

# 1. Institutional setting

All reforms in waste management are based on:

- Waste Management Plan 2017-2022 (in process);
- Municipal Regulation on Waste Management 03/2016 (in process).

Based on the objectives of the Municipal Waste Management Plan, the department has prepared and is working intensively on:

- Action plans for the coverage with basic services in 100% of the municipal territory with the improvement of the disposal infrastructure (completed);
- Pilot projects for the separation at source of recyclable waste and organic waste (completed);
- Preparation of the concept for other waste fractions (in process).

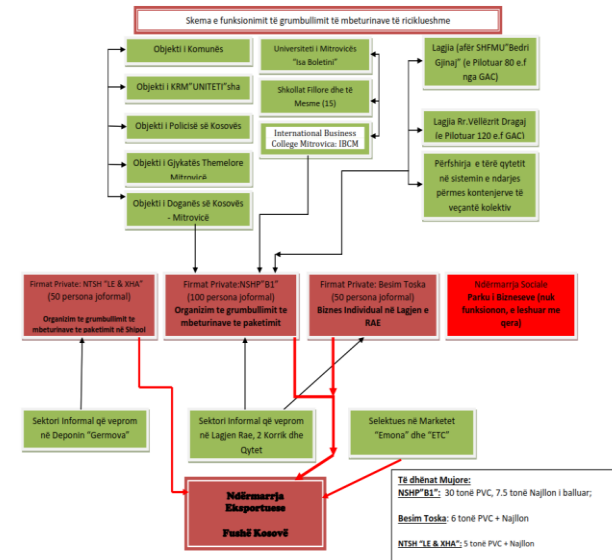
# 2. Starting point/Project goal

## PROJECT GOAL:

- A sustainable model for separation at source of recyclable waste with the inclusion of informal collectors in the circular waste economy developed at the local level.

## STARTING POINTS:

- Monitoring and creation of a database for all relevant actors in the waste sector, especially in the recycling scheme (began in 2015 and continues);
- Capacity building of operators and informal collectors;
- Awareness-raising activities in the community (began in 2016 and continues);
- Finding mechanisms to stimulate separation of recyclable material, cooperation between MESP, GIZ, Municipalities, GAC, business, etc. (began in 2015 and continues).



# 3. Approach

- Identification of informal waste collectors, intermediaries and recycling companies;
- Creation of work preconditions for the informal sector;
- Development of training for informal waste collectors;
- Conception of preconditions for separation at source and provide infrastructure for the pilot zone and target groups with potential to generate recyclable waste;
- Development of an awareness-raising campaign in educational institutions and in the pilot areas;
- Establishment of community meetings to involve them in the separation scheme;
- Creation of preconditions with small recycling businesses cooperating with informal collectors;
- Distribution of infrastructure for separation and organisation of collection in coordination with informal collectors and recycling businesses;
- Monitoring the system and creation of the collection itinerary of recyclable materials;
- Expansion of the system of separation at source in a larger neighborhood.

# 4. Outputs

- 27 informal collectors received trainings and working tools;
- Approximately 1000 entities are practicing separation at source in two city neighborhoods;
- According to reports, ~30% of total amount of waste produced in the pilot zone goes to the recycling sector;
- ~ 36 tons of recyclable waste goes to the recycling sector, which means less waste in the landfill;
- Informal collectors have increased their income by 2 euros per day (from 5 to 7 euros per day);
- Urban educational institutions have integrated environmental protection programs and are part of the source process.



# 5. Lessons

- Community awareness-raising yields long-term results;
- Expanding the system of separation at source throughout the territory has a direct impact on the development of the circular economy at the national level and creates the possibility of formal employment -- Citizens see this process with interest;
- Continued partnership with the non-formal sector produces tangible results. the informal sector begins to cooperate with the municipality and is interested in the processes of the municipality.



# 6. Follow-up

What would be the most appropriate mechanisms to extend the recyclable waste collection system to the whole territory?

Based on the results of the project, the preconditions for a waste separation scheme are:

- Community awareness-raising
- Improved infrastructure for separation
- Proper equipment for the collection of recyclable materials
- National level support for the formalization of informal work related to recyclable materials.