MACEDONIA: AGRICULTURE STRENGTHENING
AND ACCESSION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FINAL REPORT

Skopje, April 2007
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report contains findings of the Environmental Assessment for the Macedonia Agriculture and Rural Development Cohesion Project, which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of Macedonia. The report is prepared under the terms as described in the World Bank OP/BP 4.1 and relevant Macedonian legislation.

The government of Macedonia has requested the World Bank’s assistance in addressing the challenges and constraints of the agricultural sector. MAFWE has requested assistance to strengthen its capacity to support the agriculture sector, including improving its ability to formulate and implement effective policies and increase effectiveness of public expenditures in agriculture in an EU-compliant manner. In addition, it seeks assistance in building the institutions necessary to meet EU accession requirements and access and absorb pre-accession assistance that it is eligible for.

The proposed project has four components, as follows:

- Component 1: Strengthening MAFWE’s administrative and management capacity in accordance with EU accession requirements
- Component 2: Supporting MAFWE’s ability to deliver EU rural development funds
- Component 3: Developing effective veterinary capacity
- Component 4: Completing reform of irrigation sector

This project is classified as Category B, requiring partial Environmental Analysis, but not a full-scale Environmental Assessment. An environmental analysis which was carried out as part of the project preparation activities to identify potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the project, found that potential adverse environmental impacts of the project are minor to negligible. In cases where the negative environmental impacts are identified, adequate mitigation measures have been proposed. There are no significant, long-lasting and irreversible negative impacts associated with the project execution and implementation.

The project components and sub-components that could have negative impacts (if not mitigated) are: Component 1, sub-component d); Component 2, sub-component a); and Component 3 sub-components a) and b).

Monitoring compliance in accordance with findings of this Report and requirements of EMPs, including progress monitoring on EMP’s implementation will be undertaken by MAFWE at least twice per year. The environmental monitoring and supervision reports will be prepared twice per year. Those will be submitted to the World Bank for the review and endorsement.
2. INTRODUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND

The Republic of Macedonia is an inland country located in the central part of Balkan Peninsula with area of 25,333 sq km and population of approximately 2 million. Almost half of the population lives in the country capital - Skopje. The Republic of Macedonia is a landlocked country that is geographically defined by a central valley formed by the Vardar River and framed along its borders by mountain ranges. The Republic's terrain is mostly rugged, located between the Shara and Rhodope mountains, with the valley of Vardar between them. Three large lakes — Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa and Dojran Lake — lie on the southern borders of the Republic, bisected by the frontiers with Albania and Greece. Lake Ohrid is considered to be one of the oldest lakes and biotopes in the world. The region is seismically active and has been the site of destructive earthquakes in the past, most recently in 1963 when Skopje was heavily damaged by a major earthquake, killing over 1,000.

The most important economic sectors in Macedonia, according to the statistical data, are: mineral extraction and metal processing industries; telecommunications; trade; agriculture and food production; and beverage production.

Following the entry into force of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU in April 2004, Macedonia became a candidate country for accession to the European Union (EU) in December 2005. Although the current status of candidate country and the prospect of EU membership bring with them vast economic opportunities for Macedonia, the principles, priorities and conditions for accession, as laid down in the 2006 European Partnership Agreement with the EU, also pose substantial challenges to the country, in particular to its agricultural sector.

The agriculture sector plays an important role in Macedonia’s economy through its contributions to GDP (agriculture accounts for 16 percent of GDP), employment, trade and the rural economy. Macedonia’s comparative advantages in agriculture lie in abundant labor, fertile soils, a range of moderate continental and Mediterranean micro-climates in the South (though with water deficiencies and occasional droughts in parts of the country) and natural upland pastures. About 49 percent of the total land area, or 1.16 million hectares (ha), is agricultural land, split evenly between cultivable land and pastures; a further 37 percent of land is forest, while the rest includes lakes and urban areas. About 80 percent of cultivated land is farmed by approximately 180,000 private family farms that are becoming increasingly commercially-oriented. The remainder is farmed by 136 agricultural enterprises. Agricultural growth is largely determined by a growing but fluctuating crop sub-sector, with livestock making a stable but smaller contribution to agricultural productivity.

Macedonia is a net agricultural importer. As with other countries in the region, increasing trade liberalization and modernization of the economy are transforming Macedonia’s agricultural sector. While opportunities presented by increased trade are great, unless producers and agro-processors can become more competitive they will have trouble competing in both external and internal markets, as low-cost, high-quality imports increase. In addition, the agro-processing sector is constrained by outdated equipment and poor marketing; an inability to meet increasingly important food safety standards; limited access to rural credit markets, and weak extension services capacities.

Overcoming these constraints calls for effective public sector actions to resolve market failures and create an enabling environment for the private sector through suitable policies and regulations and investment in public goods. For several years the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) has had weak institutional and human capacity, and lacks vital functional departments in the fields of policy analysis and human resources development. In light of increasing opportunities and competition in regional markets, Macedonia urgently needs public institutions with the capacity to facilitate agriculture’s transition to a modern sector.
A second key part of the agenda is Macedonia’s status as an EU candidate country. This simultaneously presents opportunities to the government in the form of pre-accession assistance funds for agriculture (including funds directed at farmers and agro-processors) and imposes additional obligations in terms of institutional and regulatory requirements. In the pre-accession period, assistance will flow in the form of Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds, part of which will be destined for agriculture under the Instrument for Pre-Accession for Rural Development (IPARD) program. After accession, support will become available through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU.

The EU accession agenda has magnified the importance of agriculture in Macedonia’s overall policy agenda since agriculture constitutes a significant part of the EU pre-accession requirements. The government has demonstrated a renewed commitment to improving capacity and policy in its dealings with the sector. To address the challenge of transforming the agricultural sector in compliance with EU requirements for accession and assistance, the government is reassessing and reformulating its policy approach. A comprehensive plan of activities is given in the National Program for Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire and MAFWE is working on a new National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development, which aims to identify an efficient policy for the development of agricultural and rural areas in compliance with EU requirements.

The government of Macedonia has requested the World Bank’s assistance in addressing the challenges and constraints outlined above. Specifically, the borrower has requested assistance to strengthen the capacity of MAFWE to support the agriculture sector, including improving its ability to formulate and implement effective policies and increase effectiveness of public expenditures in agriculture in an EU-compliant manner. In addition, it seeks assistance in building the institutions necessary to meet EU accession requirements and access and absorb pre-accession assistance that it is eligible for.

Further, the government seeks to use World Bank funds to strengthen veterinary and food safety laboratory capacities to help producers and agro-processors meet EU food safety standards. Lastly, it wishes to alleviate irrigation-related constraints on productivity, by completing the ongoing reform of the irrigation sector conducted under the previous World Bank Irrigation Restructuring and Rehabilitation Project.
3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project has four components, as follows:

- Component 1: Strengthening MAFWE’s administrative and management capacity in accordance with EU accession requirements
- Component 2: Supporting MAFWE’s ability to deliver EU rural development funds
- Component 3: Developing effective veterinary capacity
- Component 4: Completing reform of irrigation sector

Brief description of each of the components is presented below. Further information on each component is available in the MAFWE.

Component 1: Strengthening MAFWE’s administrative and management capacity in accordance with EU accession requirements

This component will improve MAFWE’s management, administration, information technology, staffing and institutional structure by establishing or upgrading the capacity needed for an efficient design, implementation, management, monitoring, control and evaluation of national agriculture policy in accordance with EU accession requirements. The initial focus will be on capacity-building activities (2007-2009). The component will ultimately move MAFWE structures and systems towards full compliance with the requirements for EU accession and improve transparency and governance in MAFWE. Subcomponents include:

a) Initiation of an Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), to help further develop the key IACS components, particularly focusing on establishing an integrated Farm Register and a Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS). The sub-component will build on other recent MAFWE initiatives such as the Animal Identification and Registration System operated by the Veterinary Directorate and the pilot vineyard cadastre project supported by the EU. It will support investments in appropriate information technology (IT), communication infrastructure, aerial surveys and mapping in three pilot regions, technical assistance and training of staff.

b) Establishment of an Agriculture Information System (AIS), to help establish the key components of an AIS, which include a Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN), Agricultural Statistics (including Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA)) and a Market Information System (MIS). This will be achieved by further developing the current Farm Monitoring System operated by the National Extension Agency and strengthening the FADN institutional framework, and developing an Agricultural Market Information System in a manner compliant with EU requirements. This subcomponent will support investments in appropriate IT equipment and software, technical assistance, training of staff, logistical support, operational support, and market data collection and dissemination.

c) Strengthening the Agricultural Inspection Services, by strengthening the human capacity and technical resources of the State Agricultural Inspectorate (SAI) of MAFWE so that they can effectively carry out their responsibilities for control and monitoring compliance, both with legal acts and use of IPARD assistance. This subcomponent will support investments in IT and communications technology, technical assistance, training of staff, logistical support, and the organizational streamlining of the AIS.
d) Establishing adequate institutional capacity in MAFWE, putting special emphasis on strengthening MAFWE’s capacity in agriculture policy analysis, project cycle management, human resource development, budget planning and in helping to reorganize and streamline the links between MAFWE’s regional offices and headquarters. This subcomponent will support investments in renovation and refurbishment of MAFWE facilities, IT equipment, logistical support, technical assistance, and training of staff.

Component 2: Supporting MAFWE’s ability to deliver EU rural development funds

This component will help establish the Paying Agency that would acquire accreditation to administer IPARD funds on behalf of the EU before accession, and CAP funds after accession; and improve the capacity of potential beneficiaries to make successful applications for IPARD grants. Subcomponents include:

a) Supporting establishment of the IPARD Paying Agency (PA). This will be implemented in the first and second year of the project. It will include investments in training for PA staff capacity building; technical assistance for PA fiduciary system development and implementation, design and purchase of an IT software/hardware platform for the PA, data security, and developing payment verification procedures and equipment for inspectors; civil works and goods for PA offices refurbishment and office equipment; and training in capacity to generate inputs necessary for monitoring and evaluation.

b) Supporting PA capacity building needs for: (i) taking over the responsibility for the administration of the national direct agriculture payments; and (ii) administering the newly accredited measures under the IPARD program. This will take place in the third and fourth year of the project and will involve investments in training.

c) Supporting an IPARD-tailored capacity-building program for rural advisory services providers in order to make specific IPARD advisory services available to the potential beneficiaries. This will take place in the first and second year of the project, and will involve investments in technical assistance and training.

d) Supporting capacity-building in the Rural Development Department in order to improve MAFWE’s capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate rural development policies and programs; and to ensure adequate preparation of multi-annual rural development strategies and plans as a pre-condition for accessing and disbursing IPARD funds.

Component 3: Developing effective veterinary capacity

This component will develop effective veterinary capacity as part of the creation of a functioning integrated food quality system consistent with EU requirements. This will promote safer products of animal origin and prevention and decrease of animal diseases; will help producers meet cross-compliance requirements to receive IPARD funds; and will enable producers and agri-processors in Macedonia to export their products to the more stable and higher value market of the EU. It will include the following subcomponents:

a) Strengthening the Veterinary Directorate (VD) in accordance with the 2007-2013 VD draft strategy and business plan. The project will support the completion of the Veterinary Information System (VIS) and provide support for approximately forty new staff that have and will join the VD in the next year. The animal identification and registration program will be upgraded to include small ruminants, and the
associated database will be linked to the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). To accomplish this, investments will be made in information technology, training, data collection and inspection equipment (including vehicles), and public outreach. In addition this component includes a feasibility study for safe disposal of animal by-products in line with EU requirements, and investment in a disposal facility.

b) **Strengthening the Veterinary Laboratory (VL) and the Food Institute Laboratory (FL).** The laboratories will be strengthened so that they can improve the range and quality of services they can deliver. This will be achieved through investments in equipment, to complement training and equipment received through other donor programs. The laboratories will become ISO certified and will be able to perform a number of tests according to the work-plan included in the project operations manual.

**Component 4: Completing reform of irrigation sector**

This component will support the government in completion of reform of the irrigation sector that started in 2003 under the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Restructuring Project, whereby water users govern irrigation systems. Subcomponents include:

a) **Liquidation of Water Management Organizations (WMOs).** This will support completion of the liquidation of 9 WMOs, involving about 1,100 employees. It will fund expenditures for severance payments, salary and allowance arrears and pension contributions.

b) **Establishing new Water Economies (WEs)** to undertake responsibility for multi-purpose water systems. This will support the establishment of 6 new WEs by financing initial working capital to cover the first 6 months of operations before they can collect fees from users; and providing basic equipment.

c) **Strengthening capacity of the Water Economy Directorate (WED)** to effectively support and oversee the establishment of new IWCs and WEs and monitor their performance, as well as to carry out improved planning of water resources. This will support investments in goods, technical assistance and training as well as minimum incremental operating costs.
4. OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS IN MACEDONIA

Adoption of the EU Acquis is common obligation of all sectors of the state administration, and they all have been working according to the activities set in the National Program. Due to these activities new legislation has been adopted that is in compliance with the EU requirements. The following laws in the area of agriculture and environment have been adopted that are completely in compliance with the EU Acquis:

- **The Law on Environment** (Official Gazette no.53/2005, 81/2005, 24/2007), which is a framework law dealing with the so called “horizontal issues” that connect various environmental aspects by transposing the horizontal EU Directives (IPPC, EIA, SEA, Access to information, etc). The Law on Environment has been recently amended as a result of the implementation problems encountered during its enforcement.

- **The Law on Waste Management** (Official Gazette no. 68/2004, 71/2004) is determining the national waste management system, plans and programs for waste management, rights and obligations of the legal and natural entities in relation to waste management, manner and conditions under which the collection, transport, treatment, storage and disposal of waste is being performed, import, export and transit of waste etc. The Law does not cover animal waste (carcasses, manure, other animal by-products, etc.), as well as other types of non hazardous materials that can be used in agriculture, which are to be regulated with the package of laws concerning the veterinary health that is under preparation.

- **The Law on Nature Protection** (Official Gazette no. 67/2004) regulates the system of nature protection, protection of biological and landscape diversity, as well as protection of the natural heritage which is located in or outside the protected areas. The Law is based, among others, on the Directive 79/409/EEC on wild birds, Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and the Regulation 338/97/EEC on trade in protected and endangered wild species.

- **The Law on Ambient Air Quality** (Official Gazette no. 67/2004) regulates the measures for avoidance, prevention or reduction of harmful effects from ambient air pollution on human health, as well as environment as a whole; establishment of threshold limit values, alert thresholds and emission limit values for the ambient air quality; establishment of unique system of ambient air quality monitoring; control and monitoring system for sources of emissions; comprehensive system of ambient air quality and sources of emissions management; information system, and other measures aimed at protection against certain activities by legal entities and individuals having direct or indirect impact on the quality of air. This law transposes the main EU Air Directives. Future improvements of the Law are required in order to transpose Directive 91/13/EC on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations; and Directive 2001/81 on national emission ceilings of certain atmospheric pollutants.

- **The Law on Vine** (Official Gazette no. 69/2004) regulates the production and trade of grapes and vine and other products of grapes and vine. It deals with the vine register, the rights and obligations of the legal and natural entities producing and trading with vine and vine-related products.
• The Law on Identification and Registration of Animals (Official Gazette no. 69/2004) regulates the identification and registration of the farm animals as well as other animals in order to achieve better control of the animal diseases and provide overall wellbeing of the animals.

• The Law on Organic Agricultural Production (Official Gazette no16/2004) deals with the control over the production of organic agricultural products. Its aim is to provide production of food with affirmed quality, to protect the consumers, to protect natural resources from pollution, and to promote the sustainable social, economic and rural development.

• The Law on Agricultural Inspection (Official Gazette no. 38/2004) regulates the manner of organization of the agricultural inspection work, inspectorate’s competences, authorizations and modes of performing the work. According to this law the agricultural inspection is carried out by the State Agriculture Inspectorate that is formed as a body within the MAFWE.


• The Law on Tobacco and Tobacco Products (Official Gazette no. 24/2006) deals with the production of tobacco and trade with tobacco products.

• The Law on Seed and Seedling material (Official Gazette no. 41/2000) which deals with quality and distribution requirements of seeding material still needs to be harmonized with the relevant directives.

Under preparation and in the final phase of drafting are the following laws:

• The Law on Agriculture and Rural Development - this law has been in the first phase of its preparation and should deal with the priorities as identified in the Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (that is also under preparation as well).

• The package of laws concerning the veterinary health: Veterinary Law, Law on animal welfare and protection, Law on animal by-products, Law on Veterinary Public Health, Law on Veterinary medicinal and biocidal products, Law on feed hygiene and animal nutrition - which will encompass basic principles of the EU legislation on animal welfare that have not yet been transposed in the national legislation.

• The Law on Plants Protection Products – that is under preparation in compliance with Directive 91/414/EC.

• The Law on Noise in Environment, presently in the second phase of parliamentary adoption procedure, deals with the assessment and management of the environmental noise according to the Directive 2002/49/EC.

• The Law on Waters, which is being drafted in accordance with the relevant EU Directives but is not adopted due to some institutional problems. The draft Law on Waters does not provide sufficient clarity on functions and responsibilities among different ministries (MAFWE, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Energy) and institutions (Water Fund Agency, WEs, FIWCs). It also fails to designate the competent authority for water resources management at the national level. The debate on agency which is to be made responsible for water resources management is still ongoing.
5. PROCEDURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT REQUIED UNDER MACEDONIAN LEGISLATION

EA and EIA

Environmental protection in Macedonia is governed by the Law on Environment of June 2005, which has been significantly amended in February 2007. This Law is harmonized with the relevant EU directives. The Law establishes the main environmental protection principles, including the rights and obligations of the State, public associations and citizens in regards to environmental protection. It specifically addresses environmental impact assessments (EA and SEA), environmental quality standards, permitting requirements for activities that may affect the environment, measures for prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, environmental monitoring and control systems, the role of the public and sanctions imposed on polluters and others that violate the Law.

Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for specific activities and projects is required to be carried out in accordance with the articles 76 to 94 of the Law on Environment. The practical implementation of the Law is enabled by adoption of the whole set of the secondary legislation that is providing necessary technical details and procedures:

(a) The Decree determining projects for and criteria on basis of which the screening for an environmental impact assessment is to be carried out (Official Gazette No. 74/2005);

(b) The Ordinance on content and requirements to be fulfilled by the study on environmental impact assessment (Official Gazette No. 33/2006);

(c) The Ordinance on additional criteria, manner, procedure, and compensation on expenses for enrolment in and withdrawal from the List of experts (Official Gazette No. 33/2006) This was subsequently repealed by the Constitutional Court, necessary amendments on the Law on Environment were made and the new ordinance is presently under preparation;

(d) The Ordinance on information contained in the notification of intent to undertake a project and procedure for establishing the need for environmental impact assessment (Official Gazette No. 33/2006);

(e) The Ordinance on content of the announcement of notification of intent to implement a project, on the decision and necessity of preparation of the environmental impact assessment, on the study on project environmental impact assessment, on the report on adequacy of the study on project environmental impact assessment, and of decision for approval or rejection of project implementation and the manner of public consultation (Official Gazette No. 33/2006);

(f) The Ordinance on form, content, procedure and manner of delivering a report on the adequacy of the study on project environmental impact assessment and the procedure for authorisation of persons from List of Experts on environmental impact assessment responsible for the preparation of the report. (Official Gazette No. 33/2006);

(g) The Ordinance on the amount of expenses covered by the Investor for implementation of environmental impact assessment procedure (Official Gazette No.33/2006) This was subsequently repealed by the Constitutional Court, necessary amendments on the Law on Environment were made and the new ordinance is presently under preparation.
The Law on Environment and the secondary legislation is fully in accordance with the European Union Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EEC and 2003/35/EC) and its requirements for undertaking environmental assessments of potential environmental impacts of public and private projects that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment before development consent is granted in the form of approval for project implementation. Impacts on environment can include impacts on human beings and biological diversity; soil, water, air and other natural resources and climate; historical and cultural heritage as well as the interaction between these elements (as per Article 76 of the Law). Hence, it is required that before development consent is granted for certain types of projects in the Republic of Macedonia, an EIA has to be carried out. The EIA process is expected to anticipate potential environmental harm and to avoid or mitigate such harm while balancing environmental, social and economic objectives.

The types of projects that require an EIA are determined in accordance with Article 77 of the Law as specified in relevant Decree (see (a) above). Development consent in Macedonia is granted via construction permit, integrated environmental permit and other required permit (such as a waste permit or a mineral extraction permit).

Under the EIA Directive projects are classified in two groups: (a) projects listed in Annex I that are subject to compulsory EIA, and (b) projects in Annex II, for which the assessment contains an element of discretion, noting that an EIA procedure will, in any event, be required for projects with potentially significant environmental impacts. The public and other parties are to be consulted on the EIA. These requirements have been incorporated into the legislation of the Republic of Macedonia.

Other Permits

The construction permits, engineering survey, design and construction standards and regulations are governed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. A Law on Construction (Official Gazette No.51/2005) sets out the procedures for new construction, as well as the renovations, or as the Law address them the “the adaptation of the part of construction that is already in use”. For adaptation of part or reconstruction of the construction that is already in use the Law does not require obtaining approval for construction. The adaptation or reconstruction work can commence after the Ministry of Transport and Communications approves the basic project. The Law on Construction defines authorized design organizations such as architectural firms, engineering companies, Public Enterprise for Parks and Green Areas which may contribute to the detailed design.

According to the Draft Law on Noise in Environment, that is in the last phase of its adoption and will most likely be in force prior to the start of this project, in the procedure of issuing construction permit (in this case approval on the basic project) the Ministry of Transport and Communication shall check whether the basic project (design) is meeting the special conditions in connection with the noise standards and that necessary measures for protection, prevention and decreasing of the levels of noise were undertaken.
6. PROCEDURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UNDER WORLD BANK PROCEDURES

The World Bank requires that an environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for Bank financing warrant their sustainability and environmental solidity, and thus safeguard democratic decision-making process. Under the Bank’s regulations the borrower is responsible for carrying out the EA in compliance with both the country’s legislation and the Bank’s regulations.

An EA is a process whose breadth, depth, and type of analysis depend on the nature, scale, and potential environmental impact of the proposed project. An EA evaluates a project’s potential environmental risks and impacts in its area of influence; it examines project alternatives; identifies ways of improving project selection, siting, planning, design, and implementation by preventing, minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for adverse environmental impacts and enhancing positive impacts; and includes the process of mitigating and managing adverse environmental impacts throughout project implementation. The World Bank favours preventive measures over mitigation or compensatory measures, whenever feasible.

EA take into account the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cultural property); and transboundary and global environmental aspects. EA consider natural and social aspects in an integrated way. They also take into account the variations in project and country conditions; the findings of country environmental studies; national environmental action plans; the country’s overall policy framework, national legislation, and institutional capabilities related to the environment and social aspects; and obligations of the country, pertaining to project activities, under relevant international environmental treaties and agreements. The World Bank does not finance project activities that would contravene such country obligations, as identified during the EA. EA is initiated as early as possible in project processing and is integrated closely with the economic, financial, institutional, social, and technical analyses of a proposed project.

EA Instruments

Depending on the project, a range of instruments can be used to satisfy the World Bank’s EA requirement: environmental impact assessment (EIA), regional or sectoral EA, environmental audit, hazard or risk assessment, and environmental management plan (EMP). EA applies one or more of these instruments, or elements of them, as appropriate. When the project is likely to have sectoral or regional impacts, sectoral or regional EA is required.

Environmental Screening

The World Bank undertakes environmental screening of each proposed project to determine the appropriate extent and type of EA. The World Bank classifies the proposed project into one of four categories, depending on the type, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project and the nature and magnitude of its potential environmental impacts. The current project has been classified by the World Bank as a Category B project.

A proposed project is classified as Category B if its potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas—including wetlands, forests, grasslands, and other
natural habitats—are less adverse than those of Category A projects. These impacts are site-specific; few if any of them are irreversible; and in most cases mitigation measures can be designed more readily than for Category A projects. The scope of an EA for a Category B project may vary from project to project. The EA examines the project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts and recommends any measures needed to prevent, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts and improve environmental performance. The findings and results of Category B EA are described in the project documentation (Project Appraisal Document and Project Information Document).

Public Consultation

For Category B projects proposed for financing, during the EA process, the borrower consults project-affected groups and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the project's environmental aspects and takes their views into account. The borrower initiates such consultations as early as possible.

Disclosure

For meaningful consultations between the borrower and project-affected groups and local NGOs on all Category B projects proposed for IBRD or IDA financing, the borrower provides relevant material in a timely manner prior to consultation and in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted.

Any separate Category B report for a project proposed for financing is made available to project-affected groups and local NGOs. Public availability in the borrowing country and official receipt by the World Bank of Category B EA report for projects proposed for funding, are prerequisites to World Bank appraisal of these projects. Once the borrower officially transmits the separate Category B EA report to the World Bank, the World Bank makes it available through its Info-Shop.

Implementation

During project implementation, the borrower reports on (a) compliance with measures agreed with the World Bank on the basis of the findings and results of the EA, including implementation of any Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as set out in the project documents; (b) the status of mitigation measures; and (c) the findings of monitoring programs. The World Bank bases supervision of the project's environmental aspects on the findings and recommendations of the EA, including measures set out in the legal agreements, any EMP, and other project documents.
7. MAIN IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Component 1: Strengthening MAFWE’s administrative and management capacity in accordance with EU accession requirements

a) *Initiation of an Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS):* There are no identified environmental issues. The subcomponent will support investments in appropriate information technology (IT), communication infrastructure, aerial surveys and mapping in three pilot regions, technical assistance and training of staff. As such, measures undertaken under this subcomponent can only contribute to improving environmental protection by creating relevant data base.

b) *Establishment of an Agriculture Information System (AIS):* There are no foreseen potential adverse effects as the efforts are centered on further development of the current Farm Monitoring System operated by the National Extension Agency and strengthening of the FADN institutional framework, as well as development of an Agricultural Market Information System in a manner compliant with EU requirements. This subcomponent will support investments in appropriate IT equipment and software, technical assistance, training of staff, logistical support, operational support, and market data collection and dissemination.

c) *Strengthening the Agricultural Inspection Services:* There are no identified environmental issues, as this activity will involve strengthening the human capacity and technical resources of the State Agricultural Inspectorate. This subcomponent will support investments in IT and communications technology, technical assistance, training of staff, logistical support, and the organizational streamlining of the AIS.

d) *Establishing adequate institutional capacity in MAFWE:* This subcomponent will support investments in renovation and refurbishment of MAFWE facilities (regional offices and headquarters), IT equipment, logistical support, technical assistance, and training of staff. Adverse environmental impacts are related to execution of civil works at headquarters (Annex building of MAFWE at 2 Leninova Street in Skopje and at regional offices. The building of MAFWE is located in central part of Skopje, in urbanized area where major impacts will be related to dust, noise and management of construction debris. In respect to works in regional offices, the Contracts for civil works under the project will be subject to screening for environmental impacts by the responsible environmental entity. All bidding documents and contracts will include measures to minimize or mitigate environmental impacts. Good engineering practices will include measures to minimize impact of dust, noise and traffic at construction sites, as well as management of the construction waste. The measures to deal with above issues are identified and proposed in EMP.

Component 2: Supporting MAFWE’s ability to deliver EU rural development funds

a) *Supporting establishment of the IPARD Paying Agency (PA):* Activities under this subcomponent include investments in training for PA staff capacity building; technical assistance for PA fiduciary system development and implementation, design and purchase of an IT software/hardware platform for the PA, data security, and developing payment verification procedures and equipment for inspectors; civil works and goods for PA offices refurbishment and office equipment; and training in capacity to generate inputs necessary for monitoring and evaluation. Potential adverse environmental impacts are related to execution of civil works at for PA office(s), which are identified in buildings of Macedonija tabak and Televizija. Both buildings are situated in well developed and urbanized area of Skopje and will include interior works. The major potential negative impacts are related to dust, noise and management of construction debris. Those impacts are identified and mitigation measures proposed in EMP.
b) **Supporting PA capacity building needs:** There are no foreseen potential adverse impacts as this subcomponent includes only training activities for taking over the responsibility for the administration of the national direct agriculture payments and administering the newly accredited measures under the IPARD program.

c) **Supporting an IPARD-tailored capacity-building program for rural advisory services providers** include investments in technical assistance and training in order to make specific IPARD advisory services available to the potential beneficiaries. There are no identified environmental issues related to this subcomponent.

d) **Supporting capacity-building in the Rural Development Department** in order to improve MAFWE’s capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate rural development policies and programs. There are no foreseen potential adverse impacts as this subcomponent

**Component 3: Developing effective veterinary capacity**

a) **Strengthening the Veterinary Directorate (VD) in accordance with the 2007-2013 VD draft strategy and business plan:** The project will support the completion of the Veterinary Information System (VIS), upgrade of the animal identification and registration program to include small ruminants and creation of associated database. Investments will be made in information technology, training, data collection and inspection equipment (including vehicles), and public outreach. There are no significant negative environmental impacts associated with above activities.

In addition this component will fund preparation of a feasibility study for safe disposal of animal by-products in line with EU requirements, and investment in a disposal facility.

Feasibility study for safe disposal of animal by-products will deal with the issue of animal waste and civil engineering structures should be subject to environmental screening and/or impact assessment according to Macedonian legislation, and in particular with requirements of Annex 2, point 15 for “Projects for carcasses handling and animal waste treatment”. In both cases, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning should be notified.

The Draft Law on Animal By-Products is also setting the basic requirements that need to be fulfilled by installations for incineration of animal by-products in order to be approved by the relevant authority.

Incinerator plants that only burn animal carcasses or parts of carcasses should be approved under the Animal By-Products Regulation EC No. 1774/2002 that is transposed in the new draft Law on Animal By-Products. The incineration plants are exempt from the more onerous controls of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76 EC) which is transposed in the Law on Waste Management. However, plants which burn other animal by-products (such as former foodstuffs, catering waste, manure etc.), processed products (meat and bone meal, tallow), or other waste not of animal origin must be authorised under the Waste Incineration Directive and in accordance with the Law on Waste Management.

The incineration activities are also covered by the Law on Environment through the system of Integrated Environmental Permitting. This is a rather complex permitting procedure that has its basis in the Law on Environment and several subsidiary legal acts such as *Decree for determining the activities of the installations requiring an integrated environmental permit*, *(Official Gazette No. 04/2006), Ordinance on the procedure for issuing Type A integrated environmental permit*(Official Gazette No. 04/2006), *Ordinance on the procedure for issuing Type B integrated environmental permit* *(Official Gazette No. 04/2006)* , *Ordinance on the procedure for issuing Adjustment permits with adjustment...*
plans (Official Gazette No. 04/2006). These so called IPPC permits cover only the commercial activities implying that if the Veterinary Laboratory uses the incinerator for its own purposes than it is exempt from this procedure and legal obligation. However, if the Veterinary Laboratory decides to offer the incineration services to other legal or natural subjects than it will be obliged to comply with the Law on Environment and obtain the integral environmental permit.

In order to address the potential negative effects, the TOR for the feasibility study should include references to all relevant Macedonian legislation, with the request for the Consultant to adhere to them and prepare separate EMP for execution of civil works for the facility for safe disposal of animal by-products. This EMP should be submitted and approved by the Bank before the start of construction.

b) Strengthening the Veterinary Laboratory (VL) and the Food Institute Laboratory (FL). The laboratories will be strengthened so that they can improve the range and quality of services they can deliver. This will be achieved through investments in equipment, to complement training and equipment received through other donor programs. The laboratories will become ISO certified and will be able to perform a number of tests according to the work-plan included in the project operations manual. The laboratories have already implemented a system for separation of hazardous from non-hazardous waste, which is performed at source. The separate procedures for dealing with various waste types have been implemented (disposal through urban waste collection system for non-hazardous waste; sterilization of hazardous waste; procedures for dealing with medical waste; new waste incinerator has just arrived in Macedonia and is expected to be installed by mid-May 2007). Several donors have been involved in providing equipment and financial means for upgrade of various laboratories. However, the waste manual is still lacking and should be prepared as a matter of urgency – formalizing already implemented procedures and strengthening the control over implementation of waste management system. The work of the Veterinary Laboratory needs to be certified according to ISO standards and monitored regularly and reported to the World Bank on annual basis.

Component 4: Completing reform of irrigation sector

a) Liquidation of Water Management Organizations (WMOs). This will support completion of the liquidation of 9 WMOs, involving about 1,100 employees. It will fund expenditures for severance payments, salary and allowance arrears and pension contributions. There are no identified environmental issues related to this subcomponent.

b) Establishing new Water Economies (WEs) to undertake responsibility for multi-purpose water systems. This will support the establishment of 6 new WEs by financing initial working capital to cover the first 6 months of operations before they can collect fees from users; and providing basic equipment. There will be no negative environmental impacts related to this subcomponent. The activities will be beneficial to environment since they will help ensure that public sector institutions and water-users associations make better use of water infrastructure, technology and management practices.

c) Strengthening capacity of the Water Economy Directorate (WED) to effectively support and oversee the establishment of new IWCS and WEs and monitor their performance, as well as to carry out improved planning of water resources. This will support investments in goods, technical assistance and training as well as minimum incremental operating costs. There are no identified environmental issues related to this subcomponent.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLANS
Project component 1: Strengthening MAFWE’s administrative and management capacity in accordance with EU accession requirements, sub component d)

Project component 2: Supporting MAFWE’s ability to deliver EU rural development funds, sub component a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Potential Major Issue</th>
<th>Mitigation Measures</th>
<th>Monitoring Requirements</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Responsibility for Mitigation</th>
<th>Responsibility for Monitoring and Supervision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction, Repair, Adaptation, Renovation on the Building within the main complex of MAFWE, at Leninova Street no. 2 in Skopje</td>
<td>Noise and dust from construction activities, vibrations and other physical factors</td>
<td>(1) Apply good engineering practices; (2) Observe legal requirements.</td>
<td>Site supervisor’s report; Municipal inspectorate’s report.</td>
<td>Covered by reconstruction budget.</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Contractor and MAFWE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconstruction, Repair, Adaptation, Renovation of the Makdonija Tabak building in Skopje</td>
<td>Construction debris and other non-hazardous waste</td>
<td>(1) Apply good engineering practices; (2) Design procedures for temporary storage of waste on site, fence and protect the storage area; (3) Ensure removal and disposal of waste by licensed contractor at approved location.</td>
<td>Site supervisor’s report; Municipal inspectorate’s report.</td>
<td>Covered by reconstruction budget.</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Contractor and MAFWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction, Repair, Adaptation, Renovation of the Makedonska Televizija building in Skopje</td>
<td>Hazardous waste (if observed and found on site during demolition and reconstruction works)</td>
<td>(1) Categorize hazardous waste according to local legislation; (2) Separate from other waste on site; (3) Design and implement activities for safe removal and disposal according to local legislation.</td>
<td>Site supervisor’s report; Contractor’s report; Municipal inspectorate’s report.</td>
<td>Additional budget may be required.</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Contractor and MAFWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconstruction, Repair, Adaptation, Renovation of MAFWE regional offices – any location(s) outside Skopje</td>
<td>Noise and dust from construction activities, vibrations and other physical factors; Construction debris and other non-hazardous waste; Hazardous waste (if observed and found on site); Impact on cultural heritage in urban area; Impact on environment, nature protection, air, water and soil;</td>
<td>(1) Prepare brief EA and assess potential adverse environmental impacts; (2) Design EMP; (3) Comply with requirements of local legislation;</td>
<td>Throughout construction as determined by EA</td>
<td>$5000 per regional office</td>
<td>MAFWE</td>
<td>MAFWE</td>
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<td>Implement EMPs as designed as a part of EA</td>
<td>As determined in EMP</td>
<td>As determined in EA/EMP</td>
<td>Covered by renovation budget</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Contractor and MAFWE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Potential Major Issue</td>
<td>Mitigation Measures</td>
<td>Monitoring Requirements</td>
<td>Budget</td>
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<td>Preparation of the feasibility study for safe disposal of animal by-products in line with EU requirements and investment in disposal facility</td>
<td>Potential negative impacts on environment, air, water and soil; health and safety issues; issues related to hazardous waste disposal; protection of natural and cultural heritage; impact on urban and agricultural land; other impacts.</td>
<td>Within TOR for feasibility study include requirement of full compliance with relevant EA/EIA legislation and full compliance with national permitting procedures, including preparation of separate EA and EMP.</td>
<td>Separate EA/EIA to be prepared and approved by MoEPP and WB. Details of EMP to be fully compliant with national legislation.</td>
<td>To be determined as a part of EA/EIA and included in construction budget.</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>MAFWE and MoEPP</td>
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<td>Investment in equipment in Veterinary Laboratory and in Food Institute Laboratory</td>
<td>Impact of laboratory waste on environment (air, water and soil); health and safety issues.</td>
<td>(1) Formalize already implemented waste management procedures; (2) Prepare Waste Manual according to ISO and IPPC requirements; (3) Implement procedures prescribed by Waste Manual; (4) Certify Veterinary Laboratory and Food Institute Laboratory according to ISO standards.</td>
<td>Daily reporting and monitoring after (3) by each laboratory; Periodical monitoring by MAFWE and other national authorities in accordance with national legislation; Annual inspection by ISO certifying authority.</td>
<td>Internal budget of relevant laboratory and MAFWE</td>
<td>Relevant laboratory</td>
<td>MAFWE, MoH, MoEPP, ISO certifying authority</td>
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<td>Impact of existing incinerating activities on air quality</td>
<td>(1) Obtain permits for the existing facility in accordance with relevant legislation – integral permit; (2) Implement and maintain efficiency of measures prescribed as conditions for obtaining integral permit.</td>
<td>As prescribed in permit conditions</td>
<td>To be determined after issuing permit conditions</td>
<td>Veterinary Laboratory/ incinerator operator</td>
<td>Veterinary Laboratory, MAFWE, MoEPP, MoH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and disposal of ash generated from incinerating activities</td>
<td>Design and implement activities as prescribed in conditions for obtaining integral permit for incinerating facility</td>
<td>As prescribed in permit conditions</td>
<td>Internal funds of incinerator operator</td>
<td>Veterinary Laboratory/ incinerator operator</td>
<td>Veterinary Laboratory, MAFWE, MoEPP</td>
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9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Report contains findings of EA for the Macedonia Agriculture and Rural Development Cohesion Project, which was carried out in accordance with the Macedonian and World Bank requirements.

The Report presents an overview of Macedonian agricultural sector; project description; national legal framework of environmental and agricultural sectors; procedures for environmental assessment for project development required under the national legislation, including permitting procedures; procedures for environmental assessment for project development under World Bank procedures; main environmental impacts of the proposed project; environmental mitigation plans and summary record of public discussion.

This project is classified as Category B, requiring partial Environmental Analysis, but not a full-scale Environmental Assessment. An environmental analysis which was carried out as part of the project preparation activities to identify potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the project, found that potential adverse environmental impacts of the project are minor to negligible. In cases where the negative environmental impacts are identified adequate mitigation measures have been proposed. There are no significant, long-lasting and irreversible negative impacts associated with the project execution and implementation.

The project components and sub-components that could have negative impacts (if not mitigated) are: Component 1, sub-component d; Component 2, sub-component a); and Component 3 sub-components a) and b).

Contracts for civil works under the project will be subject to screening for environmental impacts by the responsible environmental entity. All bidding documents and contracts for civil engineering works will include measures to minimize or mitigate environmental damage. Standard operating procedures and good engineering practice will include measures applying to construction activities in general, and in particular to control dust, noise, vibrations and other physical factors, traffic at and around the construction sites as well as measures for construction waste and debris management and disposal. The project will not support land acquisition or associated involuntary resettlement.

The office reconstruction and adaptation works shall take place at 3 already determined locations in central area of Skopje. For civil engineering activities at locations of the regional offices outside Skopje, separate EAs will be prepared to assess the environmental impact and propose environmental mitigation measures.

The other negative impacts, associated with project component 3, are connected to lack of formalized waste management procedures in Veterinary and Food Institute laboratories and unclear permitting situation in respect to already existing incinerating facility. Adequate measures to deal with those issues are proposed in EMP, which include full compliance with the national legislation, adequate monitoring and ISO accreditation.

Monitoring compliance in accordance with findings of this Report and requirements of EMPs, including progress monitoring on EMP’s implementation will be undertaken by MAFWE at least twice per year. The environmental monitoring and supervision reports will be prepared twice per year. Those will be submitted to the World Bank for the review and endorsement.
10. SUMMARY RECORD OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The consultation meeting was aimed at presenting to the relevant institutions and concerned public (NGOs) the environmental aspects of the Agriculture and Rural Development Cohesion Project, as well as to give them the opportunity to state their comments, opinions and remarks on the matter.

The meeting was held on March 28, 2007 at premises of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy at Leninova 2 from 12.00 a.m. to 13.00 p.m.

On this public consultation meeting the representatives were invited from:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE),
- Ministry of Health (MoH),
- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP),
- Chamber of Commerce,
- Local self government units and the City of Skopje, as well as
- NGOs.

The purpose, the main components and activities of the project were presented by Ms Milijana Georgievska (MAFWE), who welcomed the participants. She stated that the main focus of the project shall be capacity building of the MAFWE, its sectors and related institutions. The time line in which the activities shall be preformed and the expected results were also presented.

The environmental assessment of the project components and subcomponents, potential environmental risks, impacts and potential mitigation measures were presented and elaborated by Ms. Biljana Vukovik. Her presentation centered on the positive effects of the project on the environment, affirming that the proposed activities shall bring overall benefits to the environmental and agricultural sectors in Macedonia. The potentially negative impacts from several subcomponents of the project were clarified together with the measures for mitigation of negative effects.

First remark was given by Ms. Jaglika Siljanovska (MoH). She was concerned that no representative from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning attended this meeting, although they were invited. She said that in discussions like this a representative from a state institution dealing with environmental issues must be present, otherwise the value of discussion will be very limited.

Furthermore, Ms Siljanovska agreed with Ms Vukovik on the fact that the renovation, adaptation and refurbishment of the offices shall have only minor to negligible impact of the environment and that no special requirements under the Law on Construction have to be satisfied regarding to those activities.

Ms Siljanovska noted that the activities of the Veterinary Laboratory in connection with animal waste treatment and incineration of the animal waste might have potentially adverse effect on the environment and human health if they are not regulated and monitored adequately. No incentives should be given in relation to this, regardless of the fact that the Veterinary Laboratory is a scientific and research institution.

She also gave a general comment that the environmental legislation has been prepared in accordance with the EU legislation but it is not implemented and enforced properly.

Ms Vukovik explained that there is a legal procedure that has to be followed in the case of activities such as animal waste treatment and incineration of waste. First the MoEPP has to be notified on the intention on developing the activity. Most certainly an EIA procedure shall be required regardless of the fact that the activity may qualify as an incineration activity (compulsory EIA) or treatment of animal corpses and waste (for which screening is compulsory before a decision on EIA is made). During the
EIA procedure MEPP shall advise on any other permit that needs to be obtained in accordance with the environmental legislation. Incineration activities require a type A integrated environmental permit if they are performed as a commercial ones (scientific and research activities do not require such a permit) or a permit for waste incineration under the Law on Waste (although the animal waste is presently not covered by the scope of the Law on Waste).

However, the use of the incinerator is a big step forward in environmental protection and protection of the human health in comparison to the existing practice to burn the animal waste at the open space.

Ms. Marija Jankovska (NGO Eko Svest) was dismayed by the fact that the animal waste treatment is taking place in the yard of the Veterinary Laboratory that is in the central city area and is surrounded by apartment buildings. She also asked whether this new incineration activity of the Veterinary Laboratory has been properly notified to MoEPP and whether the information on its characteristics can be obtained. If the Veterinary Laboratory did not notify MoEPP yet, this should be done as soon as possible because the general public must have the opportunity to obtain such an information from MoEPP. She also noted that the Veterinary Laboratory (being scientific and research institution) should not be exonerated from the regulations applying for those types of activities (waste incineration) because those activities could be potentially very dangerous to human health.

Other participants did not have any additional remarks and the public consultation meeting was closed with the following conclusions:

1. The work of the Veterinary Laboratory in connection with animal waste treatment and incineration of waste should be executed with care and full compliance with the existing legislation;
2. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning should be notified as soon as possible about activities related to animal waste incineration at the site of Veterinary Laboratory;
3. General public should have access to above-related information in accordance with the national law.

List of Participants

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name and organization</th>
<th>Contact phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jaglika Siljanovska, Ministry of Health</td>
<td>071/268829</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Marija Jankovska, NGO Eko-Svest</td>
<td>02/3217247</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Zorica Misheva, LSG - Aerodrom</td>
<td>02/2401538</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Biljana Bosheska, LSG - Aerodrom</td>
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<td>Biljana Cibreva, MAFWE</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Milijana Georgievksa, MAFWE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Biljana Vukovik, consultant</td>
<td>070/338537</td>
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