

**Government of the Republic of North Macedonia
Local Roads Connectivity Project (LRCP),**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

January 2021

Republic of North Macedonia
Local Roads Connectivity Project (LRCP)
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. *The Republic of North Macedonia through the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) as the main implementing agency is expected to implement a Local Roads Connectivity Project (LRCP). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“the Bank”) has agreed to provide financial support for the realization of the LRCP project.*
2. *The LRCP project will include and support the following types of activities: upgrading of dirty roads/streets; reconstruction of the existing local roads/streets; rehabilitation of the existing local roads/streets; introducing road safety measures like pedestrian paths along one or both sides of the streets/local roads, electrification, drainage. Main aim of this project is to support implementation of the National Transport Strategy by construction of existing local dirty roads/streets and reconstruction/rehabilitation of the existing ones, improving their safety and mobility and reducing the accidents. The project will enhance the competitiveness and socio-economic development of the eighth planning regions in the country and increase the capacity of connection with the neighbouring countries and with the main populated areas in RNM. The MoTC is proposing allocation of additional funding of (37 million euros) by the World Bank for the implementation of the Local Roads Connectivity Project (LRCP).*
3. *The MoTC will implement measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).*
4. *Where the ESCP refers to specific plans or other documents, whether they have already been prepared or are to be developed, the ESCP requires compliance with all provisions of such plans or other documents. In particular, the ESCP requires compliance with the provisions set out in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that has been developed for the Project, and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment documents (Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and ESMP Checklists), Occupational, that will be developed for the Project.*
5. *The table below summarizes the measures and actions that are required as well as the timing of the material measures and actions. The Republic of North Macedonia is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by a Ministry, agency or unit referenced in paragraph 1 above, including the Project Implementation Unit (PIU).*
6. *Implementation of the measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the World Bank through the MoTC as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.*
7. *As agreed by the Bank and the Government of North Macedonia, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to the assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the MoTC will agree to the changes with the participating municipalities and the World Bank and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the WB and the MoTC. The MoTC will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.*

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ESCP Monitoring and Reporting			
	<p>REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety performance of the Project, including implementation of the ESCP, and any E&S due diligence document prepared or to be prepared and implemented (ESMP or ESMP Checklist; depending of the type of the project) for the Project, in form and substance acceptable to WB.</p>	<p><i>Every six months during the Project's implementation in conjunction with the Project's progress reports, or more frequent depending on the Progress review findings</i></p>	<p><i>Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within the MoTC</i></p> <p><i>Funding from the Project budget</i></p>
	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS NOTIFICATION: Notify within 24 hours of its occurrence any incident or accident related to the project or that has an impact on it, and that has or could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public, or the workers included, for example, occupational accidents that could result in serious injury, minors, injuries, falls, vehicle accidents, larger spills of chemicals, oils, fuels, etc.</p> <p>The MoTC will provide report in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank not later than 15 calendar days after the occurrence of the incident. Report will provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address it and include any information provided by any Contractor/Subcontractor or supervising engineer. Incident and accidents reporting requirements will be</p>	<p><i>Any incident or accident shall be registered immediately and will be reported to the Task Team Leader of the Bank within 24 hours</i></p>	<p><i>PIU Project Manager</i></p> <p><i>Funding from the Project budget.</i></p>

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incorporated into the project implementation and procedures manuals.			
SUMMARY ASSESSMENT			
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Establish an organizational structure (PIU) with qualified staff to support management of environmental and social risks of the Project. One Environment and Social Specialists is required to be engaged as permanent staff within the PIU.	<i>Environmental and Social Specialist shall be hired before commencement of first works. In the meantime, MoTC should have open contract with the environmental and social consultant</i>	MoTC <i>Funding from MoTC budget</i>
1.2	SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS: Prepare, update, adopt, and implement, the Environmental and Social Management Framework. The ESMF guides preparation of environmental and social due diligence documents proportional to sub project risk and impact, specifically ESMP and ESMP Checklists. RPF will guide the potential land acquisition and the site-specific. RAP will be prepared if needed. SEP will be prepared as an tool for identification and engagement and solicit feedback by different stakeholders on project and sub-project level but as well	<i>ESMF was prepared, discussed and disclosed prior to Project appraisal. ESMF should be implemented throughout the project timeframe.</i>	PIU <i>Funding from the Project budget</i>

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	as to identify and manage social and environmental risks and impacts from the LRCP project and proposing appropriate mitigation measures for implementation during the project realization.		
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS: Development of site - specific ESMPs and ESMP Checklist, as well as implementation of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) • Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) • Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) 	<p><i>ESMPs and ESMP Checklists should be prepared, disclosed prior to commencement of bidding process for specific sub-project. ESMP and ESMP Checklist should be integral part of bidding documents for the site-specific documents. The framework documents are prepared during the preparation and advanced drafts are consulted before appraisal.</i></p>	<p><i>Local Governments should prepare ESMP and ESMP Checklists with the support of PIU ESS</i></p> <p><i>ESMP and ESMP Checklist should be implemented by contractor and supervising engineer.</i></p> <p><i>Framework documents and SEP should be implemented by PIU and respective municipalities</i></p> <p><i>Funding from Project funds, MoTC funds and municipal funds</i></p>
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS: MoTC will develop and implement procedures for managing Contractors and subcontractors. Incorporate the obligation of prepared an Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) plan/Labor Management Procedures (LMP) into the contractual agreements with contractors and subcontractors.</p>	<p><i>Prior to the preparation of bidding procurement documents.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to signature of contracts</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of the management tools and instruments required throughout Project implementation</i></p>	<p>PIU</p>

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	Environmental and Social obligations will be included in all bidding documents including the contractual agreements.		
1.5	<p>PERMIT, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: Obtain or assist in obtaining, as appropriate, the permits, consents and authorizations that are applicable to the Project from relevant national authorities, pursuant to applicable national laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decision for approval of the Elaborate EIA by the relevant Municipality; ▪ Approval for reconstruction/rehabilitation of the local road/street by the competent Authority; ▪ Approval for non-hazardous waste disposal at a specific location on the territory of the municipality. 	<p><i>Before any commencement of works or initiation of activities that require permits, consents and/or authorizations.</i></p> <p><i>Throughout Project Implementation</i></p>	Municipality/Contractor
1.4	<p>REPORTING TO WB: MoTC will submit semiannual Environmental and social performance reports to the World Bank on ESMF/RPF implementation, and subsequent ESMPs and ESMP Checklists, and very important how the implementation of proposed environmental and social measures have been applied.</p>	<p><i>Semi-annual</i></p> <p><i>Throughout Project Implementation</i></p>	PIU (Project Manager, ESS)
1.5.	<p>MAINTANANCE MANUAL: MoTC will prepare guidelines on environmental best practices for road maintenance activities.</p>	<i>During implementation</i>	MoTC, Funding from Project Funds
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			

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2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES: Develop maintain and implement, throughout Project implementation, labor management procedures consistent with national legislation and ESS2, and ensure they are available to Project workers and all sub-contractors engaged. The Labor management procedures (LMP) will address all issues identified in ESS2, including the applicable requirements regarding non-discrimination and equal opportunity.	<i>Prior to performing work</i> <i>LMP to be applied throughout Project implementation</i>	<i>PIU</i> <i>Funding from the Project budget</i>
2.2	OHS MEASURES: Develop and implement occupational health and safety measures (OHS), including emergency preparedness and response measures, project workers training to heighten awareness of possible risks (PPE, first aid, firefighting equipment, etc.), injuries and to mitigate impacts on local communities.	<i>Contractual obligation</i> <i>Maintained throughout Project implementation</i> <i>OHS measures should be finalized before commencement of works at any of the sites.</i> <i>LMP to be applied throughout Project implementation</i>	<i>Project Manager (PIU)</i> <i>Funding from project resources</i>
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS: Develop and maintain a grievance mechanism for any Project-related labor and employment matters, easily accessible and promptly disclosed to Project workers, in line with ESS2 and labor laws in North Macedonia. The grievance mechanism could be used as well by the local	<i>Mechanism is operational one month after the effectiveness of the project and information about it is disseminated to project workers and it should be maintained throughout the whole period of Project implementation.</i>	<i>Project Manager (PIU)</i> <i>Funding from project resources and contractor budget</i>

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	community in order to raise their concerns from project implementation in their vicinity.	<i>Mechanism is available throughout duration of contract</i>	
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: The Contractor will develop and implement measures and actions defined in Contractor's Waste Management Plan where all waste sources should be described, temporary storage of all streams separated before and final disposal. All waste streams that will be generated on spot should be scope of the Plan (inert waste, non-hazardous and eventually hazardous waste).</p> <p>Contractor also should implement all measures prescribed within the ESMP or ESMP Checklist regarding the management of waste and hazardous materials.</p>	<p><i>Contractual obligation</i> <i>Maintained throughout Project implementation</i> <i>Before commencement of works at any of the sites.</i></p>	<p>PIU will obligate contractors to develop and implement Contractor's Waste Management Plans as well as to implement Employer's ESMPs.</p> <p>Contractors will develop Waste Management Plans satisfactory to the Employer and implement them, along with all requirements set forth in the Employer's ESMPs, throughout contract life.</p>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: The Contractor will Develop and implement measures and actions in Community Plan to manage risks related to Community Health and Safety including traffic and road safety risks and risks related to the use of security personnel.</p>	<p><i>Contractual obligation</i> <i>Maintained throughout Project implementation.</i> <i>Before commencement of works at any of the sites</i> <i>Throughout project implementation</i></p>	<p>PIU will obligate contractors to develop and implement site-specific measures for ensuring community health and safety.</p> <p>Contractors will develop measures for community health and safety, satisfactory of the Employer, and implement them thought contract life.</p>

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	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN: As part of its bid the successful Contractor is required to submit a preliminary TMP, which will ultimately form part of the ESMP. Before work commencement updated TMP will be submitted to ESS.	<i>During second year of implementation</i>	
4.2	CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Conduct training for the community designed to heighten awareness of risks and to mitigate impacts specified in this section were civil works will be implemented. This will be conducted as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan	<i>During civil works</i> <i>Throughout project implementation</i>	PIU will obligate contractors to undertake community awareness-raising of the planned works. Contractors will conduct community awareness-raising.
ESS 5: Land Acquisition , Restriction on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT PLANS: Prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that has been prepared for the Project, and thereafter adopt and implement the respective RAPs before carrying out the associated activities, in a manner acceptable to the Bank	<i>RPF already prepared.</i> <i>RAPs to be prepared immediately once the sub-project designs are ready. To be implemented and completed before the commencement of the sub-project works.</i> <i>Throughout Project Implementation</i>	PIU, Municipalities
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	IMPACT ON CRITICAL AND NATURAL HABITATS: If sub projects will take place in protected area, opinion / advice will be sought from MoEPP whether the sub project will impact critical habitats. In addition, all	<i>During the sub project selection and preparation of Environmental and Social management Plan.</i>	PIU ESS Funding from municipal and project funds

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	respective ESMP will include discussion on natural and critical habitats risks and impacts.		
6.2	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS: Contractors will be required to follow the recommendations for maximum biodiversity conservation in the immediate vicinity of the project site and avoid occupying larger areas for carrying out construction activities as required by the ESMPs or ESMP Checklist (depending of the type of the project activities). Training will be organized for contractors.	<i>Prior any commencement of works and maintained throughout construction.</i> <i>Throughout project implementation</i>	PIU will obligate contractors to implement measures for mitigating biodiversity impacts by adhering to Employer's ESMPs. Contractors will comply with the requirements of Employer's ESMPs.
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS: Chance find procedures will be part of all contracts involving any works under the project.	<i>Prior any commencement of works and maintained throughout construction.</i> <i>Throughout Project Implementation</i>	PIU will include change find procedures into construction contracts and enforce them. Contractors will comply with change find procedures.
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	SEP PREPARATION: Prepare and disclose the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).	<i>Completes not later than Project appraisal</i>	<i>Project Preparation Team and PIU</i> <i>Funding from the Project budget</i>
10.2	SEP IMPLEMENTATION: Implement the SEP. The SEP may be amended and updated (and redisclosed) as needed during Project implementation.	<i>During Project preparation, at commencement and throughout Project life cycle</i>	<i>PIU</i> <i>Funding from the Project budget</i>

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10.3	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <p>Develop and implement a grievance mechanism for the entire Project.</p> <p>The SEP includes a commitment to communicate to stakeholders the establishment of the grievance mechanism to ensure that affected stakeholders are aware of its existence and familiar with the process for submitting grievances to such grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>Have in place before the effectiveness of the project</p> <p>Maintenance throughout project implementation. Maintenance of grievance database. Report the summary of grievances annually</p>	<p><i>PIU (Project Manager)</i></p> <p><i>Funding from the Project budget</i></p>
CS: Capacity Building and Training			
CS1	<p>MoTC should hire full time Environmental and Social Specialist (ESS) to PIU.</p>	<p>Environmental and Social Specialist should be hired before commencement of first works. In the meantime, MoTC should use services of external environmental and social consultant</p>	<p><i>MoTC</i></p> <p><i>Funding from MoTC budget</i></p>
CS2	<p>Relevant Municipal Staff and Ministry Staff training on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEP - RAP preparation and implementation - ESMP and ESMP Checklist preparation and oversight - LMP oversight - And other topics as relevant 	<p>Throughout Project Implementation, at minimum once a year.</p> <p>The trainings for municipalities should be organized during preparation of environmental and social due diligence documents such as ESMPs, Checklists and RAPs.</p>	<p><i>PIU ESS</i></p> <p><i>Funding from the Project budget</i></p>

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C3	Training for the contractors on implementation of environmental and social due diligence documents	Throughout of the project implementation, before commencement of works	PIU ESS <i>Funding from the Project budget</i>	