



Funded by the
European Union

TWINNING PROJECT EU SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF BiH IN EU INTEGRATION TASKS



EU TWINNING FACTSHEETS / EU POLICIES IN A NUTSHELL



EU ENVIRONMENT POLICY

➤ WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EU IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT?

The environment policy of the European Union aims to enable its citizens to live well, within the planet's ecological limits. This policy has innovative, circular economy in its focus, where biodiversity is protected, valued and restored; and environment-related health risks are minimized - enhancing the society's resilience, and decoupling growth from resource use.

European environmental policy rests on the following principles:

- Precaution,
- Prevention,
- Rectifying Pollution at source,
- "Polluter Pays" principle.

EU citizens benefit from some of the highest environmental standards in the world. The EU and national governments have set clear objectives to guide European environment policy until 2020 and a vision beyond that, of where to be by 2050, with the support of dedicated research programmes, legislation and funding:

- *protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital*
- *turn the EU into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy*
- *safeguard EU citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing*

Green growth is at the heart of EU policy to ensure that Europe's economic growth is environmentally sustainable. Environmental protection and innovation help to create new business and employment opportunities, which stimulate further investments.

Multiannual environmental action programmes set the framework for future action in all areas of environment policy. They are embedded in horizontal strategies and taken into account in international environmental negotiations.

The EU plays a key role in promoting sustainable development at global level.

➤ WHAT ARE THE KEY STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS REGULATING EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY?

The Environment Action Programmes:

Since 1973, the Commission has issued multiannual Environment Action Programmes (EAPs) setting out forthcoming legislative proposals and goals for EU environment policy. In 2013, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament adopted the **7th EAP for the period up to 2020**, under the title "Living well, within the limits of our planet" which set out nine priority objectives and a vision beyond 2020 of where it wants the Union to be by 2050. The **8th Environment Action Programme** – under the title „Turning the Trends Together” – is to be adopted by the EU institutions for the period 2021-2030.

The Project is implemented by the Consortium of the
Hungarian National Assembly, Austrian Parliament and Croatian Parliament



REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
Parlament



ORSZÁGGYŰLÉS



HRVATSKI SABOR

Horizontal strategies

In 2001, the EU introduced its **Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS)**, thus complementing the earlier Lisbon Strategy for promoting growth and jobs with an environmental dimension. Renewed in 2006 to combine the internal and international dimensions of sustainable development, the revised EU SDS strives for the constant improvement of the quality of life by fostering prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion. In line with these goals, the Europe2020 strategy for growth aims at shaping 'smart, inclusive and sustainable growth'.

The European Green Deal – a new chance for the future

Becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 is the greatest challenge and opportunity of our times. To achieve this, in December 2019 the European Commission presented the European Green Deal, a comprehensive and long-term climate and environmental strategy. This ambitious package of measures aims to enable European citizens and businesses to benefit from sustainable green transition. Measures accompanied with an initial roadmap of key policies range from ambitiously cutting emissions, through investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe's natural environment.

The European Green Deal contains a large number of policy and legislative measures aimed at EU carbon neutrality to be reached by 2050, the greening of EU agriculture policy, transition to circular economy, etc. Supported by investments in green technologies, sustainable solutions and new businesses, the Green Deal can be a new EU growth strategy. Involvement and commitment of the public and of all stakeholders is crucial to its success. The programme will fundamentally expand and modify EU environmental policy as we know it today. Above all, the European Green Deal sets a path for a transition that is just and socially fair. It is designed in a way that it leaves no individual or region behind in the great transformation ahead.

Fight against climate change

The 2020 Package:

The 2020 package is a set of binding legislation adopted in 2007 by the EU leaders and enacted in legislation in 2009 to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for the year 2020.



Key targets:

- 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels)**
- 20% of EU energy from renewables**
- 20% improvement in energy efficiency**

The 2030 package

The 2030 climate and energy framework includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030. The framework was adopted by the European Council in October 2014. The targets for renewables and energy efficiency were revised upwards in 2018.



Key targets:

- at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels)**
- at least 32% share for renewable energy**
- at least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency**

The 2050 long-term strategy

The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective is at the heart of the European Green Deal and in line with the EU's commitment to global climate action under the Paris Agreement.



WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND UNDER THE TERM “ENVIRONMENTAL ACQUIS”?

The environmental policy and legislation in the European Union have evolved gradually since the 1970s. The ultimate aim of the EU is to reconcile environmental protection with economic growth which paves the way to long term sustainable development. The term „environmental acquis” includes over 200 major legal acts, altogether more than 300 pieces of legislation. As such, it is the second largest thematic body of the EU law following agriculture.

► THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER OF THE ACQUIS IS REGULARLY DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING BROAD CATEGORIES

Horizontal legislation

This is a cross-sectoral part of the EU environmental *acquis* which needs to be fully implemented by the date of accession. It includes major pieces of legislation related inter alia to environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments, public participation in the decision-making process, access to information on environmental matters.

Air Quality

It covers a wide range of measures from reducing emissions from stationary sources such as power plants and local district heating installations; adapting oil refineries to meet EU standards through reinforcing institutions for monitoring and data collection to addressing growing pollution traffic in the cities.

Waste

The management of municipal, industrial and hazardous wastes presents significant challenges. Transition periods are often granted to enlargement countries to allow them additional time after accession to set up their national waste management system in line with the EU standards. The Landfill Directive requires important investments and in most enlargement countries a high proportion of the landfill sites need costly upgrading.

Water

Major investment programmes were required for the management of wastewater and for improving the quality of the drinking water. Implementation of the Water Framework Directive requires heavy preparatory work and a strong institutional set-up. The implementation of the Nitrates Directive proved difficult for countries that needed to define vulnerable zones and establish action plans to be implemented by farmers.

Industrial Pollution Control and Risk Management

The Directive on Industrial Emissions concerns thousands of firms and installations in the enlargement countries, and large-scale investments are needed to be made compliant with the requirements of the Directive.

Nature Protection

The definition and designation of Natura 2000 sites could prove to be very difficult, coupled with poor implementation of existing laws on nature protection. The Natura 2000 network is a key component in the protection of the rich bio-diversity and ecosystems of the countries. It needs to be completed at the date of accession.

Climate change

Increasingly, although it originates from the environmental field, **climate change** is treated as a stand-alone policy field.

► WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA?

Findings of the European Commission's Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union

On 29 May 2019 the Commission adopted its **Opinion on BiH's application for EU membership**. The Opinion and the accompanying **Analytical Report** provide extensive analyses covering the Copenhagen criteria and including 33 policy chapters of the EU *acquis*. Chapter 27 of the Analytical Report is dealing with the Environment. According to that Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an **early stage of preparation / has some level of preparation** in the area of environment and climate change. Following the adoption of the **countrywide environmental approximation strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the country needs to strengthen and fully implement a countrywide coordinated and harmonised approach in strategic planning and legislation in the environment sector and all sub-sectors, aiming at further alignment with the EU *acquis* at all levels of government.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has **no state-level law on environmental protection** and **no state-level authority exclusively dealing with the environment**. The alignment of legislation with the *acquis* has been undertaken so far without a Countrywide Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis* in place. Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to **develop a systematic monitoring of alignment on the basis of tables of concordance** in the field of environment protection and climate change.

Countrywide Environment Approximation Strategy

A countrywide **environment approximation strategy** was adopted in 2017, and supplemented by more specific environmental approximation programmes for the Entities and Brčko District.

Action Plan for the implementation of priorities from the European Commission's Opinion and Analytical Report

This document – elaborated by the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of BiH – contains the list of documents to be adopted and measures to be taken by the relevant State-, Entity and Cantonal-level institutions to implement the priorities identified by the European Commission.

➤ ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

The main tasks and responsibilities of the Parliaments of BiH related to Environment can be described as follows:

Legislative function:

- ▶ Discussion and adoption of laws related to Environment
- ▶ Harmonisation of the BiH legislation with the EU acquis - Compliance checking of draft laws and submitted amendments

Oversight function:

- ▶ Political monitoring of the Governments' activities during the whole negotiation process
- ▶ Regular control of the fulfilment of priorities from the European Commission's Opinion and Analytical report and the tasks identified in the related Action Plan.

Information function:

- ▶ Promoting openness and transparency of the legislative process
- ▶ Providing regular information on the EU accession process and related parliamentary tasks to a greater public
- ▶ Providing information concerning draft laws related to Environment
- ▶ Organizing seminars, public hearings and roundtables attended by environmental experts, the academia, CSOs, etc. on the most challenging issues related to Environment.

International and inter-parliamentary cooperation:

- ▶ Cooperation and coordination with EU institutions, national parliaments of EU Member States and parliaments of the Western Balkans region
- ▶ Informing international partners about the progress made and the challenges to be met by BiH.

Administrative staff of the Parliaments has the responsibility to provide the necessary expertise and organizational support for the Members of Parliaments so that they can make the necessary decisions and represent the interests of the citizens.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

You will find further information on the following links:

European Union: Environment: https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/environment_en

European Parliament: Environment Policy:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/71/environment-policy-general-principles-and-basic-framework>

A European Green Deal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

2020 targets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/overall-targets/2020-targets_en

2030 targets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/overall-targets/2030-targets_en

2050 targets: https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/overall-targets/2050-targets_en

Summaries of the EIU environment legislation:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/environment.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED=20&locale=en

Analytical Report of the European Commission:

<https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-bosnia-and-herzegovina-analytical-report.pdf>

7th Environmental Action Programme: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/>

EU Sustainable Development Strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/strategy/index_en.htm

EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/biodiversity_2020/2020%20Biodiversity%20Factsheet_EN.pdf

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/SDGs/index_en.htm

The Paris Agreement: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>