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ЗА ТЕБЕ

Improvement of forest management in Serbia as a contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Twinning grant SR 16 IPA EN 02 20; contract 48-00-145/2019-28

Kick-off conference

Belgrade, 22 June 2021

Forestry in the EU accession negotiation process

- Forestry is a part of negotiation chapters:
 - 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development
 - 12 - Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy
 - 27 - Environment and Climate Change
 - /clusters 4 and 5 according to the new methodology/
- Almost 2/3 of the Acquis is related to agriculture and the environment

Needs identified in the Twinning Fiche preparation phase

- **What was missing?**
 - **National forestry programme** – forest policy document
 - Implementation of **EUTR and FLEGT** / partially implemented
 - Implementation of other documents and obligations stemming from EU regulations in the field of forestry and forestry related fields
- **What shall be improved?**
 - **Payment system** – to be assessed and upgraded



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Twinning as the instrument of cooperation

Twinning is an EU institution building instrument developed by the Commission and based on partnership cooperation between public administrations of EU Member States and a Beneficiary Country for the achievement of mandatory results jointly agreed with the Commission.*

It is a project of administrative co-operation in a specific field.

The beneficiary country selects its Member State partner.

Concept of „mandatory results”.



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Project objectives

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To improve forest governance in Serbia in line with EU standards and requirements and to introduce comprehensive sectoral policy to ensure the reduction of illegal activities and resilience of forests to climate change.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To strengthen capacities of forestry sector in Serbia to be able to implement obligations stemming from EU standards and regulations in the field of forestry and forestry related fields, including timber market, Forest Information System, subsidies, NATURA 2000 and bio economy.



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Mandatory results (components)

Component 1	Forestry sector policy and administrative capacities in Serbia assessed and improved
Component 2	Payment system in the forestry sector assessed and improved
Component 3	Timber trade system legislation assessed and aligned with EU requirements



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Twinning project consortium

AUSTRIA

Austrian Research Centre for Forests and Austrian Federal Forest Office (BFW), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austria (BMLRT), the Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG, ÖBF), the Environment Agency Austria (EAA)

SLOVAKIA

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Slovakia (MARD) and the National Forest Centre (Národné lesnícke centrum, NLC)

SERBIA

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia – Directorate of Forests

Mandatory results (components)



PROJECT CYCLE



MAFW/DF identified needs

**Project fiche prepared in 2019 and
approved**

Twinning partners selected in 2020



**Project launched on 11 January
2021**



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Twinning project coordination

EU Member State	Partner Country
Lead Project Leader: Peter Mayer Junior PL: Milan Sarvaš	BC Project Leader: Saša Stamatović
RTA: Jozef Turok	RTA counterpart: Ljiljana Sovilj
Component Leaders: Gerfried Gruber, Milan Sarvaš, Jasmin Putz	BC Component Leaders: Vladimir Nikolić, Ljiljana Sovilj, Jovana Pantelić

EU Delegation

RS Ministry of Finance
CFCU

MAFWM IPA unit

Twinning Team (Brussels)

**Twinning Coordination Team
NEAR C3*

Why is Twinning very important?

- All parties strive to make the project successful. An important goal is to strengthen the capacity of the beneficiary partners and stakeholders to develop the national forestry programme/policy
- All experts from Serbia and the Member States work together to develop the national policy including system of payments in forestry (subsidies) and timber trade legislation, in accordance with relevant EU policies and regulations
- This also involves the assessment of the current situation in forest management
- In addition to that, we want to raise awareness of the Serbian public about the traditions and activities in sustainable forest management
- Forests are key for climate change adaptation and mitigation



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Key partner institutions in Serbia

Besides the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management:

- Public companies: Srbijašume, Vojvodinašume
- National Parks Tara, Fruška gora, Đerdap, Kopaonik
- Educational, Research and Scientific Institutions: Faculty of Forestry, Institute for Forestry, Institute for Lowland Forestry and Environment
- Chamber of Forest Engineers
- Private forest owners' associations
- Chamber of Commerce
- Pokret gorana Srbije (Foresters' movement) and other civil society groups
- Other relevant authorities (e.g., Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Ministry of European Integration)



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MS human resources – short-term experts

- The Member States partner institutions have identified more than 40 experts/civil servants as STEs, covering all project components and activities
- Most STEs have previous European (including EU and national policy making) and international experience and a number of them have been involved in projects in the Western Balkan countries



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Synergies and complementarities with other international projects in Serbia

- FAO/GEF Project “Contribution of Sustainable Forest Management to a Low Emission and Resilient Development” – ongoing;
- Forests in women’s hands (Interreg) – ongoing;
- Serbian-German cooperation in the forestry sector: Implementation of an innovative forest management planning considering economic, ecological and social aspects in Serbia -- completed;
- Coordination mechanism for cooperation between China and CEEC countries – ongoing
- Natura 2000 ...



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Component 0: General activities

- A0.1: Kick-off Conference – today
- A0.2: Sustainability Workshop
- A0.3: Closing Conference



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Component 1: Assessment and improvement of the current sector policy and administrative capacities

A1.1: Comprehensive assessment of the forestry sector in Serbia [Months 4-5]

- Current state of the forestry sector analysed in cooperation with the beneficiary institutions, using tools such as SWOT and gap analyses
- Gaps in relation to existing EU standards and regulations in forestry and related areas, such as timber trade and market, information systems, subsidies, NATURA 2000, LULUCF, bio-economy
- First mission was held in April, second in May
- Two missions with 30 STE days – completed



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Key issues, differences, gaps identified, SWOT analysis made

- Institutional context in the forestry sector
- System of forest management planning and implementation
- Payments support system in forestry (subsidies)
- Forest information system
- Trade with forest products
- Relevant cross-sectoral policies and legal frameworks (EU Green Deal)
- Socio-economic and cultural issues



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Component 1: Assessment and improvement of the current sector policy and administrative capacities

A1.2: Road map for a national forest (development) programme
[Months 6-9]

A1.3: Training plan based on in-depth training needs assessment
[Months 6-9]

A1.4: Implementation of the Training plan

A1.5: Study visit to Austria and Slovakia and internship in Slovakia



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Component 2: Assessment and improvement of the current payment system in the forestry sector in Serbia

A2.1: Assessment of subsidies in the forestry sector in Serbia [Months 4-9]

- Overview of forestry support systems in Austria and Slovakia (national and EU level) and their comparison with the Serbian system as a basis for the assessment of subsidies related to forest policy goals
- Two missions, first was held in May, second in September

A2.2: System design for forestry subsidies

A2.3: Study visit to relevant institutions in Austria and Slovakia

A2.4: Workshop for Ministry staff and potential other beneficiaries

Component 3: Assessment and alignment of the current timber trade system legislation in Serbia with EU requirements

A3.1: Workshops for the institutions and authorities on the current situation of timber harvesting and trade in Serbia [Months 4-9]

- Identification of institutional setup and authorities involved
- Competences (legislation) and control functions. This activity shall ultimately result in organisational chart of government agencies and competent authorities in the forestry sector and in the broader policy context
- Workshop with government agencies
- Three missions (two in June, one in September)



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Component 3: Assessment and alignment of the current timber trade system legislation in Serbia with EU requirements

A3.2: Assessment of the importance of the forestry and timber sector for Serbia's economy [Months 4-9]

A3.3: Analysis of institutional control and traceability of timber harvested, processed and traded including identification of challenges

A3.4: Study visit to relevant institutions in Austria and Slovakia

A3.5: Recommendations/options for alignment of legislation, monitoring and enforcement including possible institutional restructuring of authorities



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Risks -- managing a twinning project at times of uncertainty

- **STE travel/missions in Serbia not possible due to Covid-19 (high likelihood, high impact) – remote missions**
- Ongoing process of EU accession negotiations in Serbia
- Availability of key experts (MS and BC)
- Cross-sectoral coordination (e.g., between ministries and with other public institutions) in relation to legal frameworks
- Participation of key stakeholders such as private forest owners and civil society in forest policy formulation
- Attitudes towards institutional reforms in the forestry sector
- Governance in the forestry sector