

# WESTERN BALKANS ENVIRONMENTAL HOT SPOTS PROGRAMME

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# Part I

## National priorities

- NEAP – environmental situation around the closed industrial sites is a serious concern;
- NES – rehabilitation of environmental hotspots caused by old and abandoned industries;
- Government programme – introduce gradually EU standards, rehabilitation of hotspots;
- Accession Partnership and EC Progress Report;
- UNDP CPD – environmental hotspots remain the biggest challenge with other related socio-economic factors posing immediate risk to human health and environment.

# Part I

## The Regional Programme

- Opportunity as resources are limited and sharing experience proved to be useful;
- Complex as works are combined with capacity building exercise and PR activities;
- Specific as each country/territory had selected different types of hotspots to be addressed;
- Challenge as similar activities are implemented in 6 different countries/territories having different conditions/circumstances;
- Added value as the regional approach provided a more comprehensive view related to the development of the areas affected.

# Part I

## Albanian component : Bajza storehouse

- Initially believed to be heavily polluted with pesticides;
- Actually chemicals ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SiF}_6$ ) and contaminated leather waste;
- Storehouse cleaned-up;
- Public informed, responsive, aware and conscious;
- Waste management system improved.

# Part I

Before....



# Part I

...During...



# Part I

...After



# Part I

## Albanian component : Capacity building and pilot projects

- Chemicals management and REACH framework;
- Mining and risk assessment;
- Air and water monitoring;
- Upgrade of waste management systems in Bajza and Mesi;
- Water quality monitoring.

# Part I

## Albanian component : other sites

- Balez chemical deposit and “satellite” sites;
- Reps and Rreshen mine sites.

# Part II

## Origins of the hotspots

- 25 years of oil and gas exploration (South-West parts of Albania);
- Chrome, copper and iron-nickel mining (North and Center parts of Albania);
- Chemicals stored inside production lines;
- In 1990 industries based on 1960s technologies (dirty, hazardous, non-competitive);
- 58% GDP industry – 1990 - 11.9% GDP industry.

# Part II

## Challenges (1) - Legislation

- Albania does not have specific legislation related to hotspots;
- EU accession process provided for pieces of legislation related to EIA, waste management, water and air quality;
- Gap still exists for underground water, soil protection, industrial pollution (IPPC) and **ownership of the “historical pollution”**;
- Framework Law on Environmental Protection.

# Part II

## Challenges (2) - Ownership

- No consideration for environment during the privatisation process;
- Factories privatised and then closed or bankrupt ; no funds for clean-up;
- Government owned but leased to concessions (many are metal processing sites);
- Some sites are partly privatised, partly with concessions, partly state owned;
- International donors do not fund private entities;

# Part II

## Challenges (3) – Current issues

- Uncontrolled dumps of chemicals;
- Dangerous, derelict structures;
- Internal migration;
- Legal and illegal activities happening on the site;
- Insufficient capacity/level of knowledge Government institutions, local authorities and national experts;
- Low level of awareness – local inhabitants often unaware of dangers – public health concerns;
- General lack of resources.

# Part II

## Lessons learned, current priorities

- Case-by-case approach and not a strategic one;
- Clean-up financed only by the international donors (EC, The Netherlands, World Bank, UN);
- National inventory of hotspots and the related database;
- Remediation plans for 10 hotspots under preparation;
- Policy for hotspots, especially related to the remediation of the privately owned hotspots.

# Part III

## Why regional cooperation?

- Countries in the region are small and have limited resources;
- Share experts, experience and best practice;
- Similar problems with similar possible approach;
- Common approach for financing - donors often prefer to finance large projects;
- Possible areas for future regional cooperation: industrial pollution control and nature protection.