**Profile and training curricula for environmental inspectors in line with RMCEI & IED art.23**

*Project MK-10-IB-EN-01*

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**List of Acronyms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BPMS | Business Process Management System |
| EC | European Commission |
| IC | Inspection Council |
| IED | Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU |
| IMPEL | European Union network for the implementation and enforcement of environmental law |
| IPPC | Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control |
| LAEI | Local Authorised Environmental Inspector |
| LoE | Law on Environment |
| LoIS  LOI | Law on Inspection Supervision  Local Authorised Inspectors |
| LSGU | Local Self-Government Unit |
| MoEPP | Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning |
| MLSGU | Ministry of Local Self-Government Units |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| RMCEI | Recommendation 2001/331/EC of the European Parliament and the Council providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in the Member States |
| SCI | State Communal Inspectorate |
| SEI | State Environmental Inspectorate |
| Seveso | 2012 Seveso-III ([Directive 2012/18/EU](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32012L0018)) |
| SIA | State Inspectorate for Agriculture |
| SSHI | State Sanitary and Health Inspectorate |
| TA | Technical Assistance |
| TFS | Transfrontier Shipment of Waste |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| ZELS | Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of Macedonia |

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# Initial remarks

## Need for well-defined training curricula

The 2014 EU Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia - Monitoring transposition and implementation of the EU environmental *acquis* - reported in a paragraph related to inspection performance in the environmental sector: “as regards the administrative capacity, recent assessment has shown that current administrative structure lacks human resources to ensure effective enforcement of environmental legislation. Further implementation efforts are focused on improving co-ordination and exchange of information between the competent authorities and on establishing an effective reporting and education system”.

Development of training *curricula* for environmental inspectors in line with RMCEI, IED art.23 and other related regulations relevant to inspectors duties and obligations is thus an essential part for the development of SEI through the establishment of a Unit within the Sector for Coordination responsible for planning, reporting, data management, improvement of procedures and permanent education / capacity building of all environmental inspectors and related inspection services, other stakeholders like other inspection services, permit writers, public prosecutors, police officers, etc.

To determine the knowledge required for inspection services on central and local level as well as for other relevant inspection services which are going to be included in inspections for enforcement of environmental legislation, an initial step in this process is to benchmark with procedures and best practices already developed in the EU Member States, and take them as a reference. Emphasis will be made on already established best practices developed for the supervision of:

• IPPC / IED sites

• Waste management including TFS

• Seveso sites

• Noise management

• Water management

## Joint and Seveso inspections

Importance will be given as well to cooperation with other inspectorates, e.g. through the definition of a joint system of inspection where, along with SEI or Local Authorised Inspectors (LAEIs) in LSGUs, coordinated inspection controls in the field of environmental protection are jointly performed with other inspectors, such as water inspectors, nature protection inspectors, mining inspectors and pressure vessels inspectors, etc. In addition it must be considered that outside resources, such as independent accredited laboratory analysis, experts from scientific community, police investigators, public prosecutors officers,….may be used as part of the inspection process.

Mention must be made in the case of Seveso sites to how complex the requirements are, and to the need for a holistic approach for environmental inspectors. It is useful to draw a distinction between the inspection of Seveso sites and IPPC/IED sites as Seveso sites are characterised not only by their significant hazards but also often by their large size and a high degree of complexity[[1]](#footnote-2). For the environmental inspection of industrial plants the issues are in the majority of cases readily measurable and quantifiable and can be readily assessed against established benchmarks, such as the BREFs published by the European IPPC Bureau or against the corresponding issued permit. This is not the case for the inspection of Seveso sites as, while progress has been made in the knowledge and software tools modelling the consequences of different accident scenarios, in many respects there is still a chronic lack of reliable data available for assessing the likelihood of these scenarios occurring.

The consequence of this is that environmental protection inspectors assessing Seveso sites require both a high degree of technical skills to understand the complexity of the issues involved together with sufficient experience to be able to exercise appropriate judgement in the many cases where there will be an absence of defined criteria for acceptance. Such inspections often need to be conducted by a team with a wide range of technical skills and competencies. Personnel who meet these criteria are generally at senior engineering level.

While the EU does not specify in any detail the knowledge requirements for inspectors of Seveso sites, minimum experience is required in practice based on a combination of technical qualification, additional training and relevant experience. Inspectors of IED category 4 (Chemical Industry) are the most suitable to be trained to do the Seveso inspections.

The complexity of the issues related to Seveso sites is such that a higher level of technical qualification and experience is required, in particular a general understanding of the principles and methods of risk assessment and risk management is required in order to review safety reports, assess compliance and investigate accidents. Inspectors also need to be fully aware of the scope of legal compliance, such as what can be legally enforced and what can just be recommended as best practice. These issues should be reflected in the recruitment policy and training programmes of the Macedonian authorities – SEI inspectors, LAEIs, permit writers, other inspection services, etc.

## Updating of training curricula

It must be highlighted that the training *curricula* for environmental inspectors developed in this document in line with RMCEI, and also taking into consideration the duties and obligations of environmental inspectors as defined in IED art. 23, Regulation for shipment of waste[[2]](#footnote-3) and Seveso III Directive, may be subject to changes during the remaining lifetime of this Twinning project, as a function of further needs detected at central and local level, the absorption capacity of the related beneficiaries (SEI inspectors, LAEIs, permit writers, etc) and in order to avoid the overlapping through coordination with training programmes that are to be developed within related on-going projects:

* Technical Assistance project Europe Aid/134079/D/SER/MK “Strengthening capacities for implementation of environmental legislation at local level”
* Twinning Project MK/11/IB/EN/01/R supporting the transposition of the IED at central and local level

## Sources of information used to develop this document

To develop this document the following sources of information were used:

* Report on training needs assessment developed in Twinning mission 1.3.1.
* Discussion with Mr. Ian MacLean, Team Leader of Technical Assistance project EuropeAid/134079/D/SER/MK “Strengthening capacities for implementation of environmental legislation at local level”.
* Discussion with Ms. Besa Tatechi, RTA Counterpart of Twinning Project MK/11/IB/EN/01/R supporting the transposition of the IED at central and local level.
* Discussion with SEI Director Mr. Firus Memed, RTA Mr. Cesar Seoanez and RTA Counterpart Mr. Darko Blinkov.
* Discussion with Ms. Dragana Cherepnalkovska, MoEPP Legal Advisor.
* Several meetings held during the project with representatives of LAEIs from City of Skopje and several municipalities within City of Skopje and outside of it, and with Ivana Serafimova, training coordinator of ZELS.

## Basis to define the curricula

The following considerations were the basis to define the *curricula*:

* Developed *curricula* should be a base for tailor-made training.
* Use of EU training standards in education of SEI inspectors and LAEIs will allow inspectors to perform in accordance with prescribed recommendations as in the RMCEI and in line with the EU Environmental Inspection Cycle as defined in IMPEL documents.
* Use of the same *curricula* for SEI inspectors, LAEIs, permit writers, operators and accredited laboratories will increase mutual cooperation and understanding of common problems in the enforcement of environmental legislation.
* Developed *curricula* will enable SEI and LAEIs to deliver more effective and efficient inspections in line with EU standards and EU best practices.
* Inspections shall be in line with EU standards and tested EU best practices that have impact on operators behaviour and environmental performance of the companies in general.
* Of course, the SEI inspectors, LAEIs and permit writers should only be trained in the topics relevant for their tasks now or in the nearby future.

## Training sustainability: financing and Knowledge Center

Given its importance, SEI should ensure a dedicated budget line in the next financial years for implementation of training *curricula* for environmental inspectors.

In the long term it is planned to establish group of „Trained Trainers“ in a Knowledge Center within the SEI as a core group to ensure a sustainable performance of education at central and local level, in particular in the area of compliance promotion in general, inspection planning, use of SEI’s Business Process Management System (BPMS) and its database in preparatory work for site visits, sampling and performance monitoring, submission of the comprehensive records of site visits, proper reporting in defined templates. This will facilitate the follow-up of inspection procedures by inspectors and ensure quality and availability of the evidences collected for misdemeanour or court processes. This Center should be as well devoted to the search of external sources and opportunities of capacity building for environmental inspectors (see section 5).

# Existing criteria for admission as environmental inspector, and prescriptions related to training

## Admission criteria in Law on Environment

**Law on Environment** (Official Gazette No. 53/05, 81/05, 24/07, 159/08, 83/09, 48/10, 124/10, 51/11, 123/12, 93/13, 42/14 and 44/15), in its Chapter “State Inspectors of Environment, Inspectors of Nature Protection and Authorized Inspectors of Environment” and in related Article 196 prescribes the relevant criteria for admission as environmental inspector:

(1) State Inspectors of Environment in SEI may be persons having at least three years of experience and university education in the following areas: graduates in Environment Protection, Mechanical Engineering, Technology, Metallurgy, Mining, Chemistry, Meteorology, Medicine, Geography, Civil Engineering, Biology, Agronomy, Protection at Work, Forestry, Electrical Engineering, Physics, Biotechnology, Architecture and Horticulture and Geology.

(3) A person may be authorised to perform the activities as environmental inspector and inspector of nature protection if he/she fulfills the conditions set forth for an inspector of environment specified by this Law and inspector of nature protection specified by the Law on Nature Protection, on the basis of a decision issued by the Minister managing the body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment.

(4) LAEIs may be persons with at least one year of work experience and completed university education in the areas referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article.

## Training-related prescriptions in Law on Inspection Supervision

**Law on Inspection Supervision** (Official Gazette No. 50/10,162/10,157/11.147/13 and 41/14) in its Chapter “Professional training and improvement of the inspectors” and in the related Article 20 states the following:

(1) The inspector has the right and obligation to be trained to perform their work and duties in accordance with the annual program for professional training and improvement in the field of the inspection supervision.

(2) The annual program for professional training and improvement in the field of the inspection supervision is approved by the Inspection Council upon proposal of the director of the inspectorate.

(3) The Professional training and improvement from the paragraph (1) of this article is organized by the Inspection Council.

## Training-related prescriptions in other relevant legislation

**Law on Administrative Servants** (Official Gazette No. 27/2014) in its Articles 36 and 59 also requests a state exam as a requirement to obtain a position as civil servant (including the position of inspector).

**Law on Waters Protection** (Official Gazette No. 87/08, 6/09, 161/09, 83/10, 51/11, 44/12, 23/13, 163/13, 180/14 and 146/15) and **Law of Nature Protection** (Official Gazette No. 67/04, 14/06, 84/07, 35/10, 47/11, 148/11, 59/12, 13/13, 163/13, 41/14 and 146/15) also require, among other inspectors’ duties, permanent professional training and improvement of the inspectors knowledge.

# Initial training programme for newly hired inspectors

Before the inspector can do his/her work in the working field of environment he or she should receive additional training in some aspects, besides the formal prescribed diplomas and exams. Subjects for this additional training are:

* Legislation;
* Inspection cycle;
* IT;
* Different types of inspectors;
* Sampling;
* Skills.

The SEI knows best what a newly hired inspector should know when he or she joins the SEI. But the SEI needs to train their staff to be trainers also. These trained staff is also needed to sustainably secure the knowledge.

## Legislation

Legislation is a very important backbone for all the inspectors. Environmental Inspectors should know the relevant aspects of some horizontal Laws (e.g. Law on Administrative Servants) and the sector specific Laws (e.g. Law on Environment).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Training on relevant aspects of…. | Law on Administrative Servants | Laws on Administration | Law on Inspection Supervision | Law on Environment (detailed knowledge) |
| Presented by | SEI | SEI | SEI | SEI |
| Frequency | Once | Once | Once | Once |
| Duration | 4 hours | 4 hours | 4 hours | 8 hours |

## Inspection cycle (all steps)

The inspection cycle shows the cohesion between all the different steps in the inspection process, like planning, executing, reporting and evaluation. Knowledge of the inspection cycle shows the new inspector his or her impact in the environment and will help to improve environmental inspections and thus the environment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Inspection cycle (all steps) |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 16 hours |

## Additional training specific to each kind of inspector

As the field of Environment is very wide, in SEI there are three different kinds of inspectors. The difference is in the content of their work. The working fields are:

* Environmental protection;
* Nature protection;
* Water.

When an inspector enters the SEI, he or she should be trained additionally on the following content:

* Environmental protection

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Specific legislation (air, waste, noise, industrial pollution, Seveso, chemicals, climate change) and cooperation and responsibilities different inspecting bodies (eg LSGU’s) | Specific techniques / measurement / BAT |
| Presented by | SEI | SEI |
| Frequency | Once | Once |
| Duration | 16 hours | 16 hours |

* Nature(protection)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Relevant specific legislation (nature) | Specific techniques / measurement |
| Presented by | SEI | SEI |
| Frequency | Once | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours | 8 hours |

* Water

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Relevant specific legislation (waste water, ground water, drinking water, urban water, Nitrate Directive, bathing water, ground water, water quality (assurance), Flood directive) cooperation and responsibilities different inspecting bodies (eg. SCI, SIA, SSHI and LSGU) | Training exercise including knowledge of: (i) monitoring and classification of surface and groundwater under the WFD, (ii) protection of water bodies from pollution, (iii) water permitting (iv) Water Management Facilities and (v) Services State of emergency situations / deviations of water quality. |
| Presented by | SEI | SEI |
| Frequency | Once | Once |
| Duration | 12 hours | 20 hours (4 hours for each of the 5 subjects stated above) |

## Sampling (water, soil, noise, waste, air, odour)

An inspector should know how to take an indicative sample or measurement in the field. So the principles of monitoring all the different sectors should be trained.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Sampling (including water, soil, noise (waste, air, odour?)) |
| Presented by | EU specialists |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 4 Hours / module |

## IT

Good knowledge of IT is very important for the inspectors to fulfil their inspection task. Not only for gathering information and keeping the information about the facilities updated but also for reporting about their site visits. SEI has developed a Business Process Management Software (BPMS) to support the inspectors. Because all inspectors work with the data in this system, it is crucial that everybody uses it in the same way.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Detailed knowledge of BMPS |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours |

## Skills

Training is of course positive for learning and improving performance at work. Learning from experience at work makes learning faster and one does never forget these working experiences from own practice. Sharing the learning experiences with each other makes these learning curve clearly steeper.

Communication is essential in this learning process. But also in the practice of inspections good communication is essential for effective inspections. Good communication during the preparation of the visit, the contact with colleagues, the interaction with the operator and the sharing of results in the team and with other inspectors and permit writers, etc, facilitates a transfer of knowledge that improves the quality of the inspection and the quality of the permit. And therefore good communication benefits the quality of the environment.

The training modules related to the four basic steps in good communication of the inspectors should be the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Knowing the basic rules of communication, how to have a good conversation/interview, create mutual understanding with operators, building contact and trust, interview techniques and are capable of doing this in practice |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Knowing the rules of giving feedback and doing this in practice |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Knowing the techniques to improve knowledge-sharing in group meetings (peer-2-peer) |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Knowing the features of a highly effective team and understand the change in behaviour that they can deliver to improve team performance |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 8 hours |

# 

# Training programme for experienced inspectors

The world is continuously changing and so it is in the working field of the inspector. Not only improvement of production processes and new standards, but also new legislation both from Macedonia and the EU bring as a consequence that inspectors should be trained continuously on these subjects.

## Legislation

The inspector knowledge of the legislation should be up-to-date. The different Ministries should play a role in updating the inspectors, because they know best what and why these changes are implemented.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Training on detailed updated knowledge of…. | Law on Administrative Servant (Changes) | Law on Inspection Supervision (Changes) | Law on Environment (Changes) |
| Presented by | Ministry of Information Society and Administration | Inspection Council | MoEPP |
| Frequency | Depending on changes in the Law | | |

## Additional training specific to each kind of inspector

The specific knowledge of the different types of inspectors (environmental, nature and water) should also be periodically updated. This applies both to the knowledge of the legislation and the technical knowledge. Based on experience in other EU Member States the experienced environmental inspector is also further specialized in the different environmental topics such as: air, waste, noise, external safety (incl. Seveso), agriculture, chemicals (incl. asbestos).

One new type of inspector is recommended to be introduced, the legal affairs officer. This new specialist saves the inspectors of lot of time, making their work more efficient and effective. It is introduced here because the legal affairs officer must have a have a thorough understanding of the inspection work, so background as inspector will help.

* Environmental protection

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Specialization in (changes in) legislation on topics or Environmental issues (air, waste, noise, external safety (incl. Seveso), agriculture, chemicals (incl. Asbestos)) | Specific techniques / measurement / BAT |
| Presented by | MoEPP | SEI (or specialist from EU MS if applicable) |
| Frequency | depending on changes in the Law | depending on changes in (EU)legislation or BREF or BBT-conclusions |
| Duration | 8 hours per topic | Max. 8 hours per topic |

* Seveso

Seveso-inspections are is very specific kind of inspections within the environmental field. The inspectors should know this specific kind of legislation, how to judge a major-accident prevention policy, how to handle with domino effects, how to judge safety reports and emergency plans. Inspectors should be experienced IED category 4 (Chemical Industry) Inspectors with a degree in process technology

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Legislation | Specific techniques / Major-accident prevention policy / Safety reports |
| Presented by | MoEPP | EU specialists |
| Frequency | Initial session, and after changes in the Law | Initial session, and after changes in the Law |
| Duration | 8 hours | 24 hours for the initial session, and 8 hours after changes |

* Nature(protection)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Changes in specific legislation (Topics: Wild birds, Natura 2000 / Habitats and Zoo Directive and CITES, Leghold traps and FLEGT EU-regulation) | Specific techniques / measurement |
| Presented by | MoEPP, Ministry of XXXAgriculture, Forestry and Water Economy | SEI (or specialist from EU MS if applicable) |
| Frequency | Depending on changes in the Law | Depending on changes in the Law |
| Duration | 4 hours per topic | 4 hours per topic |

* Water

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Training on…. | Changes in specific legislation (topics: waste water, ground water, Nitrate Directive, ground water, water quality (assurance), Flood directive) | Specific techniques / measurement |
| Presented by | MoEPP, Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Water Economy (depending on topic) | SEI (or specialist from EU MS if applicable) |
| Frequency | Depending on changes in the Law | Depending on changes in the Law |
| Duration | 4 hours per topic | 4 hours per topic |

* Legal Affairs officer

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Changes in specific legislation in the legal expertise area |
| Presented by | Ministry of Justice |
| Frequency | Depending on changes in the Law |
| Duration | Max. 8 hours |

## Sampling (water, soil, noise, waste, air, odour)

Legislation changes, as well as protocols and insights. Therefore attention needs to be paid to the subject of sampling.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Sampling (including water, soil, noise, (waste, air, odour) |
| Presented by | EU specialists |
| Frequency | Once |
| Duration | 4 Hours / module |

## IT

The BPMS will be adjusted/updated in the time, mostly on request of the SEI. So the SEI should be in the lead to notify all inspectors about the changes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Detailed knowledge of BMPS (changes) |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Depending on changes in the system. Could also be short written instruction memo |
| Duration | Maximum 4 hours |

## Skills

Not only knowledge should be a point of attention during permanent education, also the skills of an inspector should be continuously improved. Also depending on the kind of inspectors some skills are more important than others. These skills could also be trained every 5-10 years, either by attending the course on skills together with new inspection staff, or a more specific training to improve some of these aspects:

* Oral expression
* Written communication skills
* Team working
* Flexibility
* Costumer focus
* Accuracy
* Analysing problems
* Independence
* Ethic principles

In case that a Knowledge Centre (see section 6) will be established, for the staff composing it, it will be required as well to learn on how to train other staff (how to become effective trainers).

## Technical English and relevant reference documents in English

Relevant technical information is nowadays available through internet in English language. Thus, English knowledge opens the access to very useful documents and guidelines that can support the job of the environmental inspectors. It is good as well to provide information about new relevant technical documents available on the internet which may be used by inspectors as a reference.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Training on… | Technical English related to the work of inspectors, and overview of new relevant technical documents available on the internet |
| Presented by | SEI |
| Frequency | Annual |
| Duration | Maximum 4 hours |

# Use of training opportunities available through EU and regional networks

The SEI, for the purpose of aligning with EU standards and best practices its planning, reporting, data management, procedures and to ensure permanent education of all environmental inspectors should be oriented also to EU and other external sources of technical and financial assistance available to Macedonian environmental administration like TAIEX, IPA programmes, bilateral / donors assistance, regional cooperation and assistance and cross-border cooperation.

Permanent opportunities for the inspectors’ capacity building process (e.g. training) are also available through different EU, regional and other networks and forums.

## EU assistance programmes

### TAIEX

TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission. TAIEX supports public administrations with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as facilitating the sharing of EU best practices. It is largely needs-driven and delivers appropriate tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice in three ways:

* Workshops: EU Member State experts present specific areas of EU legislation in workshops to a large number of beneficiary officials.
* Expert missions: EU Member States expert(s) are sent to the beneficiary administration to provide in-depth advice on the transposition, implementation or enforcement of a specific part of EU legislation.
* Study visits: a group of three practitioners from a beneficiary administration take part in a study visit to an EU Member State’s administration.

The TAIEX mandate to provide assistance covers among others **the Republic of Macedonia**.

TAIEX assistance is open mainly to civil servants working in central public administrations; Judiciary sector and law enforcement authorities.

Officials in line Ministries dealing with community legislation, staff from regulatory or supervisory bodies and inspectorates, officials in notified bodies which implement or enforce legislation as well as officials in Parliaments, the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies, can introduce requests for TAIEX assistance.

Classical TAIEX assistance or support via the Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network (ECRAN) is provided to the beneficiaries in all fields covered by the environmental legislation (air quality, waste management, nature protection, chemicals, industrial pollution and climate change, including cross - cutting issues for environmental inspectorates).

Based on the corresponding SEI’s multiannual training programme with related *curricula*,SEI’s Internal Service should explore financial sources, including planned national budget as well as all EU available sources of technical assistance and financial resources.

TAIEX assistance is a very effective tool, topics-oriented, so SEI will be able using this source of assistance to address specific problems and improve the inspector’s knowledge and skills, preferably through expert missions and workshops. TAIEX assistance can also be used to improve the “Train the Trainers” system that is expected to be established within the SEI’s Coordination Sector.

Participation on Macedonian inspectors in networks like **the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE),** **Interpol, Europol, EnviCrimeNet and THEMIS (see section 5.2) is supported through available EU TAIEX financial assistance.**

### IPA

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)[[3]](#footnote-4) is made up of five different components:

* Assistance for transition and institution building;
* Cross-border cooperation (with EU Member States and other countries eligible for IPA);
* Regional development (transport, environment, regional and economic development);
* Human resources (strengthening human capital and combating exclusion);
* Rural development.

The Republic of Macedonia, as EU candidate country, is eligible for all five components.

SEI must ensure in the upcoming period an effective internal service to feed the *EU project pipeline* in order tohave a proper number of tailor made proposals for future EU projects in the field of environmental inspection and enforcement. The option to establish within SEI a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and different Project Teams (PT) under the responsibility of a SEI Senior Programme Officer (SPO) should be further explored in cooperation with the EU Delegation to the Republic of Macedonia and with the Central Financing and Contracting Department (CFCD).

Opportunities available through IPA are multiple and diverse. Recent experience in new EU Member States shows that a *project pipeline* based on own identified problems and obstacles in performance leads to good tailor-made proposals for projects to be financed within different EU assistance in forms of Technical Assistance (TA) or Twinning / Twinning Light Projects.

## EU, regional and other networks and forums

### IMPEL

The **European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)** is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the European Union Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the EU, EEA and EFTA countries. The Republic of Macedonia is a member.

IMPEL’s objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Union to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building, peer review, exchange of information and experiences on implementation, international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation. IMPEL undertakes its activities primarily within a project structure.

IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the Decision No 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 ‘Living well, within the limits of our planet’, laying down the Seventh Community Environment Action Programme, **the RMCEI,** the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on implementing European Community Environmental Law and the European Commission Impact Assessment Guidelines.

Participation in IMPEL projects gives a unique opportunity to each inspection body to improve the knowledge and skills and share experience with IMPEL practitioners. It is strongly recommended to continue with an active participation of environmental protection inspectors in IMPEL work through a new application of SEI as IMPEL member with all relevant duties and rights in line with IMPEL rules.

### ECRAN

**ECRAN (Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network),** financed by EU and managed by the European Commission, assists the beneficiaries in exchange of information and experience related to preparation for accession.

ECRAN is strengthening regional cooperation between the EU candidate countries and potential candidates in the fields of environment and climate action and assists their progress in the transposition, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the EU environmental and climate *acquis.*

In each ECRAN environment component a cross-cutting importance and relevance of environmental inspectorates is ensured. In particular there is a Cross-cutting Working Group for both environment and climate components - Enforcement and Compliance (ECENA), which ensures participation of enforcement practitioners in all ECRAN activities and promotes a compliance checking and enforcement.

Since the work of inspectors has to be more coordinated and connected to other activities within the environmental protection area, ECENA within ECRAN is designed to be cross cutting. This is particularly important as the work of ECENA is dealing with both implementation and enforcement of the EU *acquis.* Cooperation with policy makers and law drafters has to be strengthened in order to enable developing better implementable legislation.

The ECENA activities are focused on the following topics:

* Capacity building on compliance with environmental legislation;
* External country assessments;
* Methodological development - application of IRAM/easy Tools;
* Compliance with REACH/CLP Regulations;
* Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS);
* Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas;
* Inspector’s participation in networking activities.

### INECE

**INECE (International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement)** develops and implements practical and innovative activities that strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement at all levels of governance – local, national, regional, and international. INECE builds the capacity of compliance and enforcement stakeholders to contribute to the rule of law and good governance in areas that advance sustainable development. INECE communicates that environmental compliance and enforcement play a fundamental role in building the foundation for the rule of law, good governance, and sustainable development. INECE raises awareness of the importance of environmental compliance and enforcement and supports environmental protection inspectors work.

### INTERPOL

**INTERPOL** as the world’s largest international police organization, with 190 member countries, enables police officers around the world to work together to make the world a safer place and to cooperate with other practitioners in order to combat among other crimes also environmental crime. Its high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support helps meet the growing challenges of fighting all types of crime in the 21st century. Environmental crime is a serious and growing international problem, and one which takes many different forms, like pollution crime, the trade and disposal of waste and hazardous substances in contravention of national and international laws.

In addition to these clear and present crimes, new types of environmental crime are emerging, such as carbon trade and water management crime.

### EUROPOL

**EUROPOL** is the European Union’s law enforcement agency whose main goal is to help achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens. EUROPOL assists the European Union’s Member States in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism including environmental crime. The **EnviCrimeNet,** network within Europol providing the secretariat for informal network of practitioners combating environmental and wildlife crime, is a very useful tool.

### THEMIS

**THEMIS** is an informal regional network of national authorities responsible for natural resources management and protection, and for the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, in EU candidate countries, potential candidates and countries with EU Association Agreements: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. Croatia is a member of the network as an observer and provides expertise and experience in relation to the EU accession process.

The THEMIS mission is to protect the environment by improving the capacities of its members to implement and enforce legislation and to combat environmental crimes.

# Establishment and operation of a Knowledge Centre

The new Law for Inspection on Environment being currently drafted is foreseen to give SEI the legal basis for the establishment of a Unit within SEI’s Sector for Coordination which, as explained in previous sections, should be responsible for planning, reporting, data management, improvement of procedures and permanent education / capacity building of all environmental inspectors and related inspection services, other stakeholders like other inspection services, permit writers, public prosecutors, police officers, etc. It will ensure sustainable securing knowledge through the development of the training *curricula* for environmental inspectors in line with RMCEI, IED art.23 and other related regulations relevant to inspectors duties and obligations.

## Definition, purpose and utility of a Knowledge Centre

The Knowledge Centre should be responsible for permanent education / capacity building of all environmental inspectors and related inspection services, other stakeholders like other inspection services, permit writers, public prosecutors, police officers.

In the long term the Knowledge Centre could be the place where information about environmental legislation and policy is documented, analysed and disseminated. Also for the exchange of information and knowledge between policymakers of the MoEPP and environmental authorities and services at regional and local level. Practical support for the implementation of environmental and spatial policies could be supported by the Knowledge centre.

The Knowledge Centre could be a link between policy and practice by participating in a multitude of consultative bodies and workgroups.

As a part of the Knowledge Centre an internal service for EU *project pipeline* should ensure a proper number of tailor-made proposals for EU projects in the field of environmental inspection and enforcement. This internal service will also be responsible for other EU assistance programs, donor, bilateral or regional projects in SEI.

The Knowledge Centre will take care about equal opportunity of each environmental protection inspector to receive trainings and ensure inspectors participation in different available education modules, including knowledge of foreign language (English).

## How to create a Knowledge Centre

The Knowledge Centre within SEI’s Sector for Coordination will be established on the basis of the new Law for Inspection on Environment in 2016. It is very important that the Knowledge Centre is not only mentioned in the Law but also should have the support of all the involved organisations like ZELS, LSGUs, Ministries, NGOs, etc.

## Operation (activity) of a Knowledge Centre

The Knowledge Centre within SEI’s Sector for Coordination established on the basis of the new Law for Inspection on Environment should operate using the internal capacity of around 3 senior environmental protection inspectors already trained and educated, and/or external assistance as described in Section 5. Further training for *Train the Trainers* will be ensured using assistance as described in Section 5.

This Center could implement the following activities:

* Direct education in classroom using presentation equipment or smart board
* Review periodically the supporting documentation for inspectors, operators and public (website, guidelines, templates, checklists)
* *Work on the job* – interactive trainings on the location of the facility or other activities sites
* Study Tours
* Education through video conference system
* Using SEI’s BPMS for *e-learning* and dissemination of training materials
* Communicating by the SEI’s or another a websites
* Serving as a helpdesk for the inspectors, industrial operators and citizens
* Informing in newsletters and magazines
* Organizing and facilitating conferences and seminars

1. Note that almost all Seveso sites fall as well under the scope of the IED [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Regulation (EU) 660/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 amending Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 on shipment of waste [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. From January 2007 onwards, this Instrument replaces a series of European Union programmes and financial instruments for candidate countries or potential candidate countries, namely PHARE, PHARE CBC, ISPA, SAPARD and CARDS. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)