

The meetings of the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building Group
Horizon 2020 Steering Group
in Brussels on 23-25 February 2016.

The ECRAN Project, with its Working Groups and cross-cutting activities, provides us great opportunities and all the necessary facilities to come together and discuss the challenges we face on EU integration not only with the Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries but also with the Commission. Turkey efficiently benefits from the ECRAN project, and will continue its efforts to actively take part in its activities.

ECRAN Working Groups

Environmental Assessments

Within the scope of EIA/SEA Sub-group activities under ECRAN, Turkey has actively participated almost all of the activities of the Working Group. In general, all trainings and workshops organized were very useful and helpful to have a better understanding about the current implementations of EIA Directive as well as SEA Directive. Positive cooperation and collaboration with ECRAN experts and as well as the experts of other beneficiary countries was established.

With regard to EIA implementations, it was so crucial to learn the EIA experiences and knowledge of other ECRAN countries. In Turkey, by-law on EIA has been implemented since 1993. Turkish by-law on EIA is mostly in parallel with the EIA Directive. However, by taking into account the national needs, implementation gaps, Turkish by-law on EIA was revised in 2014.

It is obvious that those ECRAN studies are important to be able to follow the current EIA implementations of different ECRAN countries. Besides, recent methods and techniques have been introduced in workshops and seminars under EIA/SEA Working Group. According to our expert opinion it was very useful for us to learn about a recent assessment method namely, "appropriate assessment" which could be used as an important tool in our EIA practices.

Regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) studies, all of the capacity building activities such as regional workshops, training programs organised within the scope of ECRAN Project have a crucial role both to increase the institutional capacity and disseminate the knowledge on SEA as well. In Turkey, there is an on-going IPA funded Project namely; "Technical Assistance for Implementation of the By-Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (EuropeAid/133447/D/SER/TR)". The main purpose of the Project is to create institutional capacity and raise awareness necessary for the implementation of By-law on SEA for all sectors in Turkey. In parallel to the Project activities, ECRAN activities on SEA has a great contribution to our experts in terms of knowledge, experience and learning best practices on SEA.

The intensive train of the trainers programs are very helpful for increasing the institutional capacity on SEA/EIA. We believe that the role of the trainers is not only to disseminate their experience on environmental assessment but we also would like to create an interactive platform to improve the EIA implementations at the national level.

As I have already mentioned, the continuity of the activities of ECRAN Project under EIA/SEA Working group focusing on the best practices, recent developments of the EU legislative studies for both Directives would be a good opportunity for Turkey to ensure effective implementation of EIA and SEA at national level.

Waste Management

Talking about waste management in Turkey, although the compliance with European Union acquis is in a good state, we need to improve our

implementation in many areas such as: development of national waste management plan, issuing licenses and permits, supervising, monitoring and inspection of waste management facilities and activities, initiating and pursuing enforcement actions and ensuring data collection, analysis and reporting. At that point, ECRAN trainings are supporting our experts.

To establish recycle and reuse concept as an indispensable part of economy in Turkey, the National Recycling Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2017) has been prepared, which partially benefited from the result of the training activities.

Training programs related to our priority investment topics in 2012-2023 may have positive effect while planning those investments.