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# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN

# SERBIA

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The waste management system in Serbia is based on waste collecting, transporting and landfilling. In this regard, Serbia is no different than other countries in Southeast Europe, where landfilling is still the predominant method. Serbia's waste management is inadequate, particularly in rural areas. Collection is poorly organized; landfill is not subject to controls. By EU comparison, organic waste as a proportion of total residual waste is high and the recycling rate is very low. As yet, the population shows little awareness of environmental issues. According to ASWA (Association of Serbian Waste Utility Companies) Serbia is currently recycling between 5 and 8% of municipal solid waste. The cities most active in recycling are Novi Sad and Čačak (around 10%), but the biggest problem is that numerous towns and municipalities which do not recycle waste at all. Serbia is seeking EU membership and is currently working to align its legislation with that of the EU. Modernization of waste management by joining the transition towards a circular economy is a declared political objective. By 2030 Serbia plans to achieve the recycling target of 50% of total municipal solid waste.

## 2. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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Waste Management Strategy in Serbia includes:

- establishment of the basic orientation of waste management for the following period, in consent with EU policy in this area and strategic determinations of the Republic of Serbia
- directs the activities of harmonization of legislation in the process of approximation of the EU legislation
- identifies the responsibilities for waste, the importance and role of ownership guidance capital
- sets targets for waste management for the short and long term
- determines measures and activities for achieving the set goals

It is necessary to expand the reach of the municipal waste collection service, especially in the rural areas. In order to achieve this, local governments need to be provided with additional dumpsters and waste collection vehicles. Also, it is necessary for all local governments to make regional and local waste management plans, with mandatory primary waste separation in households. ASWA at the moment has no concrete information about how many municipalities adopted the plans, but the ones that are being made are generic and have no practical value.

### 3. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

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Some of the key stakeholders connected to landfills in Serbia include: Ministry of Environment, SEPA (Serbian Environment Protection Agency), SeSWA (Serbian Solid Waste Association), local authorities and public and private waste management companies.

Improving the waste management system by introducing a new model for funding is also a priority for the Government of Serbia. Investments in municipal waste infrastructure have to be coordinated, so that Serbia can accomplish the targets from EU Directives and build a sustainable waste management system. According to the 2016 EC Country Report on Serbia, there is a good level of alignment with the EU's principal waste directives, with recent progress made regarding the waste framework, landfill and industrial emissions directives. Implementation remains at an early stage, with some progress noted in increased rates of municipal waste collection and sanitary landfilling. The national waste management strategy and municipal waste management plans need to be updated to reflect the new legal provisions on e.g. waste minimization and waste separation at the source, and to include quantitative targets for waste recovery and recycling. Increased efforts are needed to close Serbia's non-compliant landfills more quickly and invest in waste separation and recycling. A national integrated waste management plan and additional economic instruments for special waste streams need to be developed.

There are four different financial sources for this segment:

- 1) grants from the EU funds or bilateral funds,
- 2) long-term infrastructure loans granted by KfW, EBRD or EIB,
- 3) funds from private partners invested through the concession systems or other types of public-private partnership, and
- 4) national funds, be it state or local funds.