



PROJECT EU4GREEN – IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN BALKAN ACTION PLAN

Sigbert Huber, REAWG Meeting Soil, June 2, 2022



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OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

In the Sofia Declaration, signed in November 2020, leaders from the Western Balkans have set the basis for green growth in the region, leaping from a traditional economic model to modern, resource-efficient and competitive economies, in line with the European Green Agenda.

EU4Green intends to **enhance this transition and to support growth strategies**, which decouple the economy from the emission of greenhouse gases, reduce resource use and waste generation and pursue climate resilience.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The action's aim is to support the countries in its implementation, in greening their economies in consultation with all relevant partners and in enhancing monitoring and reporting.

Emphasis is placed on

- Decarbonisation: climate, energy, mobility
- **Depollution**: air, water & **soil**
- **Sustainable agriculture** and food production
- Biodiversity: protection & restoration of ecosystems
- Circular economy

PAVING THE WAY FOR CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2050

To find a response to the related environmental, economic and social challenges, EU4Green will **enhance coherent policy development at all levels of governance**. To facilitate the mobilisation of financial resources for implementing the Green Agenda on the Western Balkans, the action will contribute to aligning public and private finance with sustainability and climate objectives. In addition, citizens will be made aware of the EU's contribution and efforts to the improvement of living conditions and sustainable green recovery.



TURNING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Implementing the Green Agenda can work in the interest of both, the objective of a climate neutral continent and the EU accession of the Western Balkan countries. To ensure ownership and strengthen acceptance, the action **involves decision-makers and stakeholders** in the process. It will also support them in promoting the outcomes. Making EU4Green as participative as possible, contributes to **building synergies, encouraging new ideas** and improving the quality of decisions. This will **strengthen communication and cooperation** between regional key institutions and stakeholders.

KEY FIGURES

Countries	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
Duration	2022 – 2025
EU Funding (DG NEAR**)	EUR 10 million
Austrian contribution	EUR 1 million
Implementation	Environment Agency Austria

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and it is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

** Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations



EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE EU4GREEN PROJECT

- **EO1:** Beneficiaries are empowered in the implementation of the Green Agenda action plans, its five main areas of implementation relevant through a fit for purpose setup
- **EO2:** Monitoring and reporting processes for the GAWB are operational
- **EO3:** Citizens are aware of the EU's efforts and contribution in the improvement of living conditions and sustainable green recovery in the Beneficiaries
- **EO4:** Beneficiaries will be able to articulate needs relating to the implementation of the Green Agenda in the programming of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) III as well as the relevant investment flagships defined in the Economic and Investment Plan

WHERE WE ARE NOW: INCEPTION PHASE

- **Mapping** of existing relevant initiatives, programmes and projects, regional and national
- Mapping of direct beneficiaries, cooperation partners and stakeholders
- **Identification of synergies and gaps**
- **Organisation of project workshops** in the countries (June/July 2022)
- **Preparation of a detailed Work Plan** together with the beneficiary countries and EU delegations
- **Establishing the project offices** in Belgrade (MNE & SRB), Sarajevo (BIH & XXK) and Tirana (ALB & MKD) and relevant project management structures.



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IDEAS FOR DEPOLLUTION OF SOIL



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SOIL MONITORING

- **LUCAS Soil:** 1st collection of 1,200 soil samples in WB in 2015, analyses carried out in centralised labor, no contaminants considered, evaluation of data on soil health carried out by JRC in June 2022
- **Preparation of 2nd collection** of 2-2,500 soil samples in WB in 2026, carried out in centralised labor, different contaminants to be considered
- **Joint workshop(s) on soil pollution monitoring in WB in 2023/2024**
- Collection of information of available soil data in WB countries
- Discussion of sampling design and parameters for LUCAS Soil in WB
- Outlook: inclusion of data from WB in EU Soil Observatory



SOIL CONTAMINATION

- Supporting national and regional assessments of soil contamination
- Identification of **key soil polluting activities** with the collection of information and data
- **Identification of mega sites** with the most significant risks and the focus on evident and severe problems leading to a contaminated sites inventory also including brownfields
- **Planning of lighthouse projects** comprising investigation, risk assessment, initiating remediation, financing and redevelopment



GLOSOLAN – GLOBAL SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK

- At the moment **~750** registered Labs
- **AIM:** GLOSOLAN is working to improve the proficiency of soil laboratories in both wet and dry chemistry (soil spectroscopy) by: e.g.
 - Harmonizing methods
 - Improving quality assurance/quality control
 - Promoting good equipment and staff trainings
- **Western Balkan members**
 - Albania (1)
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina (1)
 - Kosovo (1)
 - The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2)
 - Montenegro (0)
 - Serbia (1)



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EUROSOLAN - EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK

Western Balkan Member Laboratories

- Albania (GLOSOLAN, EUROSOLAN)
 - Soil and Water Laboratory
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (GLOSOLAN, EUROSOLAN)
 - Agrochemical laboratory
- Kosovo (GLOSOLAN, EUROSOLAN)
 - Kosovo Institute of Agriculture
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (GLOSOLAN, EUROSOLAN)
 - Laboratory for Soil Quality, Fertilizers and Plants
 - Laboratory for quality control of soil, fertilizers water and plant material
- Serbia (GLOSOLAN, EUROSOLAN)
 - Laboratory for IR spectroscopy, Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Natural Sciences University of Novi Sad

Ideas:

- Find a lab in Montenegro to join as a member
- **Establish a regional network of soil labs** in WB for exchange of methodologies and harmonisation of analyses



CONTACT & INFORMATION

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