

# TOWARDS GREEN TRANSITION

## Swedish and Norwegian Support to Industrial Emissions Reduction in Serbia

The Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy of the University of Belgrade is currently implementing two projects aimed at reducing industrial emissions – IED Serbia and eVOC Serbia. The projects support the industry in Serbia in the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive and are an important basis for the next steps towards environmental reforms. Both projects have contributed to the preparation of the Negotiating Position for Chapter 27, part of the recently opened Cluster 4 - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity in the negotiation process with the European Union.

The IED Serbia Project – “Green Transition - Implementing Industrial Emissions Directive in Serbia 2021-2025” represents the third phase of cooperation and extended support of Sweden in the implementation of national regulations on integrated pollution prevention and control. The aim of the project is to provide assistance and support to competent authorities and companies in the procedure of the issuance of integrated permits, which regulate emissions into all environmental media, obtainment of which is obligatory for all large industrial installations.



### Karin McDonald

Head of the Development  
Cooperation Section at the Embassy  
of Sweden in Belgrade



*“University of Belgrade is a very important partner to Sweden in achieving environmental standards in Serbia. Faculties employ experts and researchers who work in important fields for environmental protection, such as sustainable use and production of energy, waste management, and the like. Therefore, the University of Belgrade plays a significant role, both in terms of new research and in terms of advising the Government on new ways of operation and innovative technologies. Sweden supports Serbia on its way to the European Union and the EU has its requirements when it comes to environmental standards and the reforms to be implemented.”*

**The eVOC Serbia Project**, supported by the Kingdom of Norway, pertains to the identification and reduction of emissions originating from installations that use Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in their processes and the implementation of Chapter V of the Industrial Emissions Directive.

### Geir Håkon Johansen,

Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal  
Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade



*“Sweden and Norway support two separate projects, but both of them cover the field of industrial pollution and contribute to the implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive. The Norwegian project is aimed at regulating the use of volatile organic compounds, which is of relevance for small and medium-sized enterprises, while Swedish support is focused on integrated permits for larger installations. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of the Serbian economy and significantly contribute to economic growth in Serbia. The goal of Norway is to help them modernise their production technologies to be better aligned with EU environmental standards and to become more competitive in both domestic and international markets.”*



## Nordic cooperation – joint activities

### Activities with students

For several years now, the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy has been organising the Tech Case Study, with the intention of presenting the future work of technologists to high school students through a real problem in the industry that they should resolve. In that way, their engineering skills and “green” way of thinking are tested, and students get better acquainted with their future vocation. The results so far have demonstrated that young people are very aware of the importance of environmental protection, interested in working in the future in such positions that will improve the environment, and that they have innovative ideas. The IED Serbia and eVOC Serbia Projects, as well as the Embassies of Sweden and the Kingdom of Norway to Serbia, each independently supported this competition, while this year joint support was provided for the organisation and promotion of the competition. The topic of this year’s competition was the circular economy, an area wherein the support of these two countries is very important for Serbia.

### Activities with environmental inspection

As it is of great importance to enforce regulations on the reduction of industrial emissions, special attention of both projects is placed on the training of inspectors from all levels of competence, so as to improve their skills and capacities in the inspection of operators.

Within the eVOC Serbia Project, ten workshops have been held on the most important industrial activities responsible for VOC emissions, as well as several on-the-site trainings. Continuation of training courses for environmental inspectors for large industrial IPPC installations will be organised within the third phase of the IED Project, which will cover the entire regulatory cycle related to the issuance of integrated permits.

### Contact with stakeholders

Info centres have been established within both mentioned projects, and the purpose thereof is to provide continuous support to stakeholders in the preparation and submission of relevant information for compliance with legal regulations, understanding of procedures, access to currently available funds, and application of best available techniques. The centres provide support in direct contact with project teams and experts, as well as in the preparation of manuals, brochures, leaflets and newsletters in accordance with the needs of competent authorities and operators.

The centres also play a significant role in informing the general public about topics of importance for environmental protection and green transition.

