

EU-EIA Policy for IPA Projects in Turkey

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Abstract:

EU supports the environmental infrastructure projects and improves the life quality in Turkey by means of IPA Funds. Currently, more than 40 Solid Waste Management and Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment Plant projects are under Project Preparation stage.

Those projects are subject to EIA Regulation and solid waste management projects are not subject to EIA regulation in Turkey. On the other hand, Environmental Report is a part of IPA application form and consultant prepares this report without obtaining the view of Competent Authority. EU assesses the Environmental reports of each application and generally requires additional info for the reports.

In the case of a full EIA is not required, EU demands a screening and its results in IPA application form. Activities that need to be undertaken to minimize the environmental impacts of the components of the project asked to be in the EIA Report and Non-technical Summary of EIA Report.

Abstract Summary Statement:

EU supports the environmental infrastructure projects and improves the life quality in Turkey. For this purpose, how the IPA project application process works and challenges to obtain EU requirements.

I. Introduction

IN RELATION with obligations of EU membership, Environmental infrastructure investments in Turkey co-funded by European Union (EU) have been supplied by operational programs Environment Operational Programme for 2007-2013 and Environment and Climate Change Sectoral Operational Programme (2014-2020). These programs are the basic planning and action documents which will help Turkey to enhance the performance of the environmental sector, in line with EU principles and policies. They are also defined as a document for approval by the EC indicating the priority areas for the country in regard to the environmental sector, including medium-term measures.

Those programmes have been prepared in compliance with the partnership principle, actively involving all the relevant administrative socio-economic partners and NGOs. Those documents contribute to a greater understanding of the complex aspects of environmental protection that urgently need to be addressed in Turkey within both a national and regional context.

The main emphasis for the environmental measures of the programmes relates to water supply, urban wastewater and integrated solid waste management, rehabilitation and closure of old dumpsites and areas related to sustainable development which generate environmental benefits.

In general, comparing with the accession negotiations of current Member States that for Turkey, the Chapter “Environment and Climate Change” was opened to negotiations in later stages of the process. As a result, transposition and implementation of the EU Environmental Acquis would still require many important investments (technological, infrastructure investments, operating costs and costs arising from administrative changes in the institutional structures) for many sectors –including costs of integration of the environmental measures to various sectors- and accordingly, long periods. Also, transposition and implementation of the EU Climate Acquis would require strengthening the institutional capacity to design, implement and monitor climate policies, and improving capacity for transition to low carbon economy through action across a number of sectors. In this context, achieving a cleaner environment, fighting climate change and meeting the higher standards of EU will take time. With the aim of creating a liveable environment and taking into account the social and economic conditions of the country, comprehensive studies are needed for implementation of the EU environment and climate Acquis.

Costs and foreseen financing sources in the Strategy Document were determined on the basis of the EU Integrated Environmental Approximation Strategy (UCES) which was prepared with the participation of all the parties concerned. Legislative compliance, institutional capacity and cost analysis have been determined for eight sectors.

As stated in UCES, the projections for distribution of the needs per sector for the period 2007 to 2023 are given in Table 1. As is seen below, the need and investments made for environmental infrastructure development in Turkey are in water and solid waste sector. The total sectoral budget required for Acquis implementation for the period 2007-2023 is EUR 58.5 billion within the below thematic areas.

In this context, firstly, a prioritization study was prepared for the Municipalities/Municipal Unions in Turkey according to the urgency of the needs related to environmental infrastructure investments for IPA I (2007-2013) and IPA II (2014-2020) periods. Afterwards, project preparation studies were started for the selected Municipalities/Municipal Unions in Department of EU Investments. Those prepared project documents such as master plan, feasibility study, and design report are prepared by technical assistance consultants and management of the contracts are coordinated by DoEUI. Following the first check of DoEUI, project preparation documents are shared with the relevant stakeholders.

1- Table 1 Sectoral Distribution of Environmental Investments in Turkey between 2007-2023

SECTORS* (totals)	INVESTMENT NEEDED (total per sector)		
	(Million TL)	(Million EUR)	Rate (%)
Water sector	63,114	33,969	58
Solid waste sector	17,762	9,560	16
Air sector	69	37	0
IPC Sector	27,415	14,755	25
Nature protection sector	490	264	0
Total¹	108,851	58,585	100

Source: Environment and Climate Change Sector Operational Programme (2014-2020)

Following the comments of the stakeholders, documents are revised by the Consultant for the approval of the stakeholders. After the approval of the stakeholders, documents are sent to European Commission for the financial and technical approval. This period generally takes more than one year. For the successful implementation of this period, processes related with EU and Turkish legislation should be considered in advance and necessary mitigations should be taken.

II. EIA Procedure for EU investment projects

EIA Regulation has been implementing in Turkey since 7th of February, 1993. EIA regulation has been revised recently on 25th of November, 2014 which is after the abstract has been written. According to last revision some of the items and list of Annex I and Annex II projects have been changed. Considering the scope of the paper, main changes for EU projects are as follow:

- Annex I: The list of the projects that requires EIA Report
- Facilities that contains sanitary landfill (100 tons/day and above capacity) including recovery, waste combustion facilities.
 - Waste water treatment facilities with capacity of 30 000 m³/day and/or 150 000 equivalent population.

DoEUI sent official statement to General Directorate of EIA, Permission and Inspection to make EIA Report preparation obligatory for IPA projects and this result has been achieved by revision of EIA Regulation. So, considering the capacities of the projects, EU investment projects for

¹ The figures given in Table 1 relate to investments needs. Technical assistance requirements (including small scale investments, if applicable) are not included in the table. In addition, technical assistance requirements related with the disaster and emergency management are not also inserted in this table.

sanitary landfill and waste water treatment facilities are subjected to prepare an EIA Report. Project owners are the Municipalities or Unions that are combination of at least two or more Municipalities that are geographically close to each other.

Waste water treatment facilities and sanitary landfill projects were not subject to EIA procedure before the revision of EIA Regulation. Due to this reason, there was not any EIA Report preparation and an advice to developers.

III.Environmental Report prepared for IPA Application.

Consultant prepares IPA Application Form and submits to DoEUI and DoEUI distributes to other stakeholders. General Directorate of Environmental Management, General Directorate of EIA, Permission and Inspection, Delegation of European Union to Turkey (EUD), Provincial Directorates, and Municipalities/Municipal Unions are the main stakeholders. Period of approval of the stakeholders results in three weeks.

Non-technical summary is a part of IPA Application Form and includes the result of EIA process including public participation. EIA positive or not necessary decision should have been taken by EIA department of the Ministry to finalize the IPA approval process.

IPA Application Form is a combination of documents that contains detailed information about the infrastructure investments.

Environmental report is prepared for reducing the adverse environmental impact of the project to be assessed by European Commission (EC) DG Regio.

IV. EC Comments regarding Environmental Reports

EC evaluates IPA Application Form by means of internal and external experts. Environmental evaluation of IPA Application Form generally realised by means of external experts and comments of EC may vary accordingly. Out of ten water/wastewater/sanitary landfill project, common comments of EC as follows:

- a) requires an environmental management plan and a monitoring plan needs to be prepared for the purpose of this project;
- b) requires an emergency response plan and these should be included in the contracts of the Supervisor and Contractor.
- c) demands an additional info about the project details, components of projects and its environmental impacts
- d) requires EIA report, if not available, demands screening process
- e) requires additional information regarding the potential sources of emissions from the landfill
- f) requires a copy of the Non-technical Summary which has been subject to the national consultations and used in the EIA procedure
- g) requires providing the estimate of the cost of mitigation measures of the negative environmental impact caused by the construction of the landfill and other infrastructure.
- h) states that the environmental impact of the project and related non-technical summary prepared is weak and needs improvements.

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- i) Requires providing additional info to the public for the components of the projects that are not part of EIA Report. It is suggested preparing a detailed environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures of those components such as extension of the existing main collector and construction of storm water drainage systems construction.

V. Plans of EU Investment Department

After obtaining the comments of EC, DoEUI organise a meeting with each project owner and inform them. Required technical consultancy studies carried out and new IPA Application Form has been prepared. Please see below the necessary measure to be taken by DoEUI not to face any problems regarding ion Forms.

- ❖ An environmental management plan and a monitoring plan must be prepared and replaced on IPA form.
- ❖ An emergency response plan should be included in the contracts of the Supervisor and Contractor
- ❖ There is a need of EIA process necessary for all IPA investment projects regardless of the type of the project.
- ❖ The documents should be transferred to Quality Assurance and Control Unit for final check.
- ❖ Need for analysing the problems faced before not to re-face.
- ❖ According to the shortcomings figured out, IPA application forms should be revised.
- ❖ All components of the project should be reviewed in terms of EIA and necessary information should be shared with the public.

VI. Conclusions

Environmental infrastructure projects of small sized cities (population is less than 200 000) are not completed. During the tourism season, many cities' population has been doubled. EU projects funded by IPA funds support Turkey for environmental infrastructure projects.

IPA Unit of Turkey, DoEUI, is trying to realise such investment according to EU rules with 60 staff. In order not to lose time and finance, DoEUI aims to followed lessons learnt from the practical implementations. Environmental issues are one of the most important topics to be followed for public responsibility. In order to achieve this purpose, DoEUI gives high importance to the comments of EU and trying to avoid having same comments for the same procedure.

References:

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