



TRATOLOW
Transition towards low emissions

EU Support for Climate Action in IPA II Beneficiaries

Transition towards the low emissions
and climate-resilient economy in the
Western Balkans and Türkiye
(TRATOLOW)



© Umweltbundesamt/M. Deweis



This project is funded
by the European Union

TAIEX SHARING
EU EXPERTISE
SINCE 1996

umweltbundesamt^U NIRÁS

The project is implemented by a Consortium of
Umweltbundesamt GmbH (lead) and NIRAS

EU CLIMATE POLICY AND EU SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In light of the EU enlargement process in the region, it is important to work closely with partners throughout the European integration process and to help them transpose and correctly implement the EU climate acquis by the date of accession. By signing the Sofia Declaration in November 2020, the leaders of the Western Balkan region recognised the need for more ambitious climate action and reaffirmed their commitment to align with European climate targets as part of the EU accession process.

The Western Balkans and Türkiye are particularly vulnerable to and severely affected by climate change and there is a need to strengthen

climate resilience. Increasing global temperatures lead to droughts, but also to unstable weather conditions and extreme weather events, causing economic damage. The lack of a proper climate change policy framework will affect the region's ability to respond effectively to the impact of climate change. To face these challenges, a regional approach is the way forward.

All beneficiaries have already benefited from projects and initiatives that have supported them in implementing the EU climate acquis in the past. The seven beneficiaries are at different levels in their accession process, but it is important for all of them to continue their progress towards alignment.

FIT FOR 55

Fit for 55 is a cross-cutting package of proposals to revise and update the European Union's climate, energy and transport-related legislation. The goal is to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world. To this end, targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions have been raised from 40% to 55%. With the Green Agenda, the EU is expanding this plan to the Western Balkans and laying the foundation for a green transition in the region. The aim is to decouple the economy from the emission of greenhouse gases, reduce the consumption of resources and the generation of waste and strive for climate resilience.

Currently, the region is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and industrial facilities also need to be modernised. The Green Agenda will be an opportunity for the beneficiaries to move to circular economies and benefit from the deployment of green technologies.

KEY FACTS

The project “Transition towards the low emissions and climate-resilient economy in the Western Balkans and Türkiye (TRATOLOW)” addresses the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) and Türkiye.

The objective of TRATOLOW is to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as to the development towards a resource-efficient, low-emission and climate-resilient economy in the Western Balkans and Türkiye.

The purpose is to support the beneficiaries to develop their capacities for the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the transition to low-emission and climate-resilient economies and to enhance the regional exchange of information, best practices, peer reviews, experience and awareness-raising campaigns.

TRATOLOW is aiming to strengthen institutional capacities and cooperation among institutions, ensure broad stakeholder involvement and provide technical know-how. Taking into account the regional approach as well as the specific context of each beneficiary, the project is helping with capacity building, assessment of training needs and fulfilment of obligations from EU legislation and verification of legal compliance.

The project runs for 36 months, from October 2020 – October 2023.

THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF TRATOLOW

The transfer of knowledge from the Consortium to the beneficiaries, but also the exchange of knowledge between them, is crucial for achieving the goals of the project. Therefore, TRATOLOW is built around the following strategic principles:

- Supporting beneficiaries’ efforts in the EU approximation and negotiation process
- Further strengthening of regional cooperation within the framework of UNFCCC-related processes, and particularly the EU targets
- Aiming at an equal level of progress in all beneficiaries through a customised approach
- Facilitating information exchange and knowledge capitalisation
- Supporting high-level and policy dialogues
- Building upon previous and ongoing initiatives: continuity – complementarity – lessons learned – synergies
- Commitment to stakeholder ownership and sustainability of project results

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

PROJECT WORKING GROUPS

Strengthening regional communication and coordination between the relevant key institutions through their representation in the Project's Steering Committee (PSC) and technical Working Groups (WG).

Project activities are implemented through a system of Working Groups, the establishment of which creates the opportunity to reach more people, to go into more detail and to anchor the key messages, thus contributing to actual change.

The implementation of project activities is managed, coordinated and logistically supported by the TRATOLOW Secretariat, which has been established by the Umweltbundesamt Consortium.



Working Group 1

HORIZONTAL CLIMATE POLICY

The main objective of Working Group 1 is to raise awareness of the latest EU policy priorities and developments as envisaged by the Paris Agreement, the Green Agenda and the EU Climate and Energy Framework. Its activities aim to support beneficiaries in developing low-carbon growth and climate-resilient industries through policy advice. Adaptation technologies that create synergies between climate change mitigation efforts and low-carbon technologies will be developed as a paradigm for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Consisting of activities to support implementation, this working group addresses members of the public administration responsible for strategic climate action and energy transition, including target setting, institutional arrangements, pre-accession negotiations, budgetary and financial issues, specific legislation, drafting and organisational development requirements and capacity building.

Working Group 1 supports meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement, the EU Climate and Energy Framework, the EU Green Deal and

the corresponding Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. This is achieved by means of workshops and training in the field of climate policy.



Working Group 2

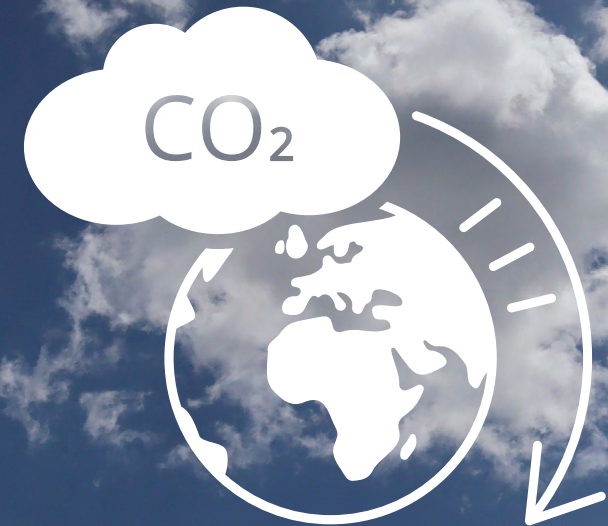
GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)

Working Group 2 assists the beneficiaries in further developing their national inventory systems to be able to prepare complete, accurate and transparent annual greenhouse gas inventories and inventory-related chapters for biennial reports and

national communications in line with the requirements for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR).

This working group will focus on capacity building on domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, including legislative work, and the development of GHG monitoring and reporting practices on the national and regional levels. Training will include the development and maintenance of greenhouse gas inventories

in line with the EU monitoring mechanism legislation, the EU Energy Union Governance Regulation and preparing for the increased reporting requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This will allow beneficiaries to prepare reports on emission inventories and emission forecasts.



Working Group 3

EU EMISSION TRADING SYSTEM (ETS)

Activities in Working Group 3 focus on supporting the beneficiaries in implementing carbon pricing with a view to adopting the EU ETS no later than by the date of accession to the EU. The activities build on the successful approach followed in the ECRAN and RIPAP projects, adapted to the recent developments in the EU ETS, in particular changes made for the start of phase IV of the EU ETS.

This includes the ongoing development of national EU ETS roadmaps and recommendations for the design of the legal and country-specific framework for Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Accreditation (MRVA) or for other selected EU ETS aspects.

This working group focuses on activities identified to strengthen the monitoring, reporting, accreditation and verification requirements under the EU ETS. This working group targets members of the public

Regional training events focus on capacity building on MRVA and thus facilitate the exchange among beneficiary teams. Technical in-country workshops are held to learn about various ETS aspects (for beneficiaries in public administration, operators, verifiers or accreditation bodies, or a combination of actors). A regional workshop on implementation includes aviation in the EU ETS and the implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA). In addition, the working group provides hands-on support such as networking activities with EU ETS experts from EU Member States.

administration responsible for the EU ETS transposition and implementation as well as operators, authorities and verifiers and civil society organisations (CSOs).



Working Group 4

ADAPTATION

This working group's main objective is to support the national and regional adaptation planning as well as resulting actions, and it will build on the regional needs of beneficiaries, interests and commitments to achieve resilience to climate change at national and regional scales.

Regional and domestic training as well as ad-hoc support will help all beneficiaries involved to improve their resilience to climate change. The aim is also to foster dialogue and joint solutions across borders and to support the implementation of the relevant agreements, most prominently the Paris Agreement.

Since adaptation to climate change does not stop at borders and involves many disciplines, the actors involved range from public administrations to NGOs and CSOs to the private sector.





© Umweltbundesamt/M. Deweis



TRATOLOW Secretariat
E-Mail: tratolow@umweltbundesamt.at
www.tratolownetwork.eu/

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Umweltbundesamt GmbH and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.