

## IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name
<b>IPA III RF 3.1.7.2: Wastewater treated</b>
2. Technical details
<p><b><u>OPSYS and Results Dashboard code:</u></b> 67763.</p> <p><b><u>Unit of measure:</u></b> Cubic metre (m3)</p> <p><b><u>Type of indicator:</u></b> <i>Quantitative; Numeric; Actual (ex-post); Cumulative (not annual).</i></p> <p><b><u>Level of measurement:</u></b> this is an <b>outcome</b> indicator. It would logically be associated with an outcome such as "Improved performance of water and sanitation facilities".</p> <p><b><u>Disaggregation:</u></b></p> <p>Where relevant / possible, please disaggregate by: location (rural/urban/peri-urban), types of wastewater streams (domestic and services /industry). Differentiating between the different wastewater streams is important as policy decisions need to be guided by the polluter pays principle</p> <p>Any disaggregation should be agreed with the relevant ministry or IP in advance.</p> <p><b><u>DAC sector codes:</u></b></p> <p>14010; 14015; 14020; 14021; 14022; 14030; 14031; 14032; 14040; 14050; 14081</p> <p><b><u>Main associated SDG:</u></b> <b>SDG 6:</b> Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</p> <p><b><u>Other associated SDGs:</u></b> <b>SDG 11:</b> Sustainable cities and communities.</p> <p><b><u>Associated IPA III Level 1 indicator:</u></b> none.</p> <p><b><u>Associated IPA III Level 3 indicators:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to: (a) climate change (adaptation and mitigation), (b) protecting biodiversity, c) combating desertification, (d) protecting the environment (Aid to Env).</li> </ul>
3. Policy context and Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IPA III PF: Window 3</b> - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity, <b>Thematic Priority 1:</b> Environment and climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Chapter of the <i>Acquis</i>:</b> The main concerned chapter of the EU <i>acquis</i> under this section is <b>chapter 27</b> (Environment and climate change), included in cluster 4 (Green agenda and sustainable connectivity)</li> <li>• The indicator corresponds to the <b>EFSD+ IW3 Water &amp; Sanitation</b></li> </ul> <p>The foundation of EU wastewater management is the <a href="#">Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</a> (UWWTD<sup>1</sup>). On 26 October 2022, the Commission <a href="#">revised the Directive</a>.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 91/271/EEC

The specific objective of IPA III in this area is to support the protection of the environment, improve its quality and contribute to actions and policies against climate change to accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy. Infrastructure and public investments in the environmental sector serve a twofold economic and social development purpose and support for their planning, design, construction and sustainable management is required, in terms of both capital investments and technical assistance. The challenging financial effort to bring water, wastewater and solid waste management infrastructure in line with EU standards requires innovative financing mechanisms and the application of cost-recovery and polluter-pays principles. Investments should also contribute to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to shift to a low-carbon and climate resilient development path.

The assessment and support of the structures, processes and procedures set up in the IPA III beneficiaries to select, prepare and implement infrastructure investments including with possible private engagement through public-private partnerships, will be of particular importance for the achievements of the strategic objectives of this Window. In addition, such investments should always be associated with those institutional and regulatory reforms undertaken in the context of the alignment with EU acquis and standards, and likely to ensure long-lasting and sustainable social and economic returns.

#### 4. Values to report

All of the following values must be determined according to the definitions provided in Section 5 below.

- **Reporting values in the logframe:**
  - **Baseline value:** The value assumed by the indicator at time t0, against which progress will be assessed.
  - **Reporting of current value** is done at least once a year. Current values will be the highest total value of the indicator at any given year of the IPA III supported intervention (minus the baseline value) according to the applicable definitions provided in section 3 of the note. Be aware that contribution to results is not calculated on cumulative basis.
  - **Final target value:** estimated total % of ... by the target year and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 3 of the note.
- **Intermediate targets (milestones).** A tool has been developed in OPSYS to automate the generation of intermediate targets<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> This has been done in the framework of the **Intervention Performance Assessment**. Two composite indicators have been developed to provide an overall assessment of an intervention's current implementation and future prospects. These scores will be calculated for all NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- The **implementation score** reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness already achieved by the intervention. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data, if sufficiently available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- The **risk score** reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability to be achieved by the intervention in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational manager's responses to questions in a survey.

- For outputs, the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
- For outcomes, the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options<sup>3</sup>) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational Manager.

#### 5. Calculation of values

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the **m3/day**, using the Technical Definitions and Counting Guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the Quality Control Checklist below.

##### Technical Definitions

- **Wastewater treated** Amount of wastewater treated, independently of the maximum capacity of the treatment plant. Only the amount of water considered to be safely treated in accordance with the local standards should be included. [in line with EFSD+ definition]
- **Wastewater:** urban wastewater means domestic wastewater or the mixture of domestic wastewater with industrial wastewater and/or run-off rainwater.
- **Domestic wastewater** means wastewater from residential settlements and services which originates predominantly from the human metabolism and from household activities.
- **Industrial wastewater** means any wastewater which is discharged from premises used for carrying on any trade or industry, other than domestic wastewater and run-off rainwater.
- **p.e. (population equivalent):** means the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) of 60 g of oxygen per day.  
The PE is an estimate of the usage made of sewerage facilities. It is not a measure of population.
- **Treatment:** Process to render wastewater fit to meet applicable environmental standards or other quality norms for recycling or reuse<sup>4</sup>. It may include primary, secondary and tertiary treatment. *Primary treatment* means treatment of urban wastewater by a physical and/or chemical process involving settlement of suspended solids, or other processes in which the BOD5 of the incoming wastewater is reduced by at least 20 % before discharge and the total suspended solids of the incoming wastewater are reduced by at least 50 %. *Secondary treatment* means treatment of urban wastewater by a process generally involving biological treatment with a secondary settlement or other process in which the requirements established in Table 1 of Annex I of the UWWTD (see section 4 of this note), or of those adopted in equivalent national legislation, are respected. *Tertiary treatment:* Treatment (additional to secondary treatment) of nitrogen and/or phosphorous and/or any other pollutant affecting the quality or a specific use of water: microbiological pollution, colour etc.
- **Appropriate treatment:** means treatment of urban wastewater by any process and/or disposal system which after discharge allows the receiving waters to meet the relevant

<sup>3</sup> a. Constant: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. Accelerating: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. At the end: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. None of the above.

<sup>4</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-06-03-01.pdf>

quality objectives and the relevant provisions of the applicable EU standards (as in the UWWTD) or equivalent national standards.

- **Eligibility criteria:** IPA III-supported investments should be in line with the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans and other relevant EU policies, including the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

#### Counting Guidance

- **Reference to possible double-counting:** To avoid double counting, water subjected to more than one type of treatment should be reported under the highest level of treatment only.
- **Data calculation:** The amount of wastewater safely treated is calculated by summing all of the wastewater flows which receive treatment considered adequate as per the definition provided in section 3 of this note. This wastewater flow is often expressed in units of 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, although some data sources may use other units that require conversion. Conversion method from 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/day to p.e.

#### Quality Control Checklist

1. Has double counting been avoided as indicated in the Counting Guidance above?
2. Have all relevant disaggregations been reported?
3. Has the baseline and final target been encoded with the right dates?
4. Did you encode the latest current value available?
5. Did you use the comment box to inform on the values encoded?

#### 6. Examples of calculations

The EU supports the Ministries of Environment and Infrastructures in a candidate country to adapt EU water treatment standards in national legislation and implement them in national plans. As part of this support, the national regulators have passed new legislation in Y1 of the IPA-funded intervention establishing mandatory secondary wastewater treatment in agglomerations larger than 2 000 people and compulsory primary treatment for urban or rural settlements below 2 000 people. In addition, the IPA-funded intervention has also established a new co-financing scheme to encourage the rehabilitation of existing wastewater treatment systems in compliance with the standards in all regions of the country below the national average of gross domestic product per capita.

The timeline of the scheme is four years, and the estimated additional wastewater capacity installed in primary and secondary treatment plants is 37 854 m<sup>3</sup> per day as follows: 50% of it in Y2, 75% in Y3 and 100% at the end of Y4.

According to the baseline, first and second progress reports from the implementing partners of the scheme, the wastewater treated in the regions according to the national standards has been: 36 500 000 m<sup>3</sup> (Y0), 32 850 000 m<sup>3</sup> (Y1), and 39 758 355 m<sup>3</sup> (Y2) respectively.

**Baseline value Year 0:** 36 500 000 m<sup>3</sup>

**Target value Y4:** 36 500 000 m<sup>3</sup> (Y0) + 32 850 000 (Y1) + [32 850 000 + 50% (37 854)\*365] (Y2) + [32 850 000 + 75%(37 854)\*365] + [32 850 000 + 100%(37 854)\*365]

**Current value at Y2:** 36 500 000 (Y0) + 32 850 000 (Y1) + 39 758 355 (Y2) = 141 958 355 m<sup>3</sup>

**Contribution to results:** (Final value at Y2 - Baseline value) 141 958 355 - 36 500 000 = 105 458 355

Note: 1) in Y1, there has been a change in the regulation of the standards, which has affected the way wastewater treated according to the national standards is accounted for; 2) the current values of the indicators should count volumes treated as opposed to the maximum capacity of the treatment plants; 3) in the absence of any other information, additional capacity installed has been

used in the example to estimate the target values are within this 10% and that all repairs needed before the Acts of Acceptance can, and must, be fitted within the 10% value of the contracts yet to be released to the contractors.

## 7. Data sources and issues

### Data sources in the logframe:

- Data for this indicator must derive directly from the intervention; i.e. intervention monitoring and reporting systems from implementing organisations (e.g. governments, international organisations, non-state actors,...) baseline and endline studies.
- The values are to be generated through the direct influence of an IPA financed intervention. Implementing partner's monitoring and reporting systems and, when required, progress reports of the intervention (or their annexes) should capture relevant information from **primary sources** used for data calculation such as appraisal reports.
- Other possible sources include studies carried out in the framework of the interventions and external monitoring and/or evaluation reports.

### Data source categories specified in OPSYS:

- EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems (Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; EU-funded feasibility or appraisal reports ; Baseline and endline studies conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention )

## 8. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

Who is responsible for collecting and reporting the data?

- The implementing partner (i.e. the entity responsible for delivering the results) will need to ensure the counting starts at the lowest level of intervention and is reported upwards and aggregated for the entire intervention in the framework of regular monitoring and reporting systems.
- Data verification:
  - For indirect management by beneficiary countries, the National IPA Coordinator will verify the data.
  - For other modes of implementation, the Operational Manager in HQs/EUD will verify the data.
- It is then the responsibility of DG NEAR to receive and verify data for this indicator from all relevant interventions and to eventually ensure aggregation within and across all IPA Beneficiaries.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *IPA III via the Annual Report*

This indicator has been included in the following other Results Measurement Frameworks:

- *EFSD+*

## 9. Other uses

**IPA III RF.3.1.7.2** can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD);

- European Fund for Sustainable Development PLUS (EFSD+);
- IPA III RF Window 3: Green agenda and sustainable connectivity (IPA III W3);
- Water (Water)

For more information, see: [Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#)

**SDG 6.3.1**: Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated.

**World Bank:**

**Harmonized Indicators for Private Sector Operations (HIPSO):** HIPSO WA-01

**Used by the EU:**

Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF): Yes

European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+): Yes

Results indicators for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): RCR 42 - Population connected to at least secondary public waste water treatment

Core set of performance indicators for ERDF and Cohesion Fund: CCR 09 - Additional population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment

## 10. Other issues

Progress reports must provide information on the effluent standards or targets applied for wastewater types of treatment, noting what the national standards are and those aimed by the intervention.

This indicator is also an EFSD+ indicator. The contents of this note have been adapted to be used in IPA III RF, therefore, they are not necessarily applicable to other contexts as the specifications of the EU acquis are not always in application in third countries eligible to EFSD+ funds.