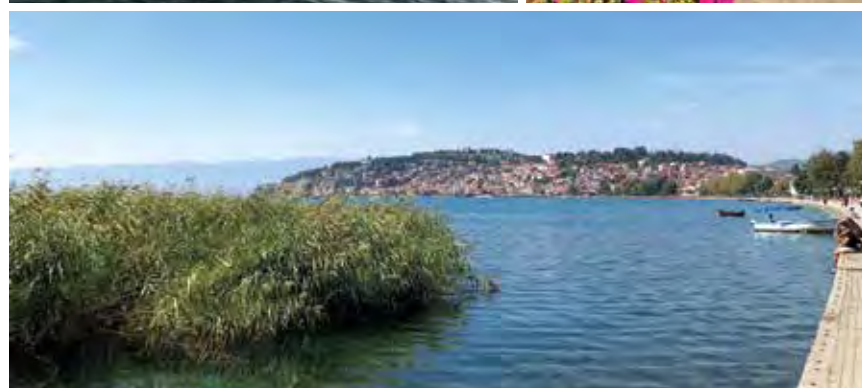


North Macedonia

Environmental Performance Reviews



Third Review



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

NORTH MACEDONIA

Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

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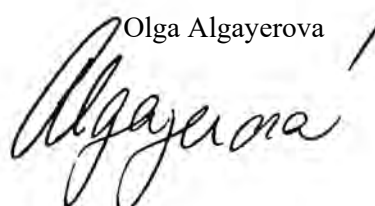
Foreword

The third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of North Macedonia builds on the substantial experience accumulated by ECE and its member States in using the EPR tool to regularly assess progress achieved in reconciling national economic and environmental objectives. Over two decades, EPRs have resulted in stronger institutions for environmental management, improved financial frameworks for environmental protection, advanced environmental monitoring and information systems, better integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, strengthened public participation and increased international cooperation. They bring together good practices and a wealth of experience from all ECE member States in a mutually-enriching learning exchange.

During the last eight years North Macedonia advanced its environmental legislation by adopting few new laws and focusing on amending existing laws and developing subsidiary legislation. Further action is needed to effectively implement it, especially in the area of issuing permits, extended producer responsibility and waste management, protected areas and noise. The policy framework for environment and sustainable development is centered around the 2010 National Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period 2010–2030 and the annually revised National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis Communautaire*. Since 2011, North Macedonia enhanced and deepened substantially the use of economic instruments in environmental protection. The country could expand its experience in greening the economy by joining the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E).

The third EPR equips the Government of North Macedonia and interested stakeholders in the country with recommendations to inspire future work on the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and commitments under the international environmental agreements. North Macedonia established its national institutional framework to drive sustainable development in the country nearly 10 years ago and more recently entrusted it to guide the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Revitalising and upgrading this framework and enhancing the ownership and awareness of civil servants and the public at large about the Sustainable Development Goals, would enable the country to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda.

I trust that this third review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in North Macedonia. ECE wishes the Government of North Macedonia further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including through the implementation of the recommendations in the third review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in North Macedonia will benefit other countries throughout the ECE Region.

Olga Algayerova

Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

This third EPR of North Macedonia takes stock of progress made by the country in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2011 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review. It covers legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and education for sustainable development. Furthermore, the EPR addresses issues of specific importance to the country related to air protection, biodiversity and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. The review has an additional thematic angle on the Sustainable Development Goals: it includes an assessment of relevant targets and recommendations related to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

This EPR of North Macedonia began in February 2018 with a preparatory mission to agree on the structure of the report and the schedule for its completion. A team of international experts took part in the review mission on 17–26 September 2018. In December 2018, the draft report was sent to North Macedonia for comments and was submitted to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 9–10 January 2019, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with a delegation from North Macedonia, focusing on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts. The recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-fourth session on 30 January 2019. A high-level delegation from North Macedonia participated in the peer review and the Committee adopted the recommendations in this report.

The Committee and the ECE secretariat are grateful to the Government of North Macedonia and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and expertise. ECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency for their support by providing funds through the Advisory Assistance Programme, and to Norway and Switzerland for their financial support to this review.

Sincere thanks also go to Germany, Hungary, Sweden and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for having provided their experts to this review. Furthermore, ECE is grateful to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its support of this review.

ECE also takes this opportunity to thank Germany, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland for their financial support to the EPR Programme in 2018 and expresses its deep appreciation to Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Switzerland for having provided their experts for the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook the expert review of this report.

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