



ANNEX C1

STANDARD TWINNING ACTION DOCUMENT (THE "TWINNING PROJECT FICHE")

Project title: Strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of water quality

Twinning Reference Number: MK 13 IPA EN 01 16

Publication reference: EuropeAid/ 138-144/DH/ACT/MK

EU funded project

TWINNING INSTRUMENT

Neighbourhood and
Enlargement
Negotiations

CA	Contracting Authority
BCCL	Beneficiary Country Project Leader
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
CFCD	Central Financing and Contracting Department within Ministry of Finance
DEU	Delegation of the European Union
DIS	Decentralized Implementation System
EA	Environmental Administration
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
HMI	Hydro-metrological Institute
HOS	Head of Operating Structure
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
LW	Law on Waters
MIES	<i>Macedonian Environmental Information Centre</i>
MIPD	Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Document
MS	Member state
MoEPP	Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning
NEAP	National environmental action plan
NPAA	National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OS	Operating Structure
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SEI	State Environmental Inspectorate
SC	Steering Committee
VRB	Vardar River Basin

VRBMP	Vardar River Basin Management Plan
VAT	Value Added Tax
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WIS	Water Information System

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Publication reference: EuropeAid/ 138-144/DH/ACT/MK

1.2 Programme: IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building - National Programme for 2013 (IPA/2013/024-109 (EC))

1.3 Twinning Number: MK 13 IPA EN 01 16

1.4 Title: Strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of water quality

1.5 Sector: Environment and Climate Change, Twinning sector: Environment

1.6 Beneficiary country: Beneficiary country¹

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to sustainable development of the country by strengthening the administrative capacities in the field of water management and to improve water quality by supporting the implementation of the water management related legislation including Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks and Climate change.

2.2 Project purpose:

The project purpose is to strengthen the administrative capacities in the area of water management by implementing the appropriate EU acquis. In particular the project will assist the national authorities in drafting the Vardar River basin management plan and in harmonising and implementing secondary legislation in the area of water monitoring and water permitting.

2.3 Contribution to National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Action Plan

This project relates to article 103 of the Stabilization Association Agreement, which mentions that “the Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation in the vital task of combating environmental degradation, with the view to supporting environmental sustainability”. It adds that “Cooperation should focus on several priorities”, including continuous approximation of laws and regulations to Community standards”.

The project is directly linked with the measures identified in the National environmental action plan (NEAP 2) chapter 27.

The need for getting closer to the EU legislation, as well as the implementation of the enacted legislation and secondary legislation is in line with the National program for approximation of the EU legislation where all secondary legislation acts have to be enacted by 2018.

¹ As per Financing Agreement concerning the National Programme Transition Assistance and Institution Building – TAIB 2013 from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance under the Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component –entered into force on 19 December 2014.

This project relates to the recommendations stipulated in the Second Environmental performance review report, published by UNECE. The second EPR covers ten issues of importance to the country related to policymaking, planning and implementation, the financing of environmental policies and projects and the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, in particular the sustainable management and protection of water resources, pollution prevention and control, waste management, forestry, biodiversity and protected areas, and health and environment issues.

3. DESCRIPTION:

The candidate status received in December 2005, entitled the Beneficiary Country to receive Pre-accession Assistance through the IPA Instrument for all five IPA components. According to Article 64 of the IPA Implementing Regulation (EC) No.718/2007, assistance under IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component is granted, among other areas, to the policy on protection of environment. The environment sector plays a key role in the Accession process. Environmental protection is a cross-cutting issue and one of the key *acquis* chapters in the process of negotiation with the EC which candidate countries need to close, before becoming EU member state.

In this perspective, the alignment of the national legislation with the EU requirements has started in accordance with the National Programme for Adoption of the *Acquis* (NPAA). In the area of environment, the NPAA is complemented by the National Environmental Action Plan² which identifies measures towards further transposition and implementation of the EU legislation.

The NPAA, in its Part 3-Ability to Assume the Obligations for Membership, Chapter 27 Environment (3.27), aims at further legal development and harmonisation with the environmental *acquis*, being one of the most challenging components to comply with and implement. In order to enable the timely and effective implementation of the harmonized legal framework, the administrative capacities of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and State Environmental Inspectorate need to be strengthened.

3.1 Background and justification:

The following laws governing the water sector are in force: Law on Environment; Law on Waters (Official Gazette no.87/08, 6/09, 161/09, 83/2010, 51/2011, 44/12, 23/13, 163/13) Law on Water Management Enterprises (Official Gazette no. 51/15); Law on Drinking Water Supply and Urban Wastewater Drainage (Official Gazette no.68/04,28/06,103/08, 17/11, 54/11, 163/13). The Law on Waters (LW) was enacted in 2008. It has defined the framework for the future water resources management, through transposition of the Framework Water Directive (FWD) 2000/60/EC, Directive 76/160/EEC concerning the quality of bathing water, Directive 91/676/EC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, Directive 86/278/EEC on sewage sludge, Directive 1976/464/EC on discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment and Directive 75/440/EC concerning the quality required of water intended for abstraction of drinking water. Apart from national laws also international conventions (Helsinki Convention (Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes) and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context - ESPO, 1991) or agreements/memorandum of understanding are completing the existing national water legislation was ratified by BC.

The Law on Waters (LW) regulates issues pertaining to surface water, including permanent watercourses or streams in which water occasionally flows, lakes, reservoirs and springs, groundwater, coastal land and water habitats and their management including distribution of water protection and conservation of water and protection against harmful effects of water, water facilities and services, organization and financing

² NEAP I and II have been developed to date. The NEAP II is in advanced stage of implementation.

of water management, as well as the conditions, methods and procedures under which they use or release water.

In order to enable the implementation of the law in terms of the water management planning in particular, a number of bylaws referring to the establishment of methodology for drafting, reviewing and updating of the master plan, the manner of preparation of river basin management plans, the content and the manner of preparation of the program of measures, preparation of information and cartographic overviews of activities for waters monitoring, as well as methodology of river basins assessment, (achieving full transposition of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC concerning river basin plan preparation) have been adopted.

The EU funded project: “Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities for Approximation and Implementation of Environmental Legislation in the Area of Water Management” (EuropeAid/132108/D/SER/MK) -TAIB 09 provided a solid basis for the further implementation of the WFD in the country. The project improved transposition of the WFD and GWD through the preparation of bylaws defining ecological status of surface waters and good status of ground water.

The status of transposition of the EU Water Directives especially in monitoring and permitting is still lagging behind. For all relevant water directives (Emission-Control oriented, Monitoring and Reporting, Pollution Prevention and Control) a legal basis exists in the LW. The period of full transposition of the relevant water directives is set between 2016 -2018 and the plan for implementation of the secondary legislation is presented in the NPAA.

According to LW, three types of planning documents need to be adopted, namely: National Strategy for Waters for a period of 30 years, Water Management Master Plan for a period of 20 years and River Basin Management Plans at every six years. In 2010, Water Strategy was prepared and adopted. The Strategy analyzes in detail the state of surface water and groundwater with aim of setting necessary objectives and measures. State is treated from three different aspects – state of water use, state of river training and protection against harmful effects of water and state of water and ecosystem quality.

The National Water Study shall be prepared the latest by end of 2017 which represent a coherent document in Water Management which indicates major financial needs in the sector related to waste water treatment and water supply.

River Basin Management - The new approach to water management set out in the WFD and in the Floods Directive requires water to be assessed and managed on the basis of river basins, rather than according to geographical or political boundaries.

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) - RBMP for Prespa Lake was prepared in 2012; there is ongoing preparation of RBMP for the river Bregalnica, tributary of river Vardar, also for Strumica RB and IPA Project TAIB09 started the preparation of initial elements for characterization of Vardar RBMP.

The Water Department in 2011 was reorganized according to the requirements of the Water Law with new organizational set up. Currently, the Water Department has six (6) Units responsible for: water rights, concessions, management plan documentation, and other three organisational units responsible for each river basin management (Vardar, Crn Drim and Strumica river basins). One of the Units is Vardar river basin management unit that act as Vardar river basin management Authority where 3 persons are employed and it is responsible for preparation and implementation of Vardar River Basin Plan.

Regardless of the large number of adopted laws and bylaws harmonised with the European Union legislation, the need still remains for completion of the existing legal framework with the necessary secondary legislation aimed at providing the mechanisms for monitoring and law enforcement. At the same time, capacities at central and local level have been identified as one of the major weaknesses in the process of country approximation with EU in the sector of environment. In this context, the insufficient institutional and human resource capacities at the central level, as well as of the other relevant

stakeholders (such as in the industrial sector), should be emphasised in terms of the implementation of the EU Directives transposed into the national legislation.

Even if the WFD is transposed into national law there is still insufficient administrative capacity to ensure compliance. The current administrative capacity is lacking in two major areas:

- The overall administrative structure lacks synergy and a clear division of responsibilities.
- The individuals doing the daily work lack relevant experience and tools.

In the frame of the project TAIB 2009 “Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities for Approximation and Implementation of Environmental Legislation in the Area of Water Management” (EuropeAid/132108/D/SER/MK) administrative capacity necessary to achieve WFD compliance through Training Needs Assessment activity where presented.

The capacities of the MEPP, and other national institutions responsible for implementation of LW are not sufficient to cover responsibilities that arise from the LW especially regarding the impact of its provisions on monitoring and permitting system. Consequently, the administrative capacities for water management need to be equipped with sufficient number of staff, with adequate experience and knowledge, and with sufficient understanding of the LW and its provisions. For that reason, trainings need to be delivered to the staff, contributing towards more efficient implementation of the WL and improving their knowledge and experience.

For the purposes of water decision making and management of the water data on the territory of the Country, the Water Information System has been established in the frame of IPA TAIB 2009 Project. For the future permitting system, EXCEL based Abstraction and Water Discharge databases, including supporting decision making tools for water resource modelling and registers of gauging stations and dam layouts were developed under this EU funded water project. However, further data collection and improvement of the permitting system, in particular further adjustment of the permitting system to the WFD requirements and to the new Decrees on the waters classification is requiring.

The TAIB 2009 water project (listed below as no. 8) has provided support in development of priority implementing legislation in water management area aligned with the environmental acquis. In particular, revision to the Law on Waters and development of draft secondary legislation and manuals for implementation of WFD, with regulatory impact assessment was developed under the project.

Capacity building activities for strengthening the administrative capacity on central level and set of trainings for the staff through implementation of short term training plan and development of long term training plan was carried out by the project.

3.2 Linked activities (other international and national initiatives):

The twinning project is connected with the following on-going or recently completed projects and activities and will present their upgrading or it will require close cooperation with the on-going ones. There are no overlaps with the linked activities (projects).

1. Title: “Monitoring of the rivers in the BC- stage 2”,

Project funded by: Swiss Development Cooperation

Duration: 2006-2010

Description: The project aims to reconstruct, rebuild and update the monitoring system of rivers, with the aim of permanent monitoring of qualitative-quantitative data concerning their water status. To date, 7 monitoring stations and a laboratory, and an additional 11 monitoring stations for the installation of the equipment (Swiss), as well as infrastructure connection with the power supply and telephone lines have been put in place. Apart from the supply of equipment and instruments, additional trainings and study visits in the related field are foreseen.

2. Title: “Consultancy during the implementation of the EU Water framework directive in the BC legislation”

Project funded by: GTZ

Duration: 2009

Description: The goal of the project was to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The project prepared secondary legislation providing legal base for development of Planning Documents for Water Management, as planned in NPAA for 2009 and Developing of Administrative Plan for Transferring Water Management Competencies from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

3. Title: “Assistance in the implementation of the Water Law”

Project funded by: GTZ

Duration: 2010-2012

Description: The objective of the project was “the capacities of the Department of Water as the responsible water management body of the MEPP to be improved according to the enforcement of the new Water Law.” The main objectives of the project were: Elaboration of selected permits for water abstractions and waste water discharges on the base of the new Water Law; Establishment of selected water protection zones as the base of a sustainable groundwater resources management; Implementation of a supervision system of waste water discharges and Development of procedures to establish an ecological status for the surface water bodies as a precondition for the assessment of impacts and pressures of water uses.

4. Title: “The preparation of the Prespa Watershed Management Plan (PWMP)”

Project funded by: UNDP project

Duration: 2009-2012 and on-going 2014 - 2016

Description: The RBMP for Prespa was prepared and ongoing project is implementing part of the program of measures from the Plan. The project is supported by Swiss and implemented by UNDP

5. Title: Bregalnica River Basin Management (RBM) project

Project funded by: Swiss government

Duration: ongoing project 2012-2016

Description: The project is providing: concept for establishment and functioning of the river basin management body and institutional support and policy dialogue to the relevant authorities. It also foresees the creation of a RBM fund to carry out smaller infrastructure projects in the water sector. The support in total amounts is provided by the Government of Switzerland (SECO) with time frame of 3,5 years, has 2 components: Bregalnica river basin management (Technical Assistance and know-how transfer) and investments in infrastructure (co-financing of proposed projects on local level).

6. Title: Improvement of the management of transboundary water resources in the Vardar River Basin

Project funded by: CARDS 2003

Duration: 2006-2008

Description: The project contributed to the improvement of the management of transboundary water resources in the Vardar River Basin. The project provided the responsible authorities in the Beneficiary country with program documents which are designed to aid the progress of the Beneficiary country

towards compliance with the European Union Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (EU WFD) and ultimately lead to improved cross-border coordination of shared water resources with counterpart authorities in Greece.

7. Title: Implementation of Flood Directive

Project funded by: Belgium Government

Duration: 2010-2011

Description: One year Project for implementation of Flood Directive in the Beneficiary country started during 2010. The aim of the Project was development of a plan in the region of municipality of Radovis. The project was undertaken with the support of Belgium Government with time frame of 18 months.

8. Title: “Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities for Approximation and Implementation of Environmental Legislation in the Area of Water Management” (EuropeAid/132108/D/SER/MK)

Project funded by: IPA funded project

Duration: 12.2013-12.2015

Description: The project objectives were to assist national authorities to harmonize the legislation in the area of water management and to strengthen their administrative capacities for implementation of water management legislation with specific focus on Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The project aimed to develop four initial elements of the Vardar River Basin Management Plan.

This included identification and description of surface and ground water bodies followed by classification according to their specific type in VRB. The System A descriptors: ecoregion, altitude, size and geology typologies have been taken for initial characterization of the water bodies. Numeric identification by assignment of Pfafstetter code to label any river network/river catchment is completed for all river catchments. The coding of the Surface Water Bodies for the second cycle 2015-2021 of the WFD based RBM plans, has to refer to a hydrological coding system. Each surface water body is assigned with Pfafstetter code, placing the SWB in the logical tree corresponding to the water system.

Definition and identification of reference conditions, in absence of sufficient and accurate data were determined based on the available data and expert judgment, including single data sampling campaign on a number of locations.

Preliminary pressure and impact assessment to review the impact of human activity on surface and ground waters in order to identify water bodies that are at risk of failing to meet the WFD environmental objectives was completed.

Protected areas are described as areas designated for the abstraction of water aiming human consumption and areas designated as nature protected areas according to the current national legislation. There is not yet any designated water body under Bathing Water Directive, nor designated water body under Nitrate Directive and Natura 2000, Birds and Habitat Directives. There are no areas designated under the criterion “economically significant species”. Referring to the Urban Waste Water Directive, there is only a proposal for the delineation of sensitive areas.

Draft proposal for monitoring programme for Vardar river basin was developed, but accurate monitoring data, especially biological parameters are missing. Monitoring system should be further strengthen and reinforced.

Water information system and GIS database have been established and developed. Further upgrading and updating of the GIS database should be done under the twinning project.

The Project defined the contents of the RBMP as per WFD Annex VII as reference framework for the

further RBM planning and implementation of water sector legislation. The other elements of the VRBMP should be developed under the Twinning contract in order to finalize it.

3.3 Results:

The project shall provide advisory and practical implementation support to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, more precisely the Water Department of the Environmental Administration. Other beneficiary institution of the project will be the Hydro Meteorological Administration. The Department for EU from MoEPP shall be involved in the activities related to drafting and amending the relevant legislation.

The Twinning's aim, which should be jointly achieved by the MS and BC twinning partners, is strengthening the capacities of the MoEPP and the Hydro-metrological Institute (HMI) in the field of water quality measurements, data collection and management and operational management and reporting, by implementing EU acquis related to water quality.

The mandatory results to be achieved are:

Component 1: Strengthened water permitting system

Mandatory Result

Mandatory result in component 1 is increased effectiveness of the existing Permitting system in the water sector, strengthened administrative and technical capacity of the MoEPP/Water department in processing, monitoring and enforcing Permit applications to be in line with the EU acquis as transposed into national legislation generally, and specifically to support the achievement of 'good status' of targeted waterbodies within the RBMP framework.

The mandatory result shall be achieved through the achievement of the following intermediary results:

- 1) *Upgraded and updated Water Information System (WIS) operated by the Water Department of MoEPP with new data related to Permit's information and other abstraction/discharge and the database is operational;*

Measurable indicators

- Water Information System (WIS) database is upgraded and updated with new abstraction and discharge data and other data related to water permits; and
 - National database of water discharge points (Permitted/non-Permitted) (incorporating water quality parameters) is updated and operationalized.
- 2) *Prepared at least 20 water permits (10 abstraction, 10 discharge);*

Measurable indicators

- Minimum 10 water permits (List of priority Water Discharge Permits to be drafted with the support of the twinning team) are finalized;
- Minimum 10 water permits (List of priority Water abstraction Permits to be drafted with the support of the twinning team) are finalized.

Component 2: Drafted relevant secondary legislation to ensure the implementation of EU water acquis

Mandatory Result

Mandatory result in component 2 is set of secondary legislation and related guidelines in accordance with the relevant EU water legislative framework - EU best practices - are drafted and harmonized with the

existing and/or upcoming primary legislation. The project partners will discuss and decide the exact list of secondary legislation and technical guidance to be prepared taking into account the available project resources. If legal base is needed for adoption of the secondary legislation a draft for amending the Law on Water shall be prepared.

The mandatory result shall be achieved through the achievement of the following intermediary results

1) Developed secondary legislation and technical guidance in accordance with EU water acquis.

Measurable indicators:

- Secondary legislation developed in accordance with the EU water acquis with Statement and Table of Concordance; List of existing secondary legislation related to water sector that should be abolished or amended is developed and agreed with MoEPP accompanied with table indicating articles which should be abolished or amended;
- Stakeholder consultation requirements for legislation fulfilled;
- National technical guidance according to Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive related to Economics issues, Surface water chemical monitoring under WFD, planning process, public participation, exemption to the environmental objectives and reporting is developed.

Component 3: Strengthened national water monitoring system

Mandatory Result

Mandatory result in component 3 is strengthened national water monitoring system in order to align the national surface water monitoring systems (quantity and quality) and ground water monitoring system to the specific requirements of WFD and relevant EU legislation.

The mandatory result shall be achieved through the achievement of the following intermediary results

1) Assessment of the existing Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters

Measurable indicators

- Prepared gap assessment report of the existing monitoring networks for surface and ground waters in relation to EU water acquis and EU monitoring legislation;
- Prepared assessment of the existing administrative and technical capacity for water monitoring;
- Prepared assessment report of available monitoring data, reporting practices and identification of the needs for additional data collecting according to EU reporting requirements.

2) Upgrading of the Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters

Measurable indicators

- Prepared recommendation for improvement of the water monitoring system (monitoring schemes, sampling locations and sampling frequencies for quantity and quality) fully in compliance with relevant EU legislation;
- Prepared plan (road map) for upgrading of the Water Monitoring networks for surface and ground waters with assessment of financial need;
- Prepared recommendation for improvement of the reporting mechanisms and prepared unified Water Reporting system (quantity and quality);

- Prepared guide for communication and data flow between the National Hydro-meteorological Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy), the Water Department (MoEPP) and the MEIC;
- Prepared one (1) draft report for quantity and quality of water to EC according to the relevant requirements.
- Prepared procedures on Quality Assurance/Quality Control on monitoring data.

Component 4: Finalizing the Vardar River Basin Management Plan (VRBMP) and related Program of measures

Mandatory Result

Mandatory result in component 4 is the characterization of the Vardar River Basin is finalized and all elements of the RBMP are developed according to Annex VII of the WFD including a climate check, and RBMP is submitted to the relevant stakeholders for public consultation. Under IPA TAIB 2009 Project “Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities for Approximation and Implementation of Environmental Legislation in the Area of Water Management “ (EuropeAid/132108/D/SER/MK) the initial elements of the River Basin Management Plan of Vardar River have been developed including: Characterisation of the Vardar river basin, Identification of significant pressures and impact of human activity on the status of surface water and groundwater for VRB, Identification and mapping of protected areas for VRB and Development of monitoring programme for VRB.

The mandatory result shall be achieved through the achievement of the following intermediary results

- 1) *Draft VRBMP is finalized.*

Measurable indicators:

- Developed and finalized characterization process and environmental objectives of the Vardar River Basin are defined in accordance with the WFD for surface waters, groundwater and protected areas;
- Developed and finalized summary on economic and financial analysis in Vardar River Basin District;
- Drafted Program of Measures and financial implications of their implementation taking into account the report on environmental objectives and the cases in which exemptions are allowed;
- Stakeholder consultation requirements for VRBMP fulfilled;
- Promoted RBMP of Vardar River.

Component 5: Strengthened administrative capacity for water management

Mandatory results

Mandatory result in component 5 is Water Department staff capacities and related structures and capabilities are strengthened for preparation and implementation of the RBMB, water permitting and water monitoring. Preparation of the RBMP and implementation of the measures included are one of the most important task of the Water Department that depends on the capacity and capabilities of the staff working in the Department and related structures (River Basin Council, MAFWE, MH, MTC, Municipalities, HMI). Thus knowledge is needed in both preparation of the plan but as well in managing

the implementation of the measures, coordination of the activities of several involved institutions and granting permits for water usage and water discharge and performing monitoring that serves the need of water management.

The mandatory result shall be achieved through the achievement of the following intermediary results:

1) Analysis of the existing administrative capacity and proposed plans for strengthening the central and local administrative capacity for preparation and implementation of RBMP and for implementation of the water permitting and monitoring.

Measurable indicators:

- Analysis of the central and local administrative capacities for implementation of RBMP and implementation of the water permitting (staff, structure, trained experts in specific areas, equipment, documentation, coordination and competences) prepared;
- Training need assessment developed for water permitting and water monitoring and short term training plan prepared.
- Programme and Plan for strengthening of the central and local administrative structure for implementation of the water permitting and monitoring systems as well as for implementation of VRBMP (Water Department within MoEPP, River Basin Council, MAFWE, MH, MTC, Municipalities, HMI) prepared.

2) Support in implementation of VRBMP

Measurable indicators:

- Approximately 20 participants from the MoEPP and HMI trained on water permitting with an emphasis on hands-on application and actual examples from EU MS;
- Approximately 20 people of the MoEPP and HMI trained on the developed secondary legislation and technical guidance;
- Approximately 15 people trained on European standardized methods for monitoring and analysis (Article 8.3 WFD) and preparation of surveillance and operational monitoring programmes;
- Approximately 10 people trained on assessments of biological status, intercalibration, quality control etc.

3.4 Activities:

The Twinning project aims to introduce and share EU wide best practices in connection with EU legislation and specific needs of the Beneficiary Country in the field of water quality. The Twinning project will be implemented by close co-operation between the partners aiming to achieve the mandatory results in sustainable manner.

The set of proposed activities will be further developed with the Twinning partners when drafting the Twinning work plan, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning partner. The components are closely interlinked and need to be sequenced accordingly.

The Twinning assistance will be provided in the form of know-how transfer, and will be delivered through the activities that will indicatively include:

a) Legal acts, Guidelines, procedures: During the twinning project the project partners will develop a series of secondary legislation and technical guidance. The content of the secondary legislation and technical guidance documents will vary depending on the specific need of the beneficiary at the time the

project will start and the available project resources. The content and format will be discussed and agreed during the inception phase (first month of project implementation). Experts from the BC and the MS will cooperate in the preparation of the secondary legislation and technical guidance, share their experiences and collaborate to find the most appropriate approaches and solutions through the technical/legal working groups already established with Decision of the Ministry in 2014. Work will take into account the relevant EU legislation and related documents as well as the experiences of EU member states in the area.

BC experts and MS experts will cooperate and will consult with main stakeholders.

b) Tailor made training programme: This project will include the development and implementation of a tailor-made training programme. The programme will be based on a training needs assessment of the target groups. The training programme will focus on all aspects of improving the capacities of the BC in the areas outlined above. The Beneficiary institution prefers on-the-job training, where applicable, in particular in water permits and in drafting the new permits in accordance to WFD.

c) Analysis: The Twinning partner should performed assessment of the existing Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters as well as analysis and proposed plans for strengthening the central and local administrative capacity for implementation of the water permitting and monitoring systems as well as for implementation of VRBMP. This task will be done in close cooperation and consultation with Beneficiaries.

d) Development and finalization: Vardar River Basin Management Plan (VRBMP) and related Program of measures will be developed within the twinning project. The characterization of the Vardar River Basin will be finalized and the other elements of the RBMP will be developed according to Annex VII of the WFD including a climate check. Approximately four (4) stakeholder consultation events for presenting the draft documents, involving the competent Vardar River Basin Council and other stakeholders should be organized prior to the finalization as well as one (1) public event for presenting the RBMP of Vardar River organized;

e) Upgrading and updating the existing database: The Twinning will cover also upgrading and updating the existing Water Information System (WIS) database operated by the Water Department of MoEPP with new data related to Permit's information and other abstraction/discharge and the database is operational as well as upgrading of the Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters.

f) Trainings and workshops: The Twinning project will involve the organisation of several trainings and workshops to sharing the expertise of MS experts and the experience of the BC administration. Training modules shall be developed based on the results of a training need assessment performed at the beginning of the project, taking into account the existing Long Term Training Plan (LTTP). Case studies and practical exercises shall be included in the training plan for each Component.

g) Study visits: It is proposed that at least two (2) study visits, one for Component 1 and 2 and other one for Component 3 and 4, shall be organised to make BC experts acquainted with EU MS practices related to the implementation of WFD with specific focus on the development of the RBMPs. The comparative qualitative and economic advantage of organizing the first study visit would be to enable participants to get acquainted with the processes of water permit issuing and transposition the technical EU requirements in MS itself, whereas for the second study visit the participants would enable participants to get acquainted with the processes of water monitoring preparation and implementation of RBMPs in MS. Participants – up to 10 for each study visit - will include skilled BC experts from the MoEPP Water Department, EU Department, River basin Council and HMI involved. The duration will be 1 week (5 working days) for each study visit.

3.5 Means/ Input from the MS Partner Administration:

The project will be implemented in the form of a twinning contract between the Beneficiary country and an EU Member State. Details of implementation shall be agreed during the preparation of the work plan. The implementation of the project requires one Project Leader with responsibility for the overall coordination of project activities, one Resident Twinning Adviser responsible for management and implementation of project activities foreseen, and pool short-term experts within the limits of the budget. It is essential that the team have sufficiently broad expertise to cover all the areas included in the project description.

The interested Member State institution shall include in its proposal the CVs of the designated Project Leader and Resident Twinning Adviser. The details of implementation of the Twining project will be agreed upon/during the preparation of the work plan.

3.5.1 Profile and tasks of the Project Leader

The Project Leader from the Member State must be a high-ranking public servant of a Member State administration, but preferably the Head of a structure engaged in issues related to the area of implementation of the water management legislation within the Ministry (or relevant institution), with relevant working experience of at least 3 years.

The MS Project Leader will continue to work at his/her Member State administration but will devote some of his/her time to conceive, supervise and co-ordinate the overall thrust of the Twinning Project, and ensure the attainment of the projected outputs. The Project Leader is fully responsible for co-ordination of the work of the experts.

The MS Project Leader will manage the implementation of the project with the Project Leader from the Beneficiary Country and is expected to devote a minimum of 3 days per month to the project in his/her home administration with an on-site visit at least every 3 months. The Project Leader's seniority will ensure his/her ability to mobilise the necessary staff in support of the efficient implementation of the project. In addition, he/she should coordinate, on the Member State side, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will meet in Skopje at least every three months.

He/she will be supported by his/her Member State administration for logistic, accounting and administrative affairs.

Qualifications and skills:

- At least a University degree³, preferably in field of environmental science or any other discipline related to this project or equivalent professional experience of 10 years in public administration;
- At least 3 years of relevant experience in a MS public administration in the field of implementation of water management legislation;
- Fluent knowledge of spoken and written English language.

Tasks:

- Conceive, supervise and coordinate the overall preparation of the project;
- Coordinate and monitor the overall implementation of the project including coordination and direction of the MS TW partner;
- Co-ordinate MS experts' work and availability;

³ For reference on equivalent qualification see: EPSO website-Annex 1 (http://europa.eu.int/epso/on-line-applications/pdf/guide-1242-171104_en.doc)

- Communicate with the beneficiary, CFCD and EUD;
- Ensure the backstopping functions and financial management;
- Guarantee the successful implementation of the Project's Work Plan;
- Co-chairing the regular Project Steering Committee meeting with the Beneficiary Country Project Leader;
- Prepare operative side letter, prepare and draft interim, quarterly and final report.

Beneficiary Country Project Leader (BC PL)

The BC Project Leader will act as the counterpart of the MS PL and will ensure close cooperation in the overall steering, co-ordination and management of the project from the beneficiary side. He/she will support the Twinning project team in organizational and technical matters and will also coordinate the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on behalf of the BC. The role of the BC PL and the MS PL are complementary.

3.5.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA

One RTA will be appointed and he/she will be located in the premises of the MoEPP in the Beneficiary country.

The secondment of the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) will last for 21 months, during which he/she will be responsible for the direct implementation of the project under the overall supervision of the MS Project Leader.

He/she will come from an EU Member State to work on a full time and day-to-day basis with the beneficiary administration. The Resident Twinning Adviser will have a key role in the coordination of the inputs required for the successful implementation of all the project activities. He/she shall be supported by short – term experts.

Qualifications and skills:

- Be a national of a Member State of the European Union;
- Be a civil servant or equivalent staff seconded to work within departments/units of the institution in charge of water management implementation in a Member State;
- At least a University degree⁴ preferably in field of law, or any other discipline related to this project or equivalent professional experience of 10 years in public administration;
- At least 3 years of experience in MS administration in the environmental field with an emphasis on implementation of water management legislation;
- Active knowledge of English language;

The RTA will lead project implementation. He/she will be the primary interlocutor for both the Beneficiary and the Contracting Authority.

Tasks of the RTA:

⁴ For reference on equivalent qualification see: EPSO website-Annex 1 (http://europa.eu.int/epso/on-line-applications/pdf/guide-1242-171104_en.doc)

As to the general responsibility of the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the Beneficiary Country, the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) tasks will include:

- Coordination of all project activities and experts' inputs in the country;
- To provide technical advice, support and assist the beneficiary institution in the context of a predetermined work plan;
- Make recommendations on the organizational structure optimization;
- To assist the further development of a sustainable institutional framework (system and mechanisms) which would ensure the efficient and effective functioning;
- Ensuring day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the BC
- Ensuring smooth correlation between the activities, deadlines and the envisaged results in the Work Plan;
- Ensuring smooth implementation of the different activities delivered;
- Assess continuously the Twinning Project in all stages and provide link to compare it with the specified benchmarks/results and time-frame;
- Prepare the material for regular monitoring and reporting;
- Preparation of side letters;
- Taking corrective actions, if necessary, inside the terms of the signed contract.

3.5.3 Profile and tasks of the short-term experts

Other specialist staff will be made available by the Twinning Partner to support the implementation of activities. Specific and technical matters not directly covered by the Resident Twinning Advisers can be taken over by a pool of short-term experts within the limits of the budget. The detailed expert input shall be established when drawing up the twinning work-plan.

Qualifications and skills:

Short-Term Experts will:

- Have a University-level degree⁵ preferably in environmental and natural science or similar area relevant to the project;
- Be civil servants or equivalent staff seconded to work within departments/units/structures related to implementation of water management legislation;
- Minimum 3 years of practical experience in implementation of water management legislation and/or involvement in development of RBMP and/or in developing training programmes and implementation of training sessions and/or in use of GIS software and/or in upgrading and updating of GIS database and/or in other institutional aspects targeted by the Twinning Contract etc.
- Be fluent in English, both oral and written.

Tasks:

⁵ For reference on equivalent qualification see: EPSO website-Annex 1 (http://europa.eu.int/epso/on-line-applications/pdf/guide-1242-171104_en.doc)

More specifically, the Short-Term experts will:

- Prepare and implement specific tasks based mainly on practical cases and experience in compliance with their mission description and in accordance with Project activities;
- Provide practical expertise/advices to relevant staff for execution of different tasks related to the project;
- Assist in key tasks, e.g. in the field of drafting and amending legislation, administrative capacity building related to water management, conducting trainings, upgrading and updating of the GIS database, etc;
- Address cross-cutting issues.

3.5.4 Profile and tasks of the RTA assistants

3.5.4.1 RTA Assistant:

The RTA will be provided with a full-time RTA assistant acting as an assistant for technical and organizational support. The assistant will be contracted according to Twinning rules and paid from the Twinning budget. The assistant will be selected through an open call. The role of RTA Assistant is to support the RTA in the project management. In addition, the assistant will be responsible for organisation of meetings, seminars etc. and their logistics as well as for providing translation and interpretation services on a daily basis.

3.5.4.2 Full-time translator / interpreter:

A full-time translator / interpreter will be selected through an open call. The full-time translator / interpreter will be involved in all necessary project activities (training sessions, translation of project documents/reports and materials, organizational activities, etc.). The role of the translator / interpreter will be to provide translation and editing as well as interpretation services to the Twinning project in general.

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Contracting Authority for this Twinning project is Central Financing and Contracting Department within the Ministry of Finance.

4.1 Beneficiary institutions

Main beneficiary and coordinator of the project will be Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, more precisely the Water Department of the Environmental Administration (EA). EA is functionally a part of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning responsible for the implementation of the environmental legislation. EA is responsible for provision of the available staff to maximize the benefits from the activities within this project, coordination and implementation of the project in Beneficiary Country. Other beneficiary institution of the project will be the Hydro Meteorological Administration. The Department for EU from MoEPP shall be involved in the activities related to drafting and amending the relevant legislation.

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning will be directly responsible for co-ordination and management of the project from the beneficiary side and will support the Twinning project team in organizational and technical matters.

4.2 Co-ordination mechanisms between institutions

A project Steering Committee (SC) will be established at the beginning of the project comprising senior representatives of the Beneficiary Institution, the Delegation of the European Union, the Secretariat for European affairs and the Central Financing and Contracting Department within the Ministry of Finance, and will be co-chaired by the MS PL and BC PL.

The SC will monitor, supervise and co-ordinate the overall progress and implementation of the project. The SC will provide guidance for the different components of the project, will define priorities, approve and monitor budgets and approve the results.

4.3 Reporting requirements as per Art 6.4 of the Twinning Manual

Reports will follow the templates of Annex C4 of the Common Twinning Manual. In addition to these formal reporting stages, the twinning partners are obliged to inform in writing the Contracting Authority as well as the final beneficiary of the action of any critical aspects or conditions of project implementation, or any amendments/modifications necessary within the budget.

All reports must be produced in the English in electronic and hard copy. These reports shall be signed by both Project Leaders. Each report must be presented in electronic format one week prior to the Steering Committee meetings and in two hard copies to the following addresses:

Central Financing and Contracting Department

Ministry of Finance

“Dame Gruev” 12, 1000 Skopje

The final versions should incorporate any comments and discussions during the Steering Committee meetings.

5. BUDGET

The project will be implemented through a Twinning Contract estimated at a maximum of EUR 1.200.000 out of which IPA contribution will amount to EUR 1.140.000 while national contribution will amount to EUR 60.000.

Twinning Contract	Total (EUR)	IPA Community contribution		National Public contribution	
	1,200,000	EUR	%	EUR	%
		1,140,000	95	60,000	5

The co-financing requirement foreseen under IPA will be considered fulfilled according to the provision of the relevant Financing Agreement.

In addition to the IPA and National co-financing as part of the Twinning Contract amount, as a rule, all twinning contracts must provide additional co-financing on the side of the Beneficiary Institution (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning), for the purpose of covering costs not covered under the project budget as per Twinning manual, point 5.13, as follows:

- Direct and indirect cost of the Beneficiary administration, civil servants and national private experts working for the project;
- Travel by the beneficiary officials from their capitals to a MS or between MS;
- Organization of seminars/ workshops/ trainings (incl. hall rental, printing seminar materials and other logistical support).

- Facilities for the Member State experts: adequately equipped office space; telephone; e-mail services; fax; photocopiers; computer; internet access; secretarial support; access to information.

The following expenses are also to be covered with the project funds:

- Visibility Costs and
- Audit certificate cost.

The project will be located in the premises of the MoEPP which will also ensure providing the Member State experts with the documents necessary for project implementation.

The twinning partner (project beneficiary) shall provide all available assistance to solve unforeseen problems that the Member State twinning partner(s) might face.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1. Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting

The Central Financing and Contracting Department (CFCD) will be the Contracting Authority and will be responsible for all administrative and procedural aspects of the tendering process, contracting matters and financial management including payment of project activities, upon conferral of management. The Head of CFCD will act as the Programme Authorizing Officer (PAO) of the project.

Contact person

Mrs. Radica Koceva (PAO)

Head of Central Financing and Contracting Department

Ministry of Finance

“Dame Gruev” 12, 1000 Skopje

7. Main counterparts in the BC, including contact person and contact details

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning will be the leading beneficiary institution. Head of Department for EU in the MoEPP acts as a SPO.

Contact point:

Mrs. Jadranka Ivanova

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Head of Department for EU

Senior Programme Officer

In the implementation of the project the following body will be included:

RTA counterparts:

Ms. Ilber Mirta

Head of Water Department

BC Project Leader:

Mr. Daniel Eftimov

Acting Head of Administration for Environment

6.3 Contracts:

The project shall be implemented through one Twinning contract.

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (INDICATIVE)**7.1 Launching of the call for proposals:**

The estimated date for the launching of the call for proposals is: May 2016

7.2 Start of project activities:

The estimated date for start of project activities is: January 2017

7.3 Project completion:

The project implementation period (without duration of the work plan) is 21 months after the commencement date of the Project.

7.4 Duration of the execution period:

The overall execution period of the Twinning project is 24 months with an implementation period of 21 months. (The execution period of the contract shall enter into force upon the date of notification by the Contracting Authority of the contract signed by all parties, whereas it shall end 3 months after the implementation period of the Action).

8. SUSTAINABILITY

The main contribution of this project will be the strengthening of the administrative capacities in the prioritised sectors on central level, thereby contributing to the improvement of environmental management and implementation of legislation. The capacities of the EA and EU Department will be significantly boosted by this project which will enable further independent operation thereof.

Improved capacities for implementation of environmental legislation and introduction of environmental standards will positively impact the overall sustainability of development in the country, while the improved capacities to develop EU compliant legislation and regulations will have a positive impact on the EU accession process.

The Member State Twinning partners shall transfer their best practices and know-how necessary to achieve the mandatory results to the Beneficiary administration. Staff benefiting from trainings shall transfer knowledge through subsequent training to their colleagues. Moreover and at the end of the implementation period a lesson learnt seminar will be held to disseminate the results and the best practices acquired and to foresee future relevant activities.

9. CROSSCUTTING ISSUES**9.1 Equal Opportunities and non-discrimination**

The training activities may include a specific component to train the ministerial staff in the implementation of the Government Gender Strategy, while reference will be made to the EC Programme of Action for the mainstreaming of gender equality in community development cooperation (2001-06).

An output of this training component will be to assist the beneficiary to implement an ‘internal gender assessment’ to identify areas where it could improve its internal performance vis-à-vis gender.

9.2 Environmental considerations

The project is directly related and contributes to environmental improvement. It affects the environment positively, since it refers to strengthening of environmental management on central and local level.

9.3 Support to minorities and vulnerable groups

The twinning partners in formulation the proposal and implementation the contract shall ensure respect of Ohrid Framework Agreement, and “Race directive” 2000 (200/43/EC of 29 June), which has an important impact on employment (incl. vocational training, working conditions, social protection etc.) and is also a crucial aspect of the acquis. Also, the training activities will include a specific component to train beneficiary staff in the different aspects of mainstreaming minority and vulnerable groups in programme and project development as well as monitoring and evaluation.

9.4 Civil Society development and dialogue

Civil society issues will be taken into consideration of such issues where relevant and appropriate in the project.

9.5 Good governance, with particular attention to fight against corruption

The Government is strongly determined to fulfil all criteria needed for EU accession and membership, and all the necessary actions are being taken to reach the aim. Through transparent policies and involvement of different stakeholders in the process of policy design the accountability and responsiveness vis-a-vis the citizens will be being strengthened.

9.6 Communication and publicity

All requirements to ensure the visibility of EU financing will be fulfilled in accordance with R. (EC). N. 718/2007⁶.

10. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

10.1 Conditionality

The following conditionality predetermines the project:

- 1) Appointment of counterpart personnel by the beneficiary before the launch of the project;
- 2) Allocation of working space and facilities by the beneficiary for the Twinning partner before the launch of the tender process;
- 3) Organization, selection and appointment of members of working groups, steering and coordination committees, seminars by the beneficiary as per work plan of the project.

10.2 Sequencing

Key milestones will be:

- Approval of the Twinning project fiche;

⁶ _ See. Article 62 and 63. of R. (EC). N. 718/2007

- Completion of the selection of the twinning partner;
- Signature of the Twinning Contract, including the Twinning Work Plan;
- Commencement of the implementation of the twinning (inter alia, the arrival in the country of the Resident Twinning Adviser);
- End of the implementation period;
- Submission of the final report.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

Annex 1. Logical framework matrix in standard format

Annex 2. List of relevant Laws and Regulations

Annex 3. Organisational chart

Annex 1. Logical framework matrix in standard format (compulsory)

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR:		Programme name and number:	
Strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of water quality		IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building - National Programme for 2012	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
The project purpose is to strengthen the administrative capacities in the area of water management by implementing the appropriate EU acquis. In particular the project will assist the national authorities in drafting the Vardar River basin management plan and in harmonising and implementing secondary legislation in the area of water monitoring and water permitting.			
Component 1 – Strengthened water permitting system			
Mandatory result in component 1 is increased effectiveness of the existing Permitting system in the water sector, strengthened administrative and technical capacity of the MoEPP/Water department in processing, monitoring and enforcing Permit applications to be in line with the EU acquis as transposed into national legislation generally, and specifically to support the achievement of ‘good status’ of targeted waterbodies within the	<p><i>1) Upgraded and updated Water Information System (WIS) operated by the Water Department of MoEPP with new data related to Permit’s information and other abstraction/discharge and the database is operational;</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Information System (WIS) database is upgraded and updated with new abstraction and discharge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded and updated WIS database with new abstraction and discharge data is available and operational to the Water Department 10 Water Discharge permits are issued 10 Water Discharge abstraction are issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Staff available Stakeholder cooperation is sufficient Information available

RBMP framework.	<p>data and other data related to water permits; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National database of water discharge points (Permitted/non-Permitted) (incorporating water quality parameters) is upgraded and operationalized. <p>2) <i>Prepared at least 20 water permits (10 abstraction, 10 discharge);</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 10 water permits (List of priority Water Discharge Permits to be drafted with the support of the twinning team) are finalized; Minimum 10 water permits (List of priority Water abstraction Permits to be drafted with the support of the twinning team) are finalized. 		
<u>Component 2 - Drafted relevant secondary legislation to ensure the implementation of EU water acquis</u>			
Mandatory result in component 2 is set of secondary legislation and related guidelines in accordance with the relevant EU water legislative framework - EU best practices - are drafted and	<p>1) <i>Assessment of the existing Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p>	- Secondary legislation and technical guidance prepared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Staff available - Stakeholder cooperation is sufficient - Information available

<p>harmonized with the existing and/or upcoming primary legislation. The project partners will discuss and decide the exact list of secondary legislation and technical guidance to be prepared taking into account the available project resources. If legal base is needed for adoption of the secondary legislation a draft for amending the Law on Water shall be prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared gap assessment report of the existing monitoring networks for surface and ground waters in relation to EU water acquis and EU monitoring legislation; • Prepared assessment of the existing administrative and technical capacity for water monitoring; • Prepared assessment report of available monitoring data, reporting practices and identification of the needs for additional data collecting according to EU reporting requirements. <p>2) <i>Upgrading of the Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared recommendation for improvement of the water monitoring system (monitoring schemes, sampling locations and sampling frequencies for quantity and quality) fully in compliance with relevant EU legislation; 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared plan (road map) for upgrading of the Water Monitoring networks for surface and ground waters with assessment of financial need; • Prepared recommendation for improvement of the reporting mechanisms and prepared unified Water Reporting system (quantity and quality); • Prepared guide for communication and data flow between the National Hydro-meteorological Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy), the Water Department (MoEPP) and the MEIC; • Prepared one (1) draft report for quantity and quality of water to EC according to the relevant requirements. • Prepared procedures on Quality Assurance/Quality Control on monitoring data. 		
<p><u>Component 3 - Strengthened national water monitoring system</u></p>			

<p>Mandatory result in component 3 is strengthened national water monitoring system in order to align the national surface water monitoring systems (quantity and quality) and ground water monitoring system to the specific requirements of WFD and relevant EU legislation.</p>	<p><i>1) Assessment of the existing Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared gap assessment report of the existing monitoring networks for surface and ground waters in relation to EU water acquis and EU monitoring legislation; • Prepared assessment of the existing administrative and technical capacity for water monitoring; • Prepared assessment report of available monitoring data, reporting practices and identification of the needs for additional data collecting according to EU reporting requirements. <p><i>2) Upgrading of the Water Monitoring system (quantity and quality) for surface and ground waters</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared recommendation for improvement of the water monitoring system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gap assessment of monitoring system prepared. - Assessment report of available monitoring data, reporting practices and needs identification of collecting additional data prepared and agreed with MoEPP - Recommendation for improvement of water monitoring system and reporting mechanisms prepared - Communication and data flow procedures prepared - Templates on reporting schemas prepared - Draft report for quantity and quality of water prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Staff available - Stakeholder cooperation is sufficient - Information available
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	<p>(monitoring schemes, sampling locations and sampling frequencies for quantity and quality) fully in compliance with relevant EU legislation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared plan (road map) for upgrading of the Water Monitoring networks for surface and ground waters with assessment of financial need; • Prepared recommendation for improvement of the reporting mechanisms and prepared unified Water Reporting system (quantity and quality); • Prepared guide for communication and data flow between the National Hydro-meteorological Service (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy), the Water Department (MoEPP) and the MEIC; • Prepared one (1) draft report for quantity and quality of water to EC according to the relevant requirements. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared procedures on Quality Assurance/Quality Control on monitoring data. 		
Component 4 - “Support to the development of the Vardar River Basin Management Plan (VRBMP) and related Program of measures			
<p>Mandatory result in component 4 is the characterization of the Vardar River Basin is finalized and all elements of the RBMP are developed according to Annex VII of the WFD including a climate check, and RBMP is submitted to the relevant stakeholders for public consultation. Under IPA TAIB 2009 Project “Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities for Approximation and Implementation of Environmental Legislation in the Area of Water Management “ (EuropeAid/132108/D/SER/MK) the initial elements of the River Basin Management Plan of Vardar River have been developed including: Characterisation of the Vardar river basin, Identification of significant pressures and impact of human activity on the status of surface water and groundwater for VRB, Identification and</p>	<p><i>1) Draft VRBMP is finalized.</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and finalized characterization process and environmental objectives of the Vardar River Basin are defined in accordance with the WFD for surface waters, groundwater and protected areas; • Developed and finalized summary on economic and financial analysis in Vardar River Basin District; • Drafted Program of Measures and financial implications of their implementation taking into account the report on environmental objectives and the cases in which exemptions are allowed; • Stakeholder consultation requirements for VRBMP fulfilled; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Characterization of Vardar River Basin is finalised - Economic and financial analysis prepared - Program of measures with financial implication prepared - Stakeholders meetings and public event are organized (list of participants signed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial characterization of VRB is available - BC Staff available - Stakeholder cooperation

mapping of protected areas for VRB and Development of monitoring programme for VRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoted RBMP of Vardar River. 		
Component 5 - Strengthened administrative capacity for implementation of VRBMP			
<p>Mandatory result in component 5 is Water Department staff capacities and capabilities are strengthened for preparation and implementation of the RBMB, water permitting and water monitoring. Preparation of the RBMP and implementation of the measures included are one of the most important task of the Water Department that depends on the capacity and capabilities of the staff working in the Department. Thus knowledge is needed in both preparation of the plan but as well in managing the implementation of the measures, coordination of the activities of several involved institutions and granting permits for water usage and water discharge and performing monitoring that serves the need of water management.</p>	<p><i>1) Analysis of the existing administrative capacity and proposed plans for strengthening the central and local administrative capacity for preparation and implementation of RBMP and for implementation of the water permitting and monitoring.</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the central and local administrative capacities for implementation of RBMP and implementation of the water permitting (staff, structure, trained experts in specific areas, equipment, documentation, coordination and competences) prepared; Training need assessment developed for water permitting and water monitoring and short term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of administrative capacity for implementation of RBMP and implementation of the water permitting prepared - Training need assessment prepared - Programme and Plan for strengthening of the central and local administrative structure for water management prepared - Trainings sessions and working groups sessions are held (list of participants and training materials is prepared and made available in EN and MK language; photos also available)) - At least two study visits are performed and report on study visit prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC Staff available - Stakeholder cooperation is sufficient - Information available

	<p>training plan prepared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme and Plan for strengthening of the central and local administrative structure for implementation of the water permitting and monitoring systems as well as for implementation of VRBMP (Water Department within MoEPP, River Basin Council, MAFWE, MH, MTC, Municipalities, HMI) prepared. <p>2) <i>Support in implementation of VRBMP</i></p> <p><u>Measurable indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 20 participants from the MoEPP and HMI trained on water permitting with an emphasis on hands-on application and actual examples from EU MS; • Approximately 20 people of the MoEPP and HMI trained on the developed secondary legislation and technical guidance; • Approximately 15 people trained on European standardized methods for 		
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	<p>monitoring and analysis (Article 8.3 WFD) and preparation of surveillance and operational monitoring programmes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 10 people trained on assessments of biological status, intercalibration, quality control etc. 		
Activities	Means	Costs	Assumptions
<p>The set of proposed activities will be further developed with the Twinning partner when drafting the Twinning work plan, keeping in mind that the final list of activities will be decided with the Twinning partner.</p> <p>The Twinning assistance will be provided in the form of know-how transfer, and will be delivered through:</p> <p><i>a) <u>Legal acts, Guidelines, procedures</u></i> <i>b) <u>Tailor made training programme</u></i> <i>c) <u>Analysis</u></i> <i>d) <u>Development and finalization</u></i> <i>e) <u>Upgrading and updating the existing database</u></i> <i>f) <u>Trainings and workshops</u></i></p>	<p>Twining contract</p>	<p>Total EUR 1.200.000 (EUR 1.140.000 IPA and 60.000 national contribution)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and commitment from involved stakeholders; - Sufficient administrative capacity on central and local level for issuing of permits; - Problems with implementation of secondary legislation; - Interest by public; - Providing relevant data/information.

<i>g) Study visits</i>			
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Annex 2. List of relevant Laws and Regulations

- Law on Environment ("Official Gazette No. 53/05, 81/05, 24/07, 159/08, 83/09, 48/10, 124/10, 51/11, 123/12 and 93/13);
- Law on waters (OG 87/08, 6/09, 161/09, 83/10, 51/11, 44/12, 23/2013, 163/2013)
- Law on execution of hydro-meteorological matters (OGRM 103/2008)
- Law on inland navigation (OGRM No. 55/2007) and amendments
- The Law on Water Economies (OGRM 85/03, 95/05, 103/08, 97/10, 1/12)
- Law on drinking water supply and urban waste water drainage (OGRM 68/2004, 17/2011, 54/2011, 163/2013, 10/2015)
- Decision on making available of the draft on amendments and modifications the Master Plan of the Republic for public and expert hearing (OGRM 123/13)
- Decree on Water Classification (OGRM 18/99 of 09/31/1999)
- Decree on categorization of watercourses, lakes, reservoirs and groundwater (OGRM 18/99 of 09/31/1999)
- Ordinance on content and methodology for preparation of RBMP (OGRM 148/09)
- Ordinance on methodology for assessment of river basins (OGRM 148/09)
- Decision on river basins delineation (OGRM 107/12)
- Ordinance for the structure, the way of membership, and also the way of nominating the representatives in the councils for managing the river basin areas and the council for managing parts of river basin areas, as well as the way of functioning (OGRM 106/13)
- Regulation on content and methodology for the preparation of program of measures (OGRM 148/09)
- Regulation on the content and manner for preparation of information and maps for water monitoring activities (OGRM 148/09)
- Decision on the establishment of the National Council on Water (OGRM RM149/09 of 15.12.2009)
- Ordinance on Methodology for the content , method and procedure , revisions of the Water Master Plan of the Republic " (OGRM 148 / 09 of 14.12.2009)
- Ordinance on the form and content of the application for refusal to adopt a decision on the request for accepting or rejecting the water management approval (OGRM 129/11 of 23.09.2011)
- Decision making in the draft amending the Master Plan of the Republic of expert discussion " (OGRM 70/12 of 07.06.2012)
- National Water Strategy (2012 - 2042) (OGRM 122/12 of 01.1.2012)
- Ordinance on the form and content of the application and the permit reuse of treated wastewater as a way of granting consent (OGRM 60 of 27.04.2011)

- Ordinance on detailed conditions, methodology and maximum allowed concentration of parameters of treated wastewaters reuse (OGRM 73/11)
- Regulation on conditions, methods and emission limits for discharging of treated wastewater, methods of calculation taking into account special requirements related to the protected areas (OGRM 81/11)
- Ordinance on criteria for determination of sensitive areas related to the urban wastewater discharges (OGRM 130/11)
- Conditions of hazardous and harmful substances and their emission standards that can be discharged into the sewer or drainage system , surface or ground in water bodies and the coastal lands and wetlands (OGRM 108/11 of 12.08.2011)
- Regulation on procedures of transfer of information of disposed wastewater monitoring, and format and content of the form for information distribution (OG 108/11)
- Regulation on methods, referent methods, parameters of wastewater monitoring, including the sludge (OG 108/11)
- List of the polluting matters and substances (OGRM 122/11)
- Rules for establishing criteria for determining nitrate sensitive zones (OGRM 131/11 of 28.09.2011)
- Rules of form and content of register of protection zones of protected areas determined as natural heritage where maintenance and improvement of the status of waters is an important factor (OGRM 25 of 02.19.2013)
- ordinance on how to transfer the information from the monitoring of wastewater discharged, and the form and content of the form for submitting data (OGRM 108/11 of 12.08.2011)
- Rulebook on space, equipment, staff with appropriate education for authorization of legal entity for preparation of Elaborate for borders of protection zones, protective measures and other conditions for water intended for human consumption, (OGRM 29/2014)
- Rulebook for proscription of content and manner of preparation of the Elaborate for borders of protection zones,, protective measures and other conditions for water intended for human consumption, (OGRM 29/2014)
- Rulebook on the form, content and manner of keeping the register of foreign legal and natural persons performing meteorological and hydrological works and documentation necessary for enrollment to the registry (OGRM 28/09 of 25.02.2009)
- 'Regulation on conditions relating to technical equipment and suitability of the premises for conducting research works on the atmosphere, climate, water and soil application of meteorology and hydrology, and the form, content and manner of keeping the register of domestic legal and individuals who perform Hydro-meteorological services (OGRM 69/09 of 04.06.2009)
- 'Decision for determination of the amount of compensation for the Hydro-meteorological with occasional observers and scorers" (OGRM 33/09 from 06.03.2009)

Annex 3. Organisational chart of MoEPP

