Enhancing Environmental Performance and Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Investments in the Western Balkan Region from an EU integration perspective

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Project Objective: To reduce vulnerability of road infrastructure to climate change in the WB by mainstreaming EU best practices on climate proofing infrastructure and green infrastructure

Beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Croatia**, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99), Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia

Total Budget: 1,700,000 Euros

Expected Duration: Dec. 2016 – Nov. 2019

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ADA

Finances the activities of the project *"Enhancing Environmental Performance and Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Investments in the Western Balkan Region from an EU integration perspective"*. Supporting the implementation of the SEE2020 Strategy is among the strategic objectives of ADA.

RCC-Regional Cooperation Council

Coordinates the implementation of the SEE2020 Strategy. RWG ENV as a steering mechanism.

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Co-finances the activities of the project and is responsible for its implementation

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Overall Objective / SEE 2020 – objectives under Dimension J - Environment

Dimension targets:

- Increase adaptive capacity
- Increase volume of annual forestation

Measure:

Increase adaptive capacity through awareness raising and education on climate change adaptation

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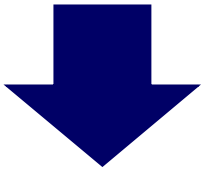
Adapting road infrastructure to present and future climate conditions, through a broad concept of climate proofing, including green infrastructure



Climate resilient road infrastructure in Western Balkans

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Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure can be broadly defined as a *"strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings"*

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Green Infrastructure benefits

Environmental benefits

- Removal of pollutants from air and water
- Pollination enhancement
- Protection against soil erosion
- Rainwater retention
- Increased pest control
- Improvement of land quality
- Mitigation of land take and soil sealing

Climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits

- Flood alleviation
- Strengthening ecosystems resilience
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Mitigation of urban heat island effects
- Disaster prevention (e.g. storms, forest fires, landslides)

Biodiversity benefits

- Improved habitats for wildlife
- Ecological corridors
- Landscape permeability

Plus social and economic benefits

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Green Infrastructure as an adaptation measure

Green infrastructure is multifunctional and can be a cost effective tool for climate proofing

Environmental benefits

+

Economic benefits

+

Climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits

+

Ecosystem based disaster risk reduction

=

Safer and more resilient road infrastructure

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example: use of protection forests in Austria

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The project will focus on:

Understanding future climate and weather patterns: strengthening national capacities to understand climate change and climate change related risks in the region through improvement of the information base;

Planning for the future climate and weather patterns: strengthening national capacities to integrate climate change projections, climate proofing and green infrastructure in infrastructure development on a national and regional level;

Building infrastructure adapted to the future climate and weather patterns: creating an enabling environment for regional cooperation and investments in climate resilient infrastructure in the Western Balkans;

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Understanding future climate and weather patterns

- **Detailed gap analysis** on the state of climate change in the WB region;
- **Methodology for high resolution climate change projections** in the WB region;
- Enhanced technical capacity to develop **high resolution climate change projections**;

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Understanding future climate and weather patterns

- Development of high resolution, localised, bias corrected scenarios for the whole target region
- Development of an easy to handle program for bias correction that allow the integration of additional local observations
- Winter school on the use of localized climate change scenarios and the production of improved scenarios on local areas with additional meteorological observations (February 2018)

Beneficiaries: national experts from Hydro-meteorological institutes

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Planning for the future climate and weather patterns

- **Assessment** of climate change **adaptation policies and EIA and SEA** procedures in place in the countries of the WB region;
- **Enhanced technical capacity** of relevant national stakeholders to effectively **respond to climate change** related risks through **climate proofing** measures, including **green infrastructure**; and to **integrate climate change projections** and **climate proofing measures into infrastructure development**, in accordance with EU best practices;
- **Guidelines** on integrating climate change in **EIA and SEA procedures**;
- **Improved awareness** of both relevant **stakeholders** and **general public** climate change impacts on road infrastructure, including increased resilience options such as green infrastructure;

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Building infrastructure adapted to the future climate and weather patterns

- **Regional strategy** for climate resilient infrastructure development, followed with an **action plan** identifying concrete climate proofing measures, including green infrastructure;
- **Enhanced national capacities** for replicating **EU best practices** regarding **financing and economic instruments** for climate proofing and green infrastructure;
- **Guidelines** on **EU best practices** on economic instruments;
- **Fund-raising mechanism** for climate resilient infrastructure development in the WB region;
- **Evaluation mechanism for projects** integrating climate proofing and green infrastructure;

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Kick Off Meeting

20 June 2017 in Belgrade + RCC Regional Working Group on Environment meeting

Proposal for an enlarged format of the Working Group

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Thank you for your attention!