

A new sletter published by the Air Quality Governance in ENPI East countries - a project funded by the European Union

IN FOCUS

7 countries meet to discuss control of industrial pollution

Recognizing that industrial production processes not only play an important role in the economic well-being of the countries, but also have a significant impact on environment, 30 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine visited Kyiv for the third workshop on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Permitting System on 1& 2 October 2013.

This event is the third of a series of five such workshops planned within the framework of the EU funded Air Quality Governance Project” - announced Mr. Lubomyr Markevych, team leader of the project at the opening session. The first two workshops were held in April 2012 and May 2013. The aim of this third meeting was to discuss how industrial pollution could be reduced via the latest recommendations for legislation dealing with environmental permitting. In particular, the meeting focused on the following subjects:

- a comprehensive set of recommendations for environmental permitting reform in ENPI East countries as developed by the project;
- sharing best experience in IPPC implementation;

- sharing best practices of environmental permitting and liability issues for industries.

The target group of the workshop consisted of governmental officials from the central level of Ministries with line responsibilities for environmental issues, including permitting departments, inspectorates dealing with industrial pollution, policy development and legal departments. In addition, National Coordinators of the project from all seven countries also took part in the workshop.



The two days of the workshop were filled in with an extensive agenda supplemented by active participation from all participants.

The first day’s sessions concentrated on development of legal provisions for new permitting systems, recommendations on implementation of those legal provisions as well as reform of the overall system. Representatives of each country shared information about basic legal provisions on environmental permitting in their respective countries discussed specific features of integrated environmental permitting reform and latest IPPC developments.

The second day was devoted to issues relating to institutional responsibilities, systematic approaches and the sharing of European implementation know-how

of the last 10 years in such countries as Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and the Baltic countries.

Facilitators and lecturers of the workshop through discussions and group exercises involved participants in an active dialogue on the latest deliveries of the project addressing the industrial sector and energy. The workshop reviewed specific topics including a model law incorporating recommendations on environmental permitting, implementing such integrated permitting, regulating low pollution activities, the scope of new or changed permitting functions and the jurisdiction and responsibilities of specialized bodies to be involved in the permitting process.

Two more workshops aimed at the same target audience are planned for 2014.

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Lessons from EU cement industry regulators - dialogue in the Czech Republic

Eight Belarus participants representing leading experts from national cement plants, representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and its regional bodies as well as scientific organizations took part in a study tour to the Czech Republic July 22-26, 2013. The study tour was organized within the framework of the National Pilot Project "Technology-based ELVs and self-monitoring system in the cement industry" implemented in Belarus.

The aim of the trip was to study first-hand experience of integrated permitting in a country that joined the EU in 2004 and learn from examples of changes in the system seeking to improve the effectiveness of environmental regulation.

During the first day of the study tour a seminar was held at the Czech Cement Association. Several presentations were made by the association members and the following topics were addressed:

- ELV for cement industry in Czech Republic. Comparison with standards in Ukraine;
- Implementation of self-monitoring system in cement plants;
- Preparation and content of integrated permits for cement plants;
- Performance of working groups established by cement industry.

Members of the Association presented an overview of the sustainable development of the cement industry in Czech Republic by providing information about the Association and its activities; general figures on cement production and consumption; exports and imports, heat consumption, alternative fuels and type of waste used in clinker burning. Additionally, the members reviewed targets in the field of environmental protection in the cement industry and explained their importance with reference to data on dust pollution and gaseous emissions.

The Belorussian experts were also familiarized with the main European Union environmental directives and

requirements related to the performance of the cement industry.

In related presentations, representatives from the Department of Technology of the Research Institute of Binding Materials Prague, Ltd presented the institute's involvement in activities related to technology development and environmental protection.

On the second day the group visited the cement factory in Radotín-Králův Dvůr, belonging to the HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group. The participants were met by the Managing Director of the factory who provided a guided tour of the plant and explained the main principles of self-monitoring utilized in the plant's operation.

The following day Belarus experts visited the "Lafarge Cement" factory located in Čížkovice. After a presentation focusing on the main processes at the plant, the Czech officials shared their experience on the preparation of integrated permits with their Belarusian colleagues.

On the final day the Belarusian experts met with the project experts to sum up their impressions and experience gained during the study tour and to plan further actions under the project. The study tour was most helpful in providing useful insights into the Czech experience of issuing integrated permits and learning about the benefits of fostering a close dialogue between industry and regulators. As a practical outcome of the trip, the experts received support in drafting of the technology-based ELVs and recommendations for a self-monitoring system in the cement industry of Belarus.



Highlights on recent project activities

Active engagement of stakeholders through regional pilot activities

The first Regional Pilot Project aiming to enhance capacities of four countries, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova of joining the Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (CLRTAP) protocols and meeting corresponding commitments has successfully completed the third activity and stepped into the last phase of the project. The aim of the final activity is to develop National Action Plans for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols for the beneficiary countries.

Under previous project activities the following outputs have been delivered to project beneficiaries:

- Road maps for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols;
- Feasibility studies where strengths and weaknesses of potential scenarios for implementation of protocols as selected by respective authorities of partner countries have been assessed;
- Cost-benefit analysis which identified the “best” alternative from the feasible scenarios for ratification and implementation of protocols.



Project's entrance into the last phase was marked by initial workshop held on October 9, 2013 in Yerevan from the series of workshops planned in each country.



The project team facilitated the workshop that was actively attended by 12 stakeholders representing respective authorities in Armenia such as Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources as well as the private sector. After presentation of project results from previous activities, participants were engaged into the working groups the outcome of which was first version of the draft National Action Plan. The document is expected to be completed during the second workshop planned for Armenia in November 2013.

Developed National Action Plans will set specific short- and long-term goals, describe in detail activities and tasks necessary to complete in order to ratify and implement the selected protocols and provide a schedule and budget for implementation of the National Action Plans.

The project team will continue with the next workshops to be held in Moldova and Azerbaijan in October and Georgia in November. The second round of working sessions will continue till the end of the year.

RPP1 FINAL WORKSHOPS PLANNING

Armenia: week 41 (October 8) and week 45 (November 5);

Azerbaijan: week 44 (October 30) and week 49 (December 5);

Georgia: week 45 (November 7) and week 49 (December 3);

Moldova: week 43 (October 22) and week 48 (November 27).



News on the National Pilot Projects

Azerbaijan is proceeding well towards improved air quality assessment and management

The Second Steering Committee meeting of the National Pilot Project on Improvement of Legislation on Assessment and Management of Ambient Air for Azerbaijan took place on 8th of August 2013 in Baku. Project status, emerging constraints and endorsement of the latest reports developed within the framework of the project were the main topics of discussion. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rasim Sattarzade, Chief of Department of Ecology and Nature Conservation at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and was attended by 11 members of the Steering Committee and 2 project experts.

Lately, the project has conducted a comprehensive overview and gap analysis of the existing legislative and institutional framework on air quality assessment and management (AQAM). In particular, the project reviewed and analyzed:

- Regulations on air quality monitoring and modeling;
- Regulations regarding data on air emissions including air quality standards, pollution permits, the management of emission data;
- Tasks of institutions responsible for air quality management, monitoring, collection of emission data, working with emission databases and running dispersion models;
- (Inter)national obligations and reporting on air quality;
- Relevant European legislation regulating air quality and emissions.

In addition, a gap analysis of current AQAM system in Azerbaijan was conducted at policy and legislative levels. The analysis also covered gaps and overlaps in responsibilities of institutions involved in assessment and management of air quality as well as gaps on the operational level, such as data handling and reporting.

Activities have also commenced regarding the preparation of a draft action plan for the city of Baku that will propose emission reduction measures and define long and short term objectives. Other activities include the preparation of the draft National Strategy for Air Quality Assessment and Management that will specify air quality objectives at the

national level and recommendations for the improvement of AQAM system in general.

The NPP was launched on 18th of March 2013 and is being implemented by the Azerbaijan Branch Office of Regional Environmental Center (REC) for the Caucasus. It is expected to be finalized in the early spring 2014.

Pilot project to assist Moldova in improving its national emission inventory system

A national pilot project "Improving national inventory system in the context of emission reporting under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)" was launched with a kick-off meeting held on 3rd of September at premises of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova. The meeting was moderated by Mrs. Valentina Țapiș, Deputy Minister with participation of international experts and local representatives of respective state institutions involved the project.



At present time the existing process for collecting, processing and reporting national air emissions data in Moldova is inadequate due to the lack of reliable and sufficient data. The pilot project will aim to improve this situation by focusing on improving assessment methodologies, revising emission factors, improving reporting requirements and increase institutional capacity building.

The project is implemented by BIOS, a local NGO. At the meeting Mr. Valentin Ciubotaru, Executive Director of BIOS presented the action plan for the implementation of the project. In his presentation he made a strong emphasis on the possibility of developing the technical specifications for a software platform to collect and process data. This



News on the National Pilot Projects

would also include the development of a database of national emission factors and non-industrial emissions.

Among the major topics discussed during the kick-off meeting, the participants elaborated on interaction between CLRTAP requirements and other international treaties, e.g. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

The planned duration of the pilot project is 12 months. The expected results will include a draft of an improved reporting system, a new national emission factors database, technical specifications for new supporting software and increased capacity to prepare the annual Informative Inventory Report under the LRTAP Convention.

The next meeting of the working group of this national pilot project is scheduled for the end of October 2013.

Armenia introduces leading EU industrial pollution regulation principles

Seeking to better regulate air emissions from major stationary sources, Armenia implements a national pilot project “Development of technology-based emission limit values in selected sectors and installations”. The third progress report reflecting implementation status of this national project was issued in mid of September 2013.



Industrial pollution has significant impact on air quality. Thus, the update of Armenian pollution regulation system with the concepts of the best available techniques (BATs) and integrated approach to pollution prevention and control (IPPC) through introduction of emission levels associated with the best available techniques and emission limit values is essential.

The project is divided into three specific activities focusing on:

- Assessment of current industrial practices and review of existing air quality legislation;
- Development of technical proposals for air emission levels associated with the BAT, emission limit values and rules on monitoring and compliance;
- Drafting of relevant air quality legislation.

During the first activity, three main industrial sectors that have the most significant impact on air quality, namely, energy production, cement industry and production of copper have been selected and a list of companies prepared. The review of existing air quality legislation in the light of respective European directives has been finalized too.

As a result of the second activity, draft guidance documents on BAT for prevention and control of air pollution from selected industrial sectors have been developed. The progress on development of air emission levels associated with the BAT or emission limit values, rules on monitoring and compliance for the selected industrial activities as well as assessment of associated costs and transition schemes discussed at the first stakeholders meeting held on 6th of September.

The last phase of the NPP in Armenia will concentrate on the third activity. The project intends to invite a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the drafts of legal acts developed under this activity.

Main beneficiaries of this project apart from general population are national and local government institutions responsible for air quality assessment and management as well as air pollution control and respective industries in Armenia.

National pilot project kicks off in Ukraine

The National Pilot Project “Compliance with international commitments under CLRTAP and its Protocols” was launched in Ukraine with a kick-off meeting that took place on September 25th, 2013 in Kyiv. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the scope and objectives of the national pilot project and agree on further implementation steps. The meeting was attended by officials from the national Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources a representative of the implementing company and Air Quality Governance project team members.



News on the National Pilot Projects

Unreliable environmental data in Ukraine affects political decisions relating to compliance with the UN Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention and the country's obligations under the convention protocols. Ukraine has officially made the improvement of environmental data as one of its major national priorities and listed concrete tasks for upgrading the methodology of collection and acquisition of applicable software. In an effort to assist Ukraine with meeting these objectives, the Air Quality Governance project is providing practical support by financing the implementation of this National Pilot Project.

Hence, the overall objective of the project is the compliance by Ukraine with the commitments under the CLRTAP and its protocols and other international agreements by improving data collection, handling and reporting of national air emissions data.

Specifically, the pilot project will focus on:

- Improvement of emission reporting and registration system, and
- Revision and update of the national emission factors database (energy sector, including small and medium scale appliances, coke production and glass production sectors as well as agriculture).

The project will provide support to national and local governmental organizations and/or agencies responsible for implementation, monitoring and reporting under CLRTAP and its protocols, institutions responsible for reporting under Kyoto Protocol as well as public sector bodies dealing with implementation and reporting under European Environmental Agency Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

By the time the pilot project is completed, the country will have developed new draft reporting and registration system (data flows, validation procedures for emission data), recommendations for system to be used for data collection and storage of national emissions as well as draft new national emission factors database for key sectors.

A local consulting company Carbon Emission Partnership, LLC was selected to implement this project. Expected duration of the project is 12 months with the second Working Group meeting scheduled late October 2013.

Project Partners talk about the Air Quality Governance project

We continue with our new section of the newsletter where our Project Partners talk about the main problems related to air quality management in their respective countries, expectations of the Project stakeholders and their suggestions towards successful completion of the project. This time, we are pleased to present views points of Mrs. Ketevan Kordzakhia, the head of Air Protection Division Ministry of Environment Protection

What are the main problems in the field of air quality management in Georgia?

Georgia is in the process of economic development and this process has an adverse impact on natural resources and the environment. A modern air quality monitoring system is a necessary component to strengthen management of air quality and relating anthropogenic polluting processes. The existing ambient air quality monitoring network in Georgia is not in compliance with

international requirements and there is a need to reform the existing system with respect to legislative, methodological and technical issues.

In Georgia, especially in the big cities, the largest share of air pollution comes from transport emissions. The regulatory mechanisms in the sphere of environment protection in the transport sector fall under the jurisdiction of several authorities and this problem requires complex solutions. Unfortunately there are many legal and institutional obstacles that hinder the problem of finding solutions to ambient air pollution. Such problems include: an inadequate legislative base, a weak monitoring and control system and the lack of statistical information, etc.

The above two weaknesses inhibit the development of good air quality management. As an example, the existing weaknesses of the current monitoring system (air quality monitoring, fuel quality monitoring, and technical inspection of passenger cars) combined with insufficient data, do not give an adequate picture of ambient air pollution and its comprehensive framework for assessing the health of affected populations. These weaknesses hinder the development of effective measures in this sector.



Project Partners talk about the Air Quality Governance project

To sum up, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia works closely with all relevant authorities who have the necessary tools for solving such problems. In summary, if we wish to reduce the adverse impact of air pollution on the environment, it is necessary to develop a more adequate regulatory environment and to create a new monitoring system.

What are the main benefits that Georgia expects from the Air Quality Governance project? How has the country accepted the project?

Georgia has been participating in several environmental projects financed by European Union. However, with regard to air quality, this is the first international project and its very important for our country. It should be mentioned that the negotiations between EU and Georgia on the Associated Agreement have already been completed. One of the main parts of this Associated Agreement is the Environment chapter with its Air Quality Management component. Therefore, it is very important for us to share in the international experience of those countries that have preceded us down this path. This project will help our country to meet all the international requirements, especially to harmonize national legislation with European policy and standards. In terms of air quality management within the project, a national pilot project for Georgia “Feasibility Study of Introduction of Air Quality Monitoring System” was approved to support the development of the monitoring network in conformity with European standards. A regional pilot project “Installation and development of air polluting evaluation system in order to establish feasible results in the process of planning cities and realization transport schemes” where Georgia participates as well is also very important. Within the latter project, Batumi was selected as a pilot city. The implementation of a model air quality monitoring system will be applied in this city. Such implementation will be very valuable for the purposes of air quality evaluation. It is also important for the future expansion of an air quality monitoring network and for the assessment of expected



results from such air pollution evaluation as the city considers the implementation of new transport schemes and different types of city planning. We believe that such a

How do you evaluate the project's contribution so far?

To my mind, the first regional pilot project - Assessment of country's implementation of international regulations and potential for implementation of the most recent three CLRTAP protocols – is very important. It is implemented by an experienced and competent experts' team. I would like to thank them for such successful and interesting cooperation. As a result we are looking forward to the final document (Action plan to ratification last three protocols), which will help our country with regard to ratification of the Protocols as well as meeting the requirements of EU Directives.

What could be your suggestions for the improvement of project performance in the second half of it's implementation?

As I have already mentioned above, it is very important to harmonize Georgian legislation with European policy and standards in the sphere of air quality management. Therefore, our country has identified the second regional project, namely, “Action plan for harmonization of national legislation with EU law and implementation of EU requirements” and we hope, that it will be approved.

In my understanding, in order to successfully implement this regional project, it will be necessary to focus on the expert team, as their professionalism will be the best guarantee of high quality results. This will reflect itself in the final document which we expect would contain a comprehensive set of measures dealing with a legal and institutional analysis on air quality issues including a gap analysis of existing legislation (both national and international), and the supporting regulations necessary for effective implementation.

YOU CAN BE THE NEXT ONE JOINING THE AQG FORUM

In the last edition of our new sletter we announced the creation of new possibilities for the exchange of knowledge and experience on our webpage.

Today the forum has 17 members registered and 2 topics opened for discussions by our key experts. You are welcome to join those topics or initiate new subjects that are of interest for you. The project team is ready to moderate these discussions and share experience from other countries.

So please do not hesitate to take the first step by following the simple registration procedure and becoming an important member of this knowledge exchange platform.

Go ahead – register and use it! <http://www.airgovernance.eu> and let's meet there



WHAT'S BEYOND

What's beyond – key events, activities, results

- ✓ Two sub-regional seminars on emission inventory are scheduled for December, 2013 and January, 2014.
- ✓ Analysis of economic and financial instruments available at the EU level and practices implemented by a selected representative Member States focusing on sectors that are most relevant to ambient air pollution - country specific information is collected with substantial involvement of local experts. Analysis will continue in the coming months.
- ✓ Kick-off meeting of the National Pilot Project in Georgia “Feasibility study on the introduction of an Air Quality Monitoring System in Georgia in compliance with EU requirements, including development of the Programme of the National Ambient Air Monitoring System and elaboration of relevant guidelines” is scheduled for late October 2013.
- ✓ In the coming months the Regional Pilot Project 1 will continue with series of stakeholders seminars devoted to the development of the National Action Plans for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols.
- ✓ Review of application for obtaining project’s assistance in legislative reform dealing with specific air quality issues under the Regional Pilot Project 2.
- ✓ Regional Pilot Project 3 will continue with the data collection and emission inventories to provide information for setup of UBM and OSPM models in selected pilot cities.
- ✓ Final workshops and reporting for National Pilot Projects in Belarus and Armenia.
- ✓ The following reports were reviewed at the third IPPC workshop on the first days of October in Kyiv and will be published in the coming month:
 - Report on Recommendations for Law on Environmental Permitting
 - Report on Implementing legislation recommendations for integrated permitting and registration procedure
 - Report on Implementing recommendations for general binding rules permitting system legislation
 - Number of reports regarding institutional requirements, including the scope of new or changed permitting functions and responsibilities, integrated inspection authority, the BAT support body, etc.
- ✓ Handbook on Economic Instruments to promote sustainable urban mobility is due to be published in English and Russian in this summer. The English text of the handbook is already available in the website.
- ✓ Four reports will be placed on the project web-site relating to the field of transportation this year:
 - introduction to the CIMITAS’ activities;
 - analysis of assessment of different policies and measures in the transportation sector;
 - analysis of assessment of different urban policies and measures in the transportation sector;
 - Introduction to the Intelligent Transport Systems.
- ✓ **Next Project Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 February, 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine.**

For more news and useful documents, visit our website : www.airgovernance.eu

For any comments or suggestions on our newsletter, please contact the Air Quality Governance in the ENPI East project’s Team leader:

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