could be achieved only in the long term and would require substantial levels of investment; efforts in this area should be accelerated. http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2010/package/al_opinion_2010_en.pdf



- Proper implementation of the national waste legislation (contains main European principles like proximity principle and self-sufficiency, precautionary principle, polluter pays principle and producer responsibility) should be a prerequisite for the funding of projects through IPA.
- To request technical support for the analysis of “hot spots” in the field of hazardous waste.

We think that such measures and long term investments are necessary to be fulfilled in the framework of the European Integration process.

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