



A project funded by
the European Union

Air Quality Governance in the ENPI East Countries

AIR-Q-GOV

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BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

and implemented by
a consortium led by MWH

Study tour for air quality experts, Riga, Latvia 9 – 13 June 2014

Air Quality Assessment and Management System in a post-Soviet EU Member State, Latvia

Historically environmental protection system in Latvia was developed according to the unified USSR structure. An Environmental Protection Committee was established in 1989, it was subordinate to the Supreme Council of the Latvian SSR. Since the reestablishment of independence the Environmental Protection Committee developed new legal framework tailored to the needs of an independent state. Latvia had to replace former USSR environmental legislation with new legal acts and regulations that meet the demands of a free market economy and correspond to modern environmental policy in a democratic society. Legislative work has been even more intensified due to EU integration process. After its accession to the European Union in 2004, Latvia as the rest of European Union Member States has an air management system in place to reduce harmful emissions from industry, traffic, energy plants and agriculture, with a view to reducing their impact on human health and the environment.

Since the regaining of independence, Latvia has again become an international legal subject. The transposition and implementation of requirements stipulated by international conventions and international agreements still is an important precondition for tackling global environmental problems and to maintain Latvia's international prestige, as well as to attract investments and to realize schemes of mutual assistance prescribed in various international documents.

Purpose

Presentation of air quality assessment and management system in practise in a post-Soviet EU Member State.

Objective

To get participants acquainted with the air quality assessment and management system in Latvia at central, regional and local levels as well as public participation practise and awareness raising activities.

Methods

Working sessions with representatives of relevant Latvian authorities, institutions and non-governmental organizations (presentation + discussions), excursions

Background

Project Work Plan (request by particular beneficiary countries)

Organization

Key Expert 2 – Air Quality Assessment and Management Expert will be responsible for organization and conduction of the Study tour. The assistance in organization and facilitation of the working sessions and support services during the study tour will be provided by Air-Q-Gov short term experts.

Programme of the week

(Day 1) Monday 9 June 2014, Riga

Arrival / Introduction

16:00 – 17:30

Introduction to the study tour agenda / main tasks

18:30

Welcome dinner

*Venue:
Hotel premises
Dinner (TBD)*

Air Quality Governance Team :

- Lubomyr Markevych, Team Leader
- Aiga Kala, Key Expert on Air Quality Assessment (KE2)
- Vladimir Morozov, Key expert on IPPC/ Industry (KE3)
- Valts Vilnitis, Short Term Expert
- Raimonds Veinbergs, Short Term Expert

(Day 2) Tuesday 10 June 2014 , Riga

Overview of air quality assessment and management system in Latvia

Main supporting institution: Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre

9h – 10h30

Overview of air quality assessment and management system in Latvia

- Development of legal and institutional systems in Latvia
- Actual air quality management system: issues and challenges
- Presentation of the system of industrial permitting

*Venue:
Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, Riga*

Air Quality Governance Team

- Aiga Kala, Key Expert on Air Quality Assessment (KE2)
- Valts Vilnitis, Short Term Expert
- Raimonds Veinbergs, Short Term Expert,

10h30 – 17h00

Working group discussions on the following topics:

- development of environmental monitoring system in line with national and European policy needs, international recommendations and guidelines;
- assessment of air quality using different

Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre

Representatives TBD

<p>assessment methods;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of environmental data, maintenance of databases on air emissions and air quality; • cooperation on EU level. <p>Venue: Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre, Riga</p>	
<p><i>(Day 3) Wednesday 11 June 2014, Ventspils</i></p> <p><i>Air quality management on local level</i></p> <p><i>Excursion: air quality management by operators</i></p>	
<p>10h30 – 13h Working sessions with experts and inspectors from Ventspils Regional Environmental Board (air protection and IPPC)</p> <p>Venue: Ventspils Regional Environmental Board</p>	<p>Ventspils Regional Environmental Board representatives</p>
<p>14h – 17h Visit to the JSC “VENTSPILS COMMERCIAL PORT” providing transshipment services for dry cargos</p>	<p>Representatives from the company</p>
<p><i>(Day 4) Thursday 12 June 2014, Ventspils</i></p> <p><i>Air quality management on local level</i></p> <p><i>Excursion: air quality management by operators</i></p>	
<p>9h-12h Environmental department of Ventspils City Municipality (city planning and air quality planning, public participation)</p> <p>Venue: Ventspils Regional Environmental Board</p>	<p>Ventspils City Municipality representatives</p>
<p>13h – 16h Visit to the JSC „Baltic Coal Terminal” providing transshipment services for dry cargos at closed type terminal</p>	<p>Representatives from the company</p>

(Day 5) Friday 13 June 2014, Riga

Final conference

10h – 16h

Presentations and discussions on expert level on air quality management issues, including industrial permitting, public participation and awareness raising.

The Baltic experience will be presented by the experts from the following authorities (TBC):

- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia
- Ministry of Environment, Lithuania
- Ministry of Environment, Estonia
- Environment State Bureau, Latvia
- State Environmental Service, Latvia

Non-governmental organizations and environmental consultants dealing with air quality issues.

Venue:

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

Air Quality Governance Team :

- Lubomyr Markevych, Team Leader
- Aiga Kala, Key Expert on Air Quality Assessment (KE2)
- Vladimir Morozov, Key expert on IPPC/ Industry (KE3)
- Valts Vilnitis, Short Term Expert on AQM and IPPC
- Raimonds Veinbergs, Short Term Expert, on AQM and IPPC
- Viktorija Maceikaté, Communication Expert

19h

Closing dinner (TBD)