



RESILIENT SKOPJE

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY



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october 2018

The report is prepared within the project “ICT for Urban Resilience”,
implemented with financial and technical support from UNDP.

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INTRODUCTION

Recently, the cities become more and more important stakeholders in regard to climate action, especially in reducing the causes of climate change as well as in increasing resilience to climate change. In response to the challenge for joint action, the City of Skopje administration, in February 2017 adopted "Climate change Strategy - Resilient Skopje" also called "Strategy for Resilient Skopje - SOS" which envisages measures and actions to be implemented in the following ten years in order to build capacities for urban resilience and address climate change.

The Strategy is developed under the regional project "ICT for Urban Resilience" which is being implemented by UNDP and the City of Skopje administration. In the interim numerous activities were initiated and implemented in order to implement the Strategy and the Action Plan.

The objective of this survey is to assess the general progress in the implementation of the Strategy, per sectors covered in the Action Plan, and to determine what has been implemented, what funds were allocated and how much was spent, as well as to determine the contribution of what has been done to achieving SDGs, to integration into EU and to implementing other national and international commitments. The grades from 0 to 5 present the following qualifications:

5 HIGHLY SATISFACTORY	4 SATISFACTORY	3 MODERATELY SATISFACTORY	2 MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY	1 UNSATISFACTORY	0 HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY
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Based on the findings from this survey, conclusions and recommendations were drafted aimed at improving future strategic planning. These can be also used for further analysis which will enable the adoption of better responses to climate change and strengthening of urban resilience. The data were collected via an online questionnaire, posted on the web-page of the City of Skopje - Environment Protection Department <https://zivotnasredina.skopje.gov.mk/>. The survey was conducted with Microsoft Power BI tool. The questions were grouped in 9 sectors: (1) General measures, (2) Energy, buildings, transport, (3) Water resources, (4) Floods, (5) Health, (6) Risks and urban resilience, (7) Tourism, (8) Nature, biodiversity, erosion and (9) Public green areas. These were divided in accordance with the structure of the Action Plan and the Strategy (94 questions in total, distributed per 9 sectors, see Figure 1)

The questionnaire starts with a group of general questions about the age and gender of the respondents, as well as about their knowledge, acceptance and participation in the implementation of the Strategy. Also, the responders were given a possibility to enter relevant measures implemented by other institutions if they are familiar with some, as well as to give recommendations/proposals in relation to the Action Plan. In continuation the respondent had to choose the sector in which he/she would like to give his/her answers and there was a possibility for one respondent to provide answers for several sectors. The respondents were given an opportunity to list (describe) what has been done by the institution they represents (to enter links to relevant documents and information if needed), and to indicate how much funds have been spent and allocated in the budget.

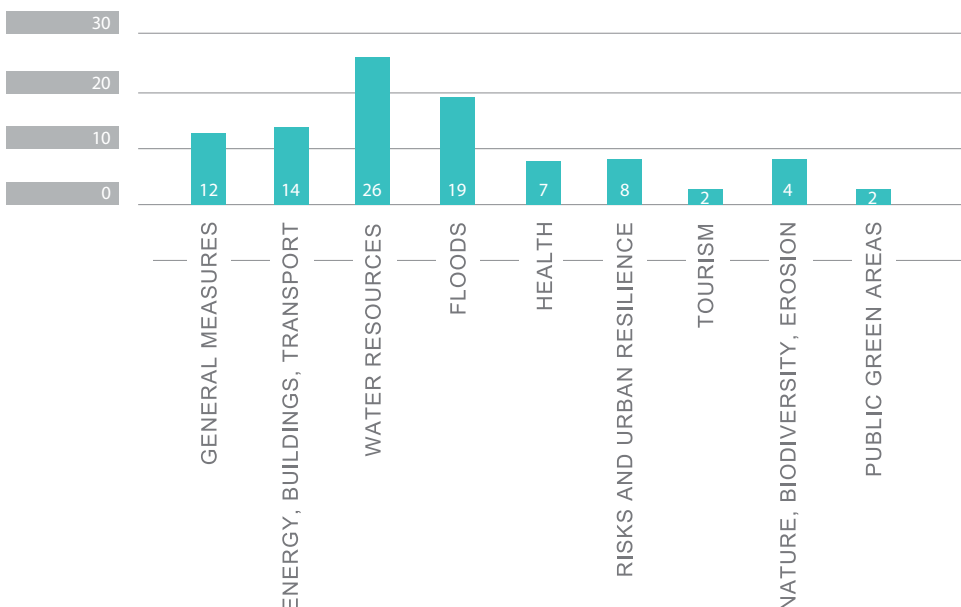


Figure 1 Number of questions (measures) per areas

Main target group of the survey were the employees of the City of Skopje administration and of the ten municipal administrations in Skopje:

Aerodrom
Butel
Gazi Baba
Gjorche Petrov
Karposh
Kisela Voda
Saraj
Center
Chair
Shuto Orizari

The survey was additionally sent to other relevant stakeholders who had a role in the implementation of some of the measures in the Action Plan, such as:

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Economy
Ministry of Finance
Energy Agency
Agency for Promotion and Support of Tourism
Protection and Rescue Directorate
Crisis Management Center
Public enterprises
Civil society organizations (citizens' associations)

Besides the initial requirement to complete the survey, the municipal points of contacts as well as the points of contacts from other institutions on several occasions were reminded to take the survey (via telephone or in person) and technical assistance was provided for the completion of the survey, if needed.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE AWARENESS AND THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE STRATEGY

Taking into consideration that the main stakeholders for the implementation of the Action Plan and the Strategy are the city administration and the ten municipal administrations, in an ideal situation when all of them would provide one completed questionnaire for each of the sectors, there should be 99 completed questionnaires (11 municipalities x 9 sectors).

In reality the response rate was roughly 26%, which means that 27 completed questionnaires have been obtained (Figure 2), mostly from the city administration (12 completed questionnaires, for some of the sectors there are more than one questionnaire completed), 5 from Center, 3 questionnaires were submitted by Karposh and by Shuto Orizari, 4 municipalities submitted 1 completed questionnaire and 3 municipalities have not provided a response at all (have not completed the questionnaire). The City of Skopje administration has provided the highest number of completed questionnaires in all sectors, except for tourism. Most of the completed questionnaires refer to Public green areas and General measures, then to Water resources and Energy, buildings and transport and there were 2 or 1 completed questionnaire in the rest of the sectors.

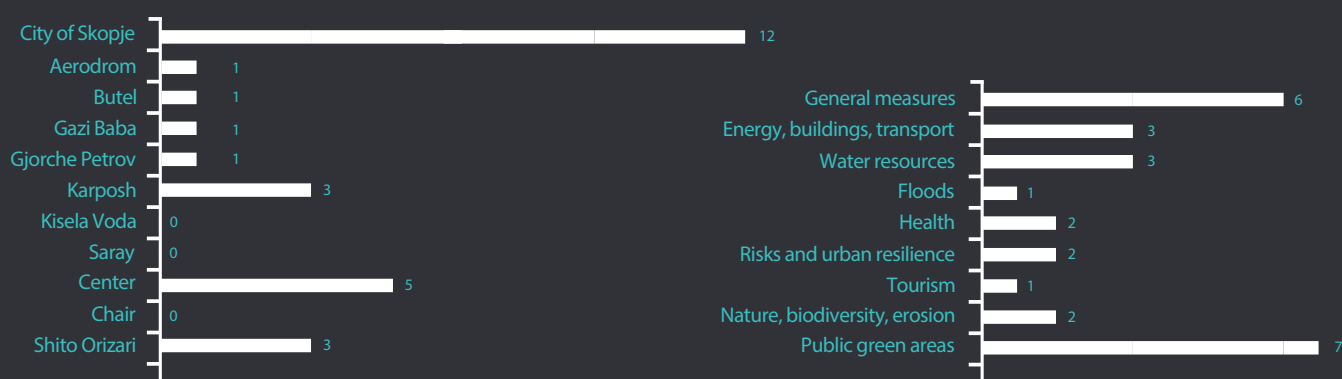


Figure 2 Questionnaires completed per municipality and per sector

Concerning the gender structure of the respondents, most of them are women (73%), older than 55 years of age, especially in the City of Skopje administration (Figure 3). The youngest respondent (in the group 18-25) completed the questionnaire related to Health sector activities. The sectors in which all the respondents were men are Energy, buildings, transport and Tourism.

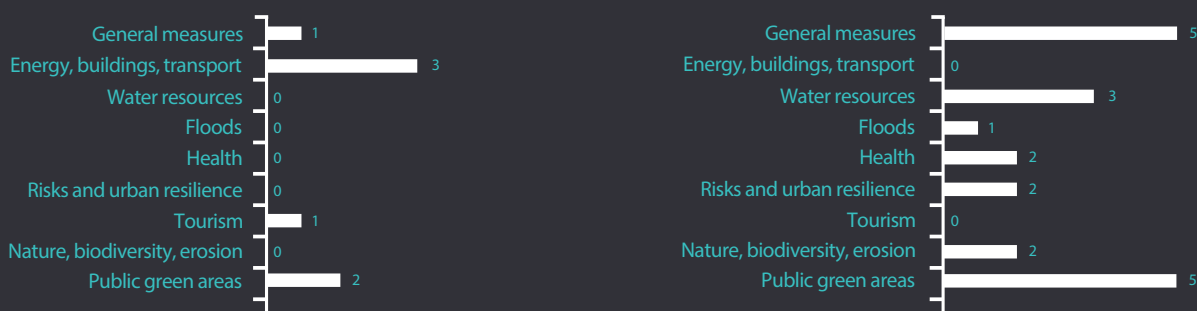


Figure 3 Gender structure of the respondents – men (left) and women (right)

5 other stakeholders have also provided answers and they are as follows:

- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in Nature, biodiversity, erosion sector
- Crisis Management Center, in Floods sector
- Civil society organizations (citizens' associations) in General measures sector
- Two other institutions, in Energy, buildings, transport and in Water resources sectors

Most of the questionnaires were completed by men (80%) aged 36-55. In this age group women have responded only about general measures, and men in the other sectors.

The number of completed questionnaires reflects the awareness, knowledge and dedication to the Strategy. On one hand, almost all respondents know that the City of Skopje administration has adopted a Climate Change Strategy - Resilient Skopje, which shows that the Strategy is well promoted. But on the other hand, the response rate of the municipalities is relatively low, and most of them have not responded or have provided only one completed questionnaire. The response to the questionnaire is very low among other stakeholders as well. Partially, this can be explained with the fact that this is the first time online questionnaires are used for progress monitoring, so the employees in the municipal administrations and in other relevant institutions need time to acquire the habit and capacities for responding to the growing reporting requirements.

Further on, the respondents have not entered links to planning/strategic and other relevant documents, which shows lack of synergy. Likewise, there are no examples which show that one institution is aware of the work of another institution which also points to the fact that there is no interinstitutional coordination and cooperation. There are isolated examples when one person has responded to the questionnaire for more than one sector, which shows that very often one person works in several areas, but it also shows isolated actions in the municipalities or institutions themselves and lack of intersectoral synergy. The highest funds for the implementation of the Action Plan (95%) have been allocated in 4 sectors: Water resources, Public green areas, General measures and Energy, buildings, transport. The relatively low response rate among municipalities and the very low response rate among other stakeholders prevents us from getting detailed information about the implementation of the Strategy. Thus, the findings and the evaluation provided is only indicative.

STRENGTHS (+)

- The City of Skopje administration has provided the highest number of completed questionnaires for 8 sectors in total

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Relatively low response rate among the municipalities
- Very small response rate among other stakeholders
- No links are provided to other strategic/ planning or other relevant documents
- Isolated action, lack of interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination and cooperation

ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY
UNSATISFACTORY

ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY OF SKOPJE ADMINISTRATION

Additionally, the analysis of the answers provided by the City of Skopje administration, which is the Strategy leading implementing organization (Figure 4) has pointed to the following conclusions:

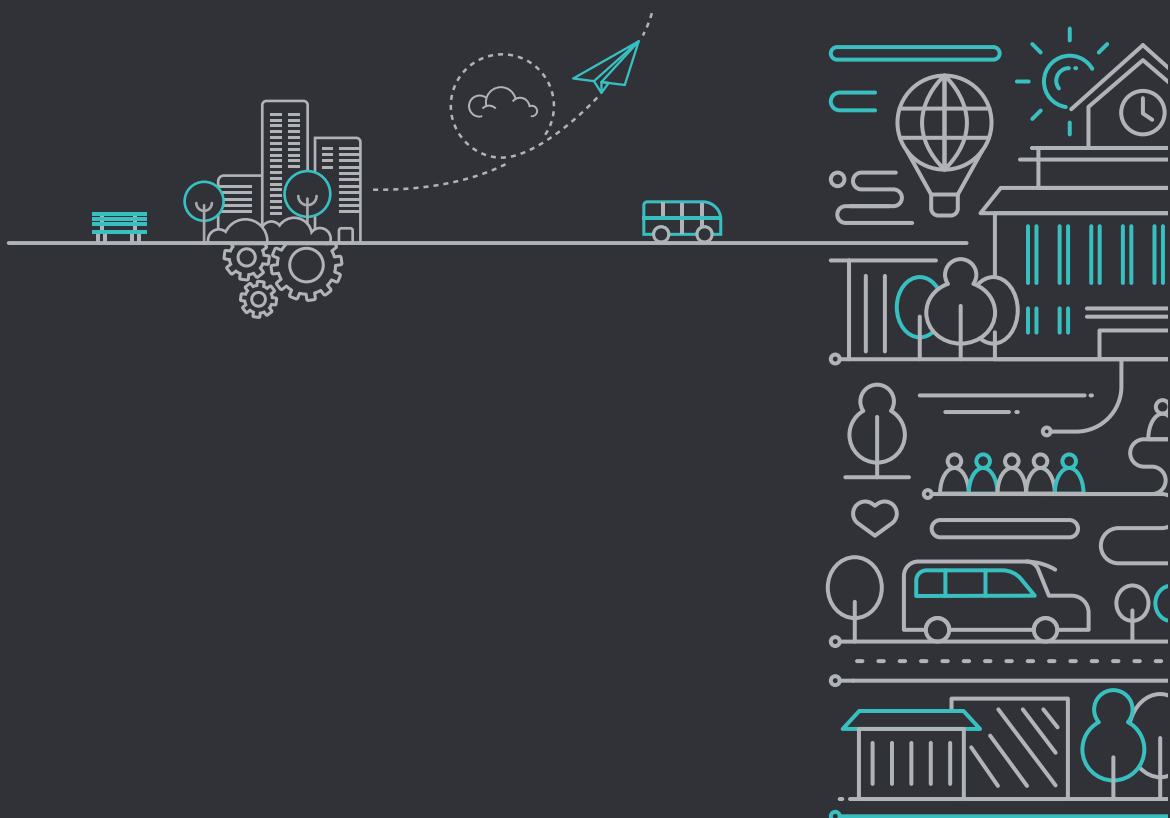
- The City of Skopje administration actively implements the measures under their competence
- Key progress in the implementation of the Action Plan is evident in Nature, biodiversity and erosion and Public green areas sectors
- The level of implementation is satisfactory in all sectors except in Floods (mainly due to the nature of the measures - big infrastructural endeavors) and Tourism
- It is difficult to determine the percentage of completed activities since most of the activities are listed as continuous commitments



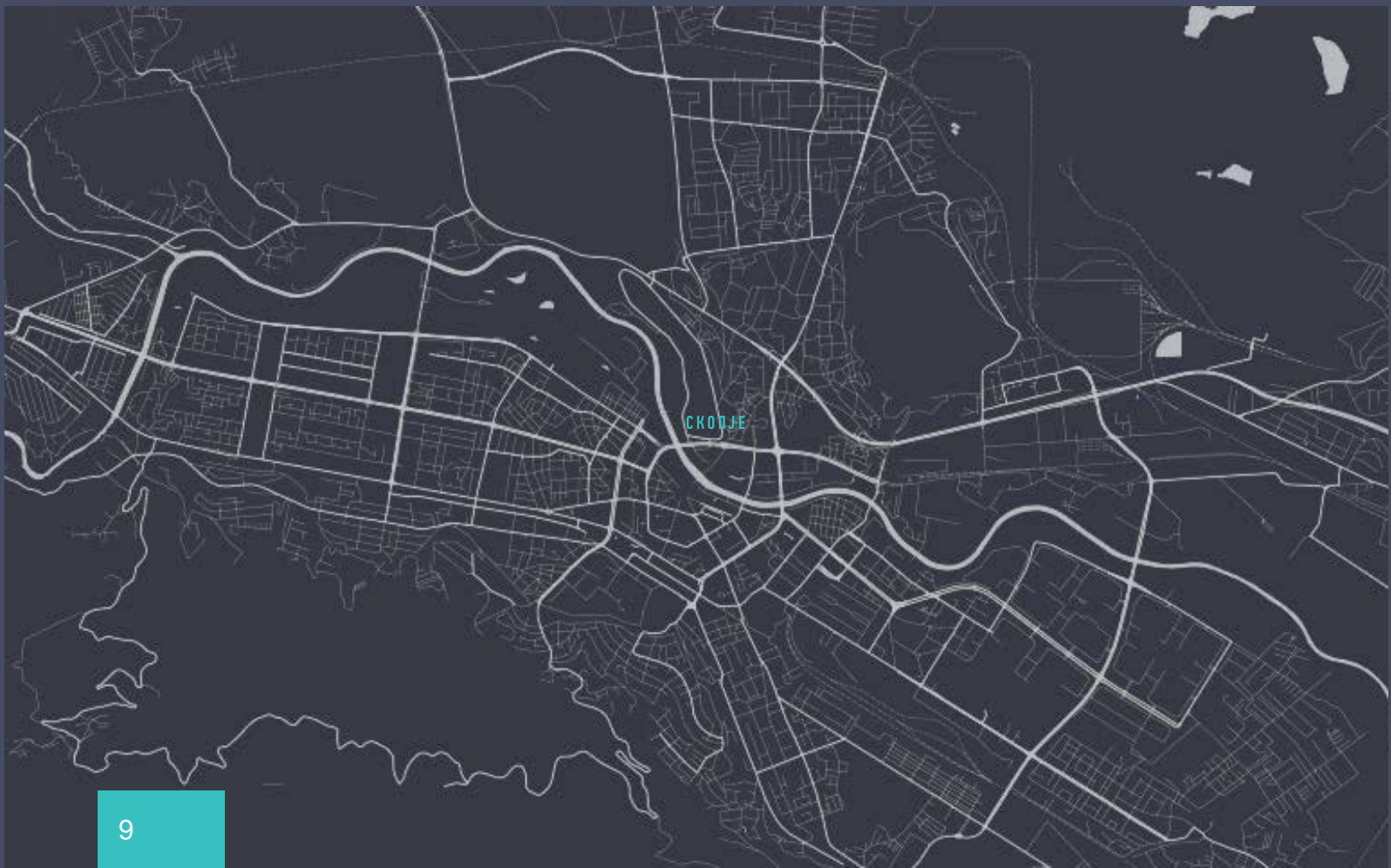
Figure 4 Implementation assessment of the Action Plan by the City of Skopje administration

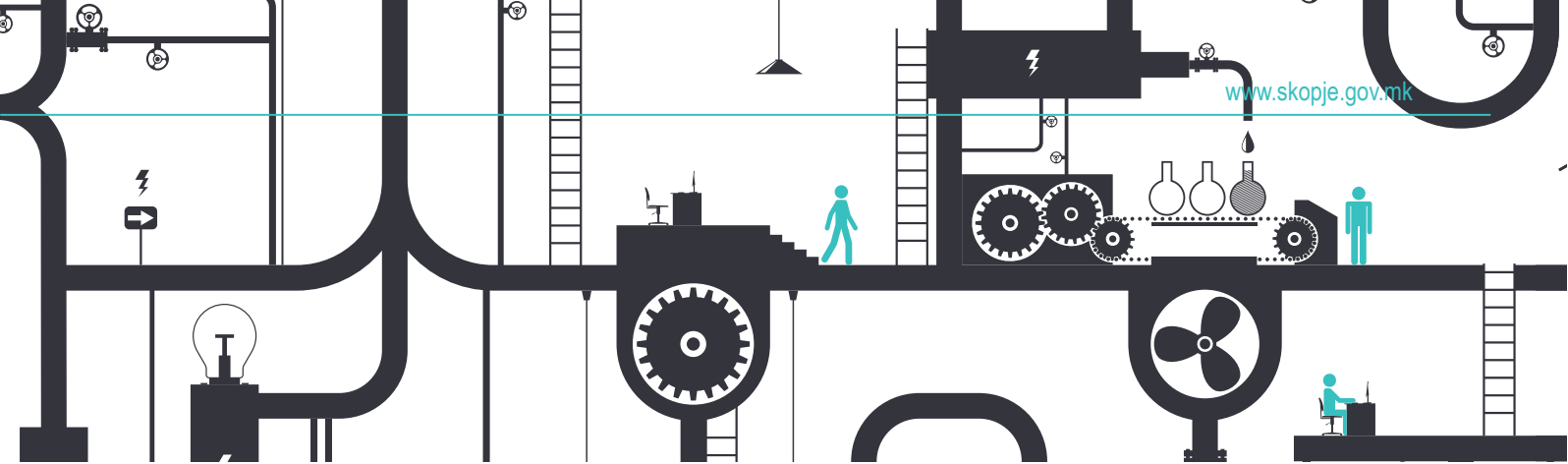
ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY SATISFACTORY



PROGRESS ASSESSMENT PER SECTOR





3.1 SECTOR: GENERAL MEASURES

GENERAL MEASURES

Measures refer to development of planning and strategic documents, studies, data bases, measurements and monitoring in order to adopt informed policies, improving municipal solid waste collection, green fund strengthening

STRENGTHS (+)

- More than one third of the municipalities (4) implement activities in this sector
- The actions taken by municipalities cover almost all measures foreseen in the Action Plan (11 out of 12 measures)
- For more than half of the measures (7), spending is in accordance with the plan (funds allocated and spend are comparable)
- One non-governmental organization informed that they have activities for mainstreaming climate change in urban planning and that there is a new SEAP (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) for Skopje but they did not provide any specific details

WEAKNESSES (-)

- There are no activities nor funds foreseen for the development of a climate atlas of Skopje
- For one third of the measures (4), the funds allocated are reported, but not the funds spent
- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

FINANCES

146 million denars were planned, while 84 million denars were spent (54%). This category is on the third place according to the funds allocated.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT

INDIRECT



RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR EU INTEGRATION

- Better governance and strategic planning
- Implementation of European directives: Directive for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)
- Circular economy (better waste collection and treatment practices)
- Contribution to the Covenant of Mayors (with the development of a revised SEAP)

ASSESSMENT:

MODERATELY SATISFACTORY

3.2 SECTOR: ENERGY, BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT

ENERGY, BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT

Measures refer to creation of incentives for solar collectors and photovoltaic systems, use of biofuels in transport, retrofitting hospitals with energy efficiency measures, creating conditions for incentivizing thermal insulation and installment of thermal pumps in households, commercial and service sector, phasing out incandescent bulbs, penetration of appliances with higher efficiency class, application of energy efficiency standards when renovating old and constructing new residential buildings, as well as preparing a detailed study on the heating practices.

STRENGTHS (+)

- Municipality of Karposh, followed by the municipality of Gjorche Petrov are leaders in this sector
- The actions implemented by these two municipalities are: Solar collectors in kindergartens, schools and sporting gyms for sanitary hot water, subsidies for energy efficient buildings and use of renewable energy sources, retrofitting of schools and kindergartens and collective residential buildings, heating and cooling systems with thermal pumps, wooden chips systems, efficient lighting of schools and kindergartens, energy efficiency as a condition for public procurement in the municipalities, conditioning the construction permits with the use of the Rulebook on Energy Performance of Buildings, procurement of hybrid vehicles for the needs of the municipality
- There are activities undertaken for almost all measures from the Action Plan
- There are indications for significant investment in this sector
- Another institution informed that there are activities, but mainly they refer to the existing SEAP for the City of Skopje as well as the NEEAP

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Completed questionnaires have been submitted only by two municipalities
- The City of Skopje administration has not submitted a completed questionnaire in this sector
- There is no questionnaire submitted by the Ministry of Economy and the Energy Agency which are competent institutions for the relevant national legislation and regulations as well as for the national subsidies
- There are no activities for using biofuels in transport
- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

FINANCES

64 million denars were allocated, and 318 million denars were spent. The funds spent are far higher than the allocated (almost 5 times) which shows a trend of intensive activities.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE EU INTEGRATION

- Implementation of European directives: Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings, Directive on Renewable Energy Sources
- Contribution to the Covenant of Mayors (with the development of a revised SEAP)

ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY SATISFACTORY

3.3 SECTOR: WATER RESOURCES

WATER RESOURCES

Measures refer to protecting the capacity and quality of the Rashche spring, the well area Nerezi- Lepenec, reconstruction and modernization of the water supply system, alternative water supply sources, irrigation of green areas and washing streets and public areas, construction of storm drains, waste water treatment plant for Skopje, well cadaster, ground water study and study on the intensity, duration and frequency of intensive rainfall.

STRENGTHS (+)

- The City of Skopje significantly focused on this sector (3 persons provided complete questionnaires)
- The City of Skopje reports on implemented activities almost for all measures foreseen in the Action Plan
- Another institution responded that there are activities in relation to the monitoring of hydrology and ground water, but without any specific details

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Only the City of Skopje provided completed questionnaires
- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

FINANCES

510 million denars were allocated, while 390 million denars were spent (75%). This category is on the first place according to the funds allocated.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE EU INTEGRATION:

- Implementation of European directives - Water Framework Directive

ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY
UNSATISFACTORY



3.4 SECTOR: FLOODS

FLOODS

Measures refer to continuous monitoring of the rainfall intensity on several specific locations in the flash floods areas in urban areas, contemporary radar systems in the National Hydrometeorological Service and an alarming system, flood risk maps, river Vardar regulation, managing dams and reservoirs, channeling the water flow of Lepenec through the inhabited areas, regulation of the river beds of flash flood waterflows in the inhabited areas, reconstruction and cleaning of the river beds of rivers and waterflows leading to settlements, construction of a retention pool above the ring road around Skopje.

STRENGTHS (+)

- The Crisis Management Center responded that there are some activities about assessing the risks of floods in Skopje and about informing the public and the media as well as hydrology monitoring, but without specific details.

WEAKNESSES (-)

- The Crisis Management Center responded that there are some activities about assessing the risks of floods in Skopje and about informing the public and the media as well as hydrology monitoring, but without specific details.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



FINANCES

No information on funds allocated/spent.

ASSESSMENT

UNSATISFACTORY



3.5 SECTOR: HEALTH

HEALTH

Measures refer to establishing a Public Health Council and Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change and Health in the Skopje Region, improving prevention activities for reducing the risks for human health, developing a data collection system and investigating climate change impact on health, especially on vulnerable groups, increasing social protection activities, sheltering children and education.

STRENGTHS (+)

- The City of Skopje focused on this sector (2 persons provided completed questionnaires)
- The City of Skopje reports that currently the Public Health Council and the Intersectoral Commission on Climate change and Health is being established, and Skopje health profile is also being developed (ongoing), the consequences from pollution on health are being investigated, especially on pre-school and school children (ongoing), systematic analysis of the radioactivity level in the environment of the Skopje Region, establishing the distribution of heavy metals in the fruits intended for eating (under preparation), participating in the project Skopje Healthy City, Skopje is part of the healthy cities family in Europe

WEAKNESSES (-)

- The only answer provided is submitted by the City of Skopje
- Lack of involvement of other relevant stakeholders (there are no completed questionnaires by any other institution, including the Ministry of Health)

FINANCES

4 million denars are allocated, and 4 million denars are spent.
This is an example where funds are being spent as allocated.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



ASSESSMENT

UNSATISFACTORY

3.6 SECTOR: RISKS, URBAN RESILIENCE

RISKS, URBAN RESILIENCE

The measures refer to updating the threat assessment of the City of Skopje and of the municipalities for all risks and hazards, as well as the Protection and Rescue Plan, the adoption of Integrated Urban Resilience Action Plan, introducing practices for disaster risk reduction as well as for climate risks in the General Urban Plans and other sectoral strategies, programs and plans, implementing targeted activities for raising the awareness of the general population and of persons with disabilities, strengthening local resilience through tactical drills for responding to natural disasters in schools, developing a risk and hazard map of Skopje and the municipalities, the citizens and companies proposing and developing innovative solutions.

STRENGTHS (+)

- The City of Skopje and the Municipality of Centar have focused on this sector
- They report that currently they are developing an emergency plan, covering hazardous situations caused by industrial accidents

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Only two municipalities submitted completed questionnaires.
- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

FINANCES

3 million denars are allocated, and 3 million denars were spent. This is an example where funds were spent in accordance with the plan.

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



ASSESSMENT

UNSATISFACTORY

3.7 SECTOR: TOURISM

TOURISM

The measures refer to including tourism in the Risk Management Plans of the city and of the municipalities, especially for those sub-sectors which are obviously exposed to short-term risks and coordination with tourism planning in other sectors.

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Only one questionnaire was submitted, by the municipality of Shuto Orizari, but it also does not contain details
- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

ASSESSMENT

HIGHLY
UNSATISFACTORY



3.8 SECTOR: NATURE, BIODIVERSITY, EROSION

NATURE, BIODIVERSITY, EROSION

The measures refer to protection of biodiversity, elaboration of a Program for Protection from Erosion for the City of Skopje with an Action Plan, improving conditions for protection and managing protected natural rarities as well as increasing the square area of the formally protected areas.

STRENGTHS (+)

- It is reported that the development of a Study on Riparian Habitats and Biotopes Map was initiated, a new project on monitoring biodiversity on Vodno and Matka, Study on Erosion with an Action Plan for the Skopje Region, review of the flash flood protection system on Vodno, horticultural development of the slopes of Skopje Fortress in order to protect it from erosion, preparing technical documents for protection of Skopska Crna Gora from flash floods, strategic plan for the park of nature Gazi Baba and management plan for Gazi Baba, studies for (re)protection of the sites Dona Duka cave, Matka caves, of the protected complex Vodno - Saray - Matka and of Skopska Crna Gora mountain
- The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning reports on their active participation in the valorization/revalorization process for the proposed and protected areas, in the preparation of the Management Plan for the protected areas, on their involvement in working groups for forestation proposals and programs, for preparing studies for valorization/revalorization of natural rarities

WEAKNESSES (-)

- The only answer is submitted by the City of Skopje
- This is the only sector for which The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has provided a completed questionnaire

FINANCES

51 million denars have been planned, while 33 million denars have been spent (65%).

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS

DIRECT



INDIRECT



ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY SATISFACTORY

3.9 SECTOR: PUBLIC GREEN AREAS

PUBLIC GREEN AREAS

The measures refer to increasing and improving green areas and implementing innovative measures for protection and improving public green areas

STRENGTHS (+)

- The municipalities have provided most of the answers
- There are reports on numerous activities for all measures foreseen in the Action Plan

WEAKNESSES (-)

- Insufficient involvement of other relevant stakeholders

RELEVANCE / CONTRIBUTION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS:

DIRECT



INDIRECT



FINANCES

418 million denars are allocated, and 481 million denars were spent. The funds spent are higher than the allocated which shows a trend of intensive activities.

ASSESSMENT

MODERATELY SATISFACTORY

SUMMARY EVALUATION

Based on the funds planned and spent, we made an overview of all the sectors (Figure 5). It should be underlined that because of the low number of completed questionnaires by the municipalities (by municipalities and by sectors) these amounts should not be taken for granted, but only as an indication of the focus of some of the municipalities and the intensity of their activities.

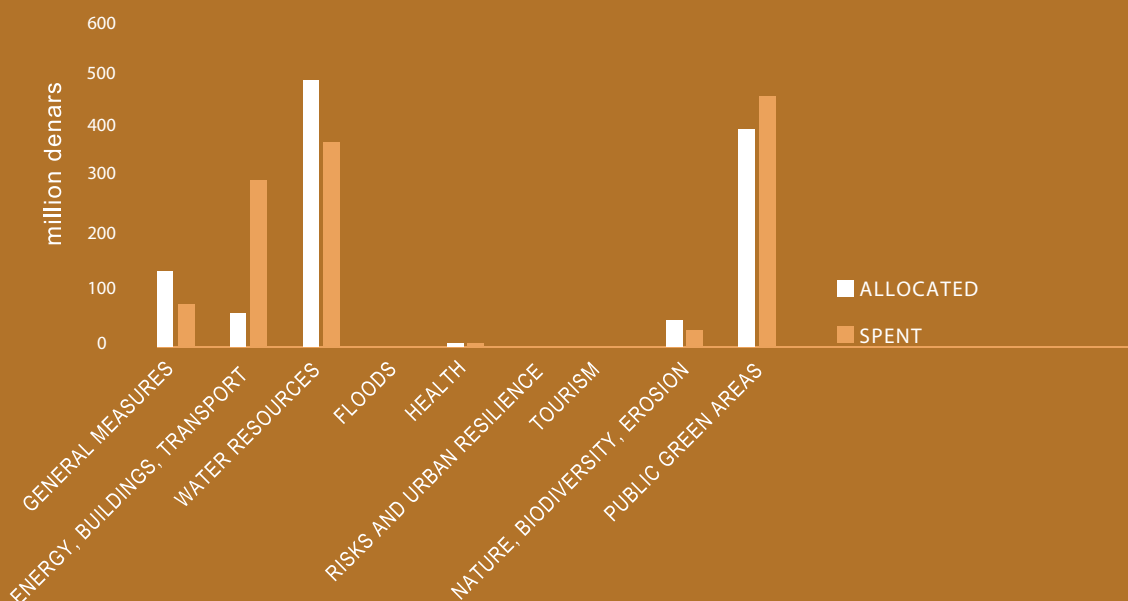


Figure 5 Overview of the funds

Bellow is an integral evaluation of the awareness, knowledge and dedication to the Strategy as well as of the progress in the sectors determined on the answers given in the questionnaire (Figure 6, lighter colors – higher grades)

AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION TO THE STRATEGY	MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY	(2)
GENERAL MEASURES	MODERATELY SATISFACTORY	(3)
ENERGY, BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT	MODERATELY SATISFACTORY	(3)
WATER RESOURCES	MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY	(2)
FLOODS	UNSATISFACTORY	(1)
HEALTH	UNSATISFACTORY	(1)
RISKS AND URBAN RESILIENCE	UNSATISFACTORY	(1)
TOURISM	HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY	(0)
NATURE, BIODIVERSITY, EROSION	MODERATELY SATISFACTORY	(3)
PUBLIC GREEN AREAS	MODERATELY SATISFACTORY	(3)

Figure 6 Progress map

The contribution to sustainable development (Figure 7) is presented through the contribution for the achievement of individual sustainable development goals (SDGs). The points for each SDG are calculated in the following manner:

$$\text{POINTS}_{\text{SDG}} = \sum_{\text{SECTORS}} \text{SECTOR GRADE} \times \text{IMPACT FACTOR}$$

at which

$\text{POINTS}_{\text{SDG}}$ - contribution of the Strategy for the achievement of the specific SDG

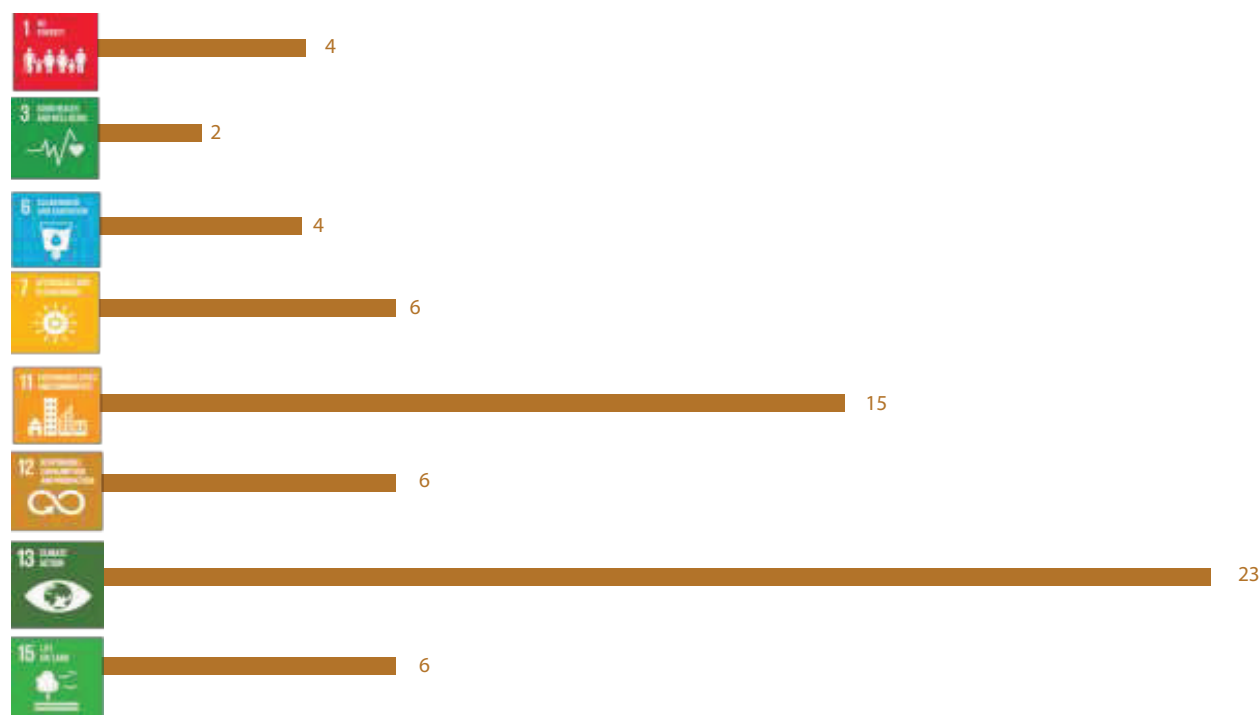
sector grade - the progress in the sector (see Chapter 3),

can be from 0 to 5 impact factor –

0 if there is no impact of the sector on the specific SDG

1 if there is indirect impact of the sector on the specific SDG

2 if there is direct impact of the sector on the specific SDG



It can be concluded that the Strategy mostly contributes to the achievement of 8 out of 17 SDGs and it mostly contributes for the achievement of SDG 13 - Climate Action.

It is followed by SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities.

GOOD PRACTICES

In order to give an example for the other stakeholders, for each sector we have chosen one example which can serve not only as an example of good practice but also as a guidance and motivation for better implementation of the proposed measures in future, higher dedication of the local self-governments and of the Government and for cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

GENERAL MEASURES



Skopje GHG Inventory

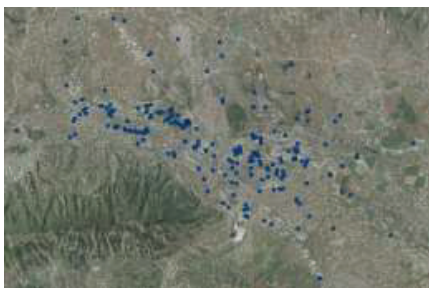
By regularly updating the GHG inventory, City of Skopje has a tool which can confirm that the measures undertaken in the energy efficiency sector are efficient and have contributed to the reduction of GHG emissions as per the requirements of the Covenant of Mayors.

ENERGY, BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT



Municipality of Karposh: Subsidies for energy efficient buildings and use of renewable energy sources, retrofitting of schools and kindergartens as well as of apartment buildings, installment of heating and cooling systems with thermal pumps, wood chips systems, efficient lighting in schools and kindergartens, energy efficiency as a condition for municipal public procurement.

WATER RESOURCES



Development of a register of underground wells used by public enterprises and companies in the Skopje planning Region, in order to balance the sustainability of the ground water capacity in the Skopje Region and its use.

FLOODS



The City of Skopje administration completed a study on modeling possible floods in the Skopje planning region, as per the Floods Directive and national regulations. The possible flooding scenarios are additionally visualized and can be seen on the following [link](#).

HEALTH



An Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change and Health in the Skopje Region, consisting of representatives of all 17 municipalities in the region. The Intersectoral Commission will monitor the climate change impacts in the region, how the municipalities address climate change consequences, shall give proposals for their mitigation, and will share the experiences of the City of Skopje and of all applied innovative activities with others.

Besides this, the Intersectoral Commission shall determine the priorities and will predict prevention activities aimed at reducing health risks for people, caused by climate change, and will work on balanced application of the measures throughout the whole area of the Skopje Region.

RISKS AND URBAN RESILIENCE



Currently ongoing is the development of an External Emergency Plan, for hazardous situations caused by industrial accidents, which is developed on the internal plans of the installations. The objective of the plan is to localize and control the industrial accidents as well as to mitigate the consequences on human life, on the environment and on property, reporting to the public and to the competent institutions, as well as recovery and reclamation of the environment after the accident

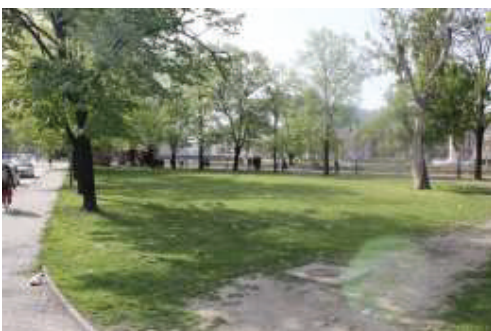
NATURE, BIODIVERSITY, EROSION



An expert study and zoning of the park of nature Gazi Baba, which includes the impact of climate change on biodiversity, focusing on more frequent dry period, floods, heat waves and cold waves with cold weather.

Socio-economic plan is also developed covering local communities, use of space and all threats (natural and anthropogenic), and it contains measures for their overcoming.

PUBLIC GREEN AREAS



The team of the City of Skopje Innovation Center (Skopje Lab) works on the initiative for redesigning 12 green public areas/parks, which will be revitalized by the City of Skopje in accordance with the needs of the citizens. In the process there will be an attempt to "revive" the stories from the past related to those locations, if any.

This initiative was proposed by a citizen who found 20 sites in the city which needed revitalization.

FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I.

The Progress Map (Figure 6), shows that the progress in most of the sectors is assessed as moderately satisfactory (3), but there are also sectors assessed as moderately unsatisfactory and unsatisfactory. Therefore, the general grade for the implementation of the Strategy is between moderately satisfactory and moderately unsatisfactory.

III.

According to the methodology applied for assessing the contribution of the Strategy for sustainable development which takes into consideration progress assessment of each sector and its impact on the achievement of the specific SDG (direct, indirect and no impact), it is determined that there is satisfactory contribution to sustainable development - there is contribution to 8 out of 17 SDG in total, and the highest contribution is to the achievement of SDG 13 - Climate Action. It is followed by SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities.

IV.

There is also satisfactory contribution to EU integration by promoting good governance and strategic planning, implementing EU Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Directive on Renewable Energy Sources and of the Water Framework Directive.

Also, it is contributed to establishing circular economy (better practices for waste collection and treatment), as well as for implementing the Covenant of Mayors.

II.

The financial analysis shows that most funds were allocated in the sector Water Resources followed by Public Green Areas. There are examples when funds allocated are spent in accordance with the plan (Health, and Risks and urban resilience), but also there are examples when the funds spent are more than those allocated (Energy, Buildings, Transport and Public Green Areas).

There are no reports on planned and implemented investments by other relevant stakeholders. Having in mind the low number of questionnaires completed by the municipalities (by municipalities and by sectors) municipal funds should not be taken for granted, but only as an indication of the focus of some of the municipalities and the intensity of their activities.

V.

Recommendations for future progress assessment questionnaires: Although the questionnaire is remarkably implemented from a technical point of view and it follows the Action Plan, apparently it was too long and it required a lot of effort and time for completion. On the other hand, the employees in the municipal administrations and in other relevant institutions do not have habits and sufficient capacity to respond to the growing reporting requirements.

This partially explains the relatively low response rate by the municipalities and by the other institutions. Because of this, future progress report questionnaires should be made for sector level. Besides the main intention (progress assessment) the questionnaire should be used as a tool for raising awareness and knowledge about the Strategy, as well as for strengthening municipal and institutional capacities for the implementation of the Strategy.



VI.

Recommendations for future strategies and actions plans: It became evident that the level of detail in the completed questionnaires and with this also in the implementation of the specific measures, depends on the way they are defined in the Action Plan. It is recommended action plans to contain short and clear measures and to avoid general measures, such as raising public awareness, capacity building, institutional strengthening etc.

When defining measures, municipal budgets should be taken into consideration so funds for the implementation of the measures can be adequately planned and reported.

Also, having in mind the new needs for funding, certain revisions of the municipal budgets are needed.

VII.

Recommendations for future analysis: It was good that some general questions were included in the questionnaire, such as gender, because it can provide data for future analysis.

It is recommended that this practice continues in future questionnaires, and data obtained in this way be used for carrying out gender-sensitive analysis which will enable more efficient capacity building for urban resilience and better response to climate change.



