

Terms of Reference
for
Technical Assistance Consultant for
**Policy and Regulatory Support for Implementation of the
Integrated Waste Management Legal Framework**

I. Background of the Project

To support the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) implementation and ensure the regional Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) approach operates as effective and efficient as possible, the Government of Albania and World Bank has launched the “Clean and Resilient Environment for Blue Sea” (Care4BlueSea) project. The project aims to implement an integrated blue economy approach at both national and local levels, focusing on selected geographic areas with valuable marine and coastal assets, which are under environmental and climate pressures. Care4BlueSea consists of three components: (i) Component 1 “promote(s) integrated and circular approaches for protection of landscapes and water resources,” (ii) Component 2 aims to “reduce water pollution in the Vjosa River,” and (iii) Component 3 encompasses the project management and monitoring and evaluation needs.

The project takes an integrated approach to preventing pollution at source caused by municipal solid waste and sewage. The dual focus on investments in solid waste and sewage encompasses the foremost protection against pressures on water bodies and coastal landscapes on which the local economy depends. The synergy between these investments reinforces the outcomes of pollution prevention efforts. Potential co-benefits of solid waste management (SWM) and wastewater treatment include preventing clogging of sewers, co-digestion or composting of organic matter, and reuse of sludge as soil amendment for landfill covers and closure. Planned activities align with the technical standards and directives of the European Union (EU) Waste Framework and the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Framework, bolstering Albania's strides towards EU accession goals, particularly in enhancing circularity and water quality.

Main institutional stakeholders are the Ministry of Environment and National Agency for Water Supply and Sewerage /AKUK, which will also closely collaborate with four key partners: (a) National Environment Agency (NEA) for Component 1, (b) Regional Directorate of Water Utilities for Component 2, (c) National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) for Component 2, and (d) municipalities for all three components since they are expected to benefit from better solid waste and sanitation management, monitoring and improved planning environment, an improved regulatory framework for operational and financial sustainability, and capacity building and training workshops.

Institutional beneficiaries include service providers (Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) and waste management utilities) at the municipal level directly, as well as their customers who indirectly will benefit from operational and efficiency performance improvements realized under the project.

Component 1 will support the implementation of local solutions for protection of valuable landscapes and water resources within the Vlora South-Gjirokaster Waste Zone. The project applies an integrated approach to SWM investments, considering circular economy principles, and supports a system that is more environmentally, financially, and operationally sustainable. This Component will finance the technical assistance on “*Policy and Regulatory Support for Implementation of the Integrated Waste Management Legal Framework*” which responds to an emergent and critical need to provide targeted support to the Ministry of Environment to ensure the effective and timely operationalization of the recently adopted Integrated Waste Management Law. The activity will focus on policy and regulatory support required to translate the Law into enforceable and implementable instruments, while advancing the transition toward a circular economy in line with applicable EU standards and regulatory frameworks. While the existing technical assistance addresses implementation mechanisms at the operational level, it does not sufficiently cover the policy and regulatory support needed to enable the Law to become fully effective within the required timeframe.

II. Objectives of the Assignment

The overall objective is:

To strengthen the implementation of the Integrated Waste Management Law through the preparation of four (4) implementing Decisions of the Council of Ministers (DCMs), aligned with EU standards and national enforcement capacities.

Specific objectives include:

- Developing enforceable technical standards and regulatory procedures;
- Ensuring alignment with EU waste directives;
- Clarifying institutional roles and enforcement mechanisms;
- Supporting circular economy principles and resource recovery;
- Strengthening environmental safeguards.

III. Scope of the Assignment and Detailed Tasks

The Consultant shall provide legal and technical assistance to draft four (4) implementing DCMs of the Law No. 57/2025 “On Integrated Waste Management”.

1. Inception Phase

The Consultant shall:

1.1. Conduct a comprehensive review of:

- The Integrated Waste Management Law;
- Existing secondary legislation;
- Relevant EU directives and technical guidelines;

- Institutional mandates of MoE, municipalities, inspectorates, customs and licensing authorities.

1.2. *Identify regulatory gaps and inconsistencies.*

1.3. *Assess institutional readiness for implementation.*

1.4 *Submit an Inception Report including:*

- Methodology;
- Work plan and timeline;

2. Drafting of Implementing DCMs

The Consultant shall prepare the following draft DCMs:

- **DCM “On the approval of rules and standards for the packaging and labeling of hazardous waste during the collection, transport and temporary storage process”**

The draft shall:

- Define hazardous waste identification standards;
 - Establish packaging specifications;
 - Establish labeling requirements consistent with hazard classification systems;
 - Define transport documentation and tracking requirements;
 - Establish temporary storage standards;
 - Clarify responsibilities of generators, transporters and operators;
 - Establish compliance and inspection requirements.
- **DCM “On the approval of the rules for the differentiated collection and treatment of used oils”**

The draft shall:

- Define collection systems for used oils;
 - Establish separation requirements;
 - Define treatment and recovery standards;
 - Establish quality criteria for regenerated oils;
 - Define reporting and monitoring obligations;
 - Establish extended producer responsibility elements where applicable.
- **DCM “On the approval of measures, criteria and standards for the prevention of vehicle waste and for the collection, reuse, treatment, recycling and other forms of recovery of end-of-life vehicles and their component parts”**
- The draft shall:
 - Define ELV collection and treatment requirements;

- Establish technical standards for dismantling facilities;
 - Define reuse and recycling targets;
 - Clarify producer/importer responsibilities;
 - Establish monitoring and reporting systems;
 - Integrate circular economy principles.
- **DCM “On the approval of requirements, procedures and standards for the management of construction and demolition waste”**
- The draft shall:
- Define waste classification and separation at source;
 - Establish on-site management requirements;
 - Define recycling and recovery targets;
 - Establish permitting and reporting obligations;
 - Clarify roles of municipalities and contractors;
 - Include traceability and documentation standards.

IV. Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

This assignment shall be carried out by an **Individual Consultant (IC)**, with demonstrated expertise in environmental regulatory drafting and waste management policy implementation.

The Consultant shall possess strong experience in drafting secondary environmental legislation and supporting the operationalization of integrated waste management frameworks in line with EU standards.

Education:

- An Advanced university degree (Master’s level or higher) or equivalent qualification in Law, Engineering, Waste Management, Environmental Policy, Public Administration or a related field.

Experience:

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in environmental management, waste management, or environmental regulatory reform.
- Experience in providing technical assistance to government institutions.

Competences:

- Knowledge of EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and related directives.
- Experience working with ministries, municipalities, inspectorates, or regulatory authorities.

- Experience facilitating technical consultations and stakeholder engagement.
- The consultant must demonstrate fluency in Albanian and English with proven ability to communicate effectively with ministry’s officials and prepare technical reports.
- Cross-cultural communication skills and understanding of Albanian institutional context are essential.

V. Expected Deliverables

ID	Deliverable Pack	Deliverables Included	Due (Month)
I.R	Inception Report	Methodology, review of the existing national legal framework, mapping institutional responsibilities and enforcement gaps, timeline for each legal act and risk mitigation strategy.	1
1.1	Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the approval of rules and standards for the packaging and labeling of hazardous waste during the collection, transport and temporary storage process”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DCM (Albanian and English versions). • Explanatory Memo • Tables of Concordance (ToC) in Albanian and English. 	1-2
1.2	Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the approval of the rules for the differentiated collection and treatment of used oils”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DCM (Albanian and English versions). • Explanatory Memo • Tables of Concordance (ToC) in Albanian and English. 	3-4
1.3	Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the approval of measures, criteria and standards for the prevention of vehicle waste and for the collection, reuse, treatment, recycling and other forms of recovery of end-of-life vehicles and their component parts”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DCM (Albanian and English versions). • Explanatory Memo • Tables of Concordance (ToC) in Albanian and English. 	4-5

1.4	Decision of the Council of Ministers “On the approval of requirements, procedures and standards for the management of construction and demolition waste”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft DCM (Albanian and English versions). • Explanatory Memo • Tables of Concordance (ToC) in Albanian and English. 	5-6
1.5	Final Decisions of the Council of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All final DCMs (Albanian and English versions), incorporating the feedback from the Ministry of Environment 	To be reflected after receiving the comments from MoE

VI. Evaluation Criteria

Applicants that fulfill the qualification requirements will be further evaluated based on the below criteria:

- General Qualification – 30 points
- Adequacy for the assignment – 60 points
- Language – 10 points

VII. Selection

The service will be selected under the provisions of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for Borrowers under Investment Project Financing” dated September 2023 based on the method of Open National Selection of Individual Consultants, Lump-sum Contract.

VIII. Period of Contract

The Period of Contract shall be **six (6) months** counted from the Commencement Date, defined as the date of contract signature.