AIR QUALITY IN ENPI EAST

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IN FOCUS

Acquaintance with an Air Quality Assessment System in previously most polluted part of Europe

The Air Quality Governance project organized a study tour to the Czech Republic for 21 governmental officials from seven countries on 22-26 October 2012. The objective of the tour was to familiarize the participants with a full scale Air Quality Assessment System and its functioning at national, regional and municipal levels.

The study tour group consisted of senior government officials from central ministries, parliamentary committees on environment and officials dealing with harmonization in line with the EU policy in air quality in the partner countries.

The program of the tour included work sessions with representatives of the relevant Czech authorities at central, regional and local levels as well as visits to various research institutions. The participants were provided with information on the division of the administrative functions, the potential health risks associated with air pollution and the Czech experience in implementing IPPC and enforcing air quality related legislation.

The tour culminated with a visit to the Ledvice power plant which showcased technical innovations and to the Prague municipal waste incineration plant which is the biggest Czech incinerator producing thermal energy.

The Czech Republic is ideally suited to host such a tour not least for its dubious distinction of having been considered the most polluted part of Europe only a short 20 years ago. Since that time the country has developed and implemented air quality policies by an order of magnitude which made air pollution in the country to be significantly reduced to the point where it is comparable to other European countries. The country has an air quality monitoring network and information system consisting of approximately 70 automated monitoring stations and 40 manual stations throughout its territory.

In this issue:

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National pilot projects launched by the Air Quality Governance project

Better quality of environment through integration of BATs in Armenia

Addressing the current state of the regulatory framework for industrial emissions in Armenia, a national pilot project entitled *Development of emission levels associated with the best available techniques and emission limit values for selected sectors and installations* was launched in December 2012.

The pilot project aims to implement air emission levels associated with the best available techniques (BATs) in accordance with the environmental acquis, namely the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU. In order to achieve this, the project has been divided into three main activities:

- Assessment of industrial practices and current legislation
- Development of technical proposals for air emission levels associated with the BATs, emission limit values and techniques on monitoring and compliance
- Drafting of relevant air legislation

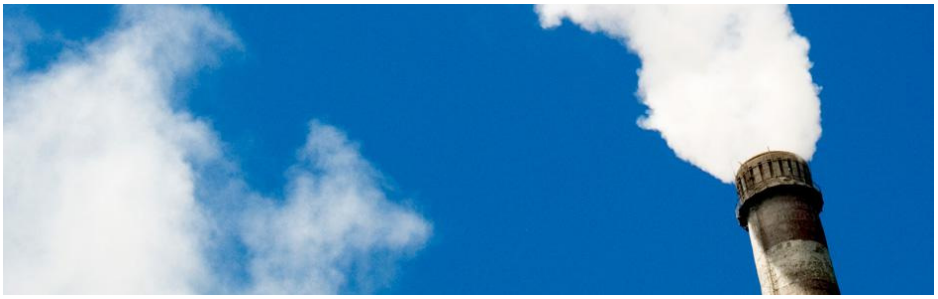
The project is expected to ensure the development of practical emission limit values and facilitate integration of the BATs principle in the country's regulatory system, thereby motivating the introduction of cleaner technologies and ensuring a quality environment.

Pilot project to assist Belarus in combating air pollution

With a total demand for cement amounting to approximately 5.5 million tons/year, the cement industry is among the major industrial polluters in Belarus. In 2011 Belarus took a decisive step towards the adoption of the European system of integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), aiming for a complete transfer by 31 December 2015.

The rather short period for the development of the IPPC system in conjunction with the pressing problem of air pollution from the cement industry triggered the introduction of the *Development of technology-based emission limit values and a self-monitoring system in the cement industry* pilot project in Belarus, which started in mid December 2012 and is expected to last for 13 months.

Within the general objective of improving the national air quality assessment and management system, the project is divided into a number of tasks which will result in the introduction of technology-based emission limit values and guidelines for self-monitoring of air emissions in the cement industry, including its auxiliary processes and support equipment, developed with consideration of the environmental acquis in general and the EU BREFs in particular.



Russian Federation takes over its international obligations

The USSR signed the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in 1979 and was the first country to ratify it in 1980. Being a successor state of the USSR in terms of international agreements, the Russian Federation took over its obligations on meeting the requirements of the Convention and of three protocols, namely EMEP, Sulphur and NOx.

Yet, in order to comply with the reporting commitments and thus facilitate the process of signing and ratifying the remaining protocols, there is a well-founded need to review the current reporting system.

Addressing these needs the national pilot project *Support in creating national emission inventory system needed for joining CLRTAP protocols and meeting corresponding reporting commitments* was launched in December 2012 and is expected to be fully implemented by April 2014.

The project consists of several tasks oriented towards the achievement of the following specific objectives:

- Improvement of the state statistical reporting system based on 2-TP air questionnaire
- Revision and update of the national system of emission factors and calculation methods, upgrade of the approval procedures with involvement of technical specialists
- Improvement of reporting under CLRTAP and its protocols

The development of a national emission inventory system will be a significant cornerstone for the whole air quality governance system and in addition will serve as an example for the neighbouring countries.

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Regional initiatives launched by the Air Quality Governance project

Regional workshop on emission inventory

A three-day workshop was organised in Chisinau on 24-26 September 2012 to increase knowledge on emission inventories and introduce the COPERT4 software.

The 40 participants present at the workshop included government officials responsible for national emission reporting and experts from analytical, statistical and energy/transport institutions involved in emission inventory preparation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The main topics on the agenda comprised the latest revised version of the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook, the review of the national inventories data flows and corresponding technical reports, the current status of inventories of stationary and mobile sources emissions in the partner countries and the use of COPERT4.

The workshop provided the opportunity for the participants to obtain a more accurate picture of the state of inventory preparation in each country and the respective gaps preventing full compliance under CLRTAP and its protocols.

High-potential mechanisms for reducing transport emissions

Published in January 2013 on the project website, a project report presents approaches for reducing transport emissions in urban areas with the aim to tackle negative impacts caused by GHG emissions.

The paper provides an overview of the mechanisms that can be employed to reduce emissions in the cities. The large number of measures used by governments and the private sector is systematically analysed by dividing them into three categories: management of travel demand, traffic management and engineering as well as increase of energy and fuel efficiency. A selected set of mechanisms is presented in more detail based on their potential to be implemented in a relatively short period of time and taking into account their emission reduction potential.

The actual choice of mechanisms should nevertheless be made in line with the urban transport policy targets and the current and planned infrastructure and service needs. Strong political support and clear strategies at national and city level are key success factors for reducing emissions as the implementation of the measures is always linked to behavioural changes.

Regional initiatives to enhance capacities for joining CLRTAP protocols

As one of the highest priorities today in the context of CLRTAP is the implementation of the Convention and its protocols in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus countries, the project has launched a regional pilot project to enhance the capacities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova in this direction.

An early kick-off meeting was held in Armenia late January 2013 to discuss and agree on the implementation plan and similar meetings are currently being planned for the other three participating countries. The duration of the project is planned for 12 months, during which the following four activities will be undertaken:

- Development of country road maps for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols
- Development of individual feasibility studies for national action plans scenarios for implementing selected protocols
- Development of cost-benefit analysis of consequences and risks from ratification and implementation of selected protocols
- Development of individual national actions plans for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols

The successful implementation of these activities is expected to enhance the four countries' capacity to join the protocols and meet the corresponding commitments. The activities and tasks will be carried out in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders of the participating countries.

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Relevant information from the partner countries

Steps towards the EU air quality assessment and management system

A 2012 report on general system gap analysis provided an update on the air quality assessment and management systems in the ENPI East countries and the Russian Federation in comparison with the relevant EU systems.

The 2012 update concluded that progress has been observed only in three partner countries in comparison with the report of 2011: Belarus and the Russian Federation approved and enforced new legislation, whereas a new automatic monitoring station started operation in Georgia.

The major system gaps identified in air quality assessment concern all countries with partial exception of Belarus and the Russian Federation and are related to underdeveloped systems of air quality monitoring, insufficient air quality data gathering, processing and interpretation, limited access to information on air quality, incomplete emission inventories, missing automatic emission control measurements by plant operators and air quality projections.

The major system gaps in air quality management remained the same as in 2011, namely the lack of strategic documents, insufficient administrative capacities, absence of air quality standards for PM10 and PM2.5, national emission ceilings and technology based emission limit values in all countries except Belarus and the Russian Federation. The absence of generally binding documents for operation of installations and integrated permitting is also observed in all countries with partial exception of Belarus and Ukraine.

When compared with the EU system, the major differences are recognized in air quality standards, fuel quality and emission standards for vehicles, format for collecting data and environmental permiting.

To conclude with, the report recommends to further focus on legal harmonization, ratification of recent CLRTAP protocols, optimization of permitting procedures, identification of sectors for application of BATs and technology based emission limit values, development of emission inventories, improvement of monitoring, data processing and emission projections.

Steel and mining industries meet to discuss safe business

The second international health, safety and environment conference for steel, mining and related industries was held on 29 November 2012 in Donetsk under the aegis of the Ukrainian company Metinvest.

With the slogan *Good Safety = Good Business*, the conference focused on strengthening environmental performance and improving business reliability by reducing injuries, securing high product quality and improving the production processes.

The guests of the conference included acknowledged health, safety and environment professionals who gave speeches on the environmental legal requirements in the European steel plants, the environmental challenges faced by Ukraine and the European experience in environmental subsidies for industrial projects. The key expert Vladimir Morozov presented also the current support available to the implementation of best available techniques in the ENPI countries.

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