

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

## IN FOCUS

### Four countries have a clear vision how to meet international commitments

*The first Regional Pilot Project (RPP1) aiming at enhancement of capacities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova of joining the UN Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (CLRTAP) protocols and meeting corresponding commitments has completed its activities. "In the last stage of the project we had 8 workshops in total – 2 in each country" – says Mr. Valts Vilnītis, Project Manager of RPP1.*

The series of workshops planned within the framework of the RPP1 were conducted during the period from October to December 2013. In all four countries the workshops were attended by representatives from a wide range of governmental institutions dealing with air quality issues in one way or another, as well as non-governmental organizations and businesses. "In one country we had even had a member of Parliament attend the workshop" – said Mr. Vilnītis sharing his excitement. He also explained that the main reason of the workshops was to make stakeholders co-responsible, to provide them with a feeling of ownership of the final product which evolved in the form of a draft action plan.



The project has successfully fulfilled its assignment by contributing to the production of the final outputs. Now it depends a lot on the countries to make these documents viable. Ms. Jūlija Dubašinska, the leading expert of the RPP1, had the impression that the countries were indeed confirming that meeting international agreement commitments and obligations was a priority for them.



Many different stakeholders attended the workshops in all four countries. The participants were quite active and no serious rejections or disapprovals of planned and proposed measures were expressed during the working sessions. Ms. Dubašinska also pointed out that for those countries which decide to merge these action plans with their EU harmonisation plans, it will be much easier to implement the planned actions. At the same time, significant financial resources will be required for all sorts of studies and assessments, development of programmes and implementation of other planned measures. According

to the leading expert, although there is a good expertise and knowledge in the related field at a local level, the countries will still have to rely on international experts, so a need for continuous capacity building in all these countries needs to be emphasized.

To conclude, the whole project team hopes that the work carried out in 2013 will be very helpful and that the developed documents will be integrated into strategic plans in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.



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## Highlights on recent project activities

### Seven pilot cities to test improved urban planning

*The third Regional Pilot Project (RPP3) which started in April 2013 aims to build an integrated monitoring system which can be used for high resolution urban air quality modelling and urban planning in all seven ENPI East countries. The basis for the system is the Integrated Air Pollution Forecasting and Management System THOR.*

After the kick-off meeting in Kyiv in April 2013, the project has experienced certain difficulties in searching for local experts in this particular field. Despite of these constraints, the project is well on track now. The start-up workshop was held in Kyiv in the beginning of July 2013 where data collection guidelines and minimum requirements for identification of pilot cities were presented.

For implementation of the system all seven countries have identified the following pilot cities: Yerevan in Armenia, Sumgait in Azerbaijan, Novopolotsk in Belarus,

Batumi in Georgia, Chişinău in Moldova, Tver in Russia and Kyiv in Ukraine.

Building up the integrated monitoring system collection of various data is needed. The project team is in the process of obtaining local data: point sources, traffic and air pollutant measurement data from the pilot cities, and will deliver 10 years' time series of meteorological and regional air quality modelling data.

After the required data is obtained for each pilot city, the new high resolution emission inventories will be developed and the system will be installed and tested. In order to ensure good maintenance of the software, the project will prepare manuals both in English and Russian languages and provide training to local staff that will operate the system in the future.

It is expected that the implemented system can be used to estimate effects of different urban planning and transportation schemes in the partner countries. As a result of the implemented systems, air quality in the cities will be improved and negative impact on human health will be reduced.

### News from the EU: New Policy Package to clean up Europe's air

*The Clean Air Policy Package for EU was released on 18 December 2013.*

Poor air quality is the main environmental cause of premature death in the EU. The new clean air policy package updates existing legislation and further reduces harmful emissions from industry, traffic, energy plants and agriculture seeking to reduce their impact on human health and the environment.



The adopted package includes:

- A new **Clean Air Programme for Europe** that contains measures to ensure that existing targets are met in the short term and new air quality objectives for the period up to 2030.
- **National Emission Ceilings Directive** with stricter national emission ceilings for the six main pollutants (PM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, NH<sub>3</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>).
- Proposal for a new Directive to reduce pollution from medium-sized combustion installations (with thermal input from 1 MW to 50 MW).
- Proposal for a Council Decision on the acceptance of **amended Gothenburg Protocol** under the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

With this policy package the Commission aims to ensure compliance with present air quality policies, and coherence with international commitments, by 2020 at the latest and to achieve substantial further reduction in health and environmental impacts in the period up to 2030.

For more information follow the link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean\\_air\\_policy.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air_policy.htm)





## News on the National Pilot Projects

### Reform motivation of the industrial sector in Armenia

***With the release of the fourth and final report late last year the national pilot project “Development of technology-based emission limit values in selected sectors and installations” in Armenia has completed all its planned activities.***

The national pilot project was designed to introduce air emission levels associated with the BAT and emission limit values at sector level in accordance with the EU requirements to improve the efficiency of air quality management. During the early phases of the project an assessment of current industrial practices in Armenia was carried out which focused on three main industrial sectors; energy production, the cement industry and the production of copper. Air quality legislation was reviewed and technical proposals for air emission levels associated with the Best Available Technologies (BAT), emission limit values and rules on monitoring and compliance were developed.

During the project there were two study tours to Latvia organized for the local experts. The main objective of these visits was to get acquainted with Latvian experience on introduction of integrated permitting, monitoring and control system based on the BAT concept. In Latvia the Armenian specialists visited the cement factory in Broceni, gas-fired cogeneration power plant in Riga as well as environmental authorities on state and municipal level. Experience of the Baltic countries was acknowledged as very valuable providing useful information about the system development.

The last phase was dedicated to drafting relevant air quality legislation. During this phase recommendations for the implementation and application of emission limit values and BAT for prevention and control of air emissions for the selected industrial activities were developed. The BREF conclusions for cement, energy and copper industries as well as proposed legislative changes were presented and discussed during the workshop held in Yerevan on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The event was actively attended by over thirty participants representing responsible state authorities such as the Ministry of Nature Protection, State Environmental Inspectorate, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, NGOs and industry representatives.

The project produced 9 draft pieces of legislation including a draft Law on Amendment of the Law on Atmospheric Air Pollution. This is an important tangible result which helps to update the Armenian pollution regulation system in accordance with the leading principles in the European

countries. The integration of BAT concepts in the pollution regulation system will motivate the application of cleaner technologies and ensure better quality environment as well as reduce the negative impact on human health.

### Draft Action Plan for Baku

***Emission reduction measures for Baku under the National Pilot Project on Improvement of Legislation on Assessment and Management of Ambient Air for Azerbaijan have been defined and submitted to the national authorities for consideration early January 2014.***

The Draft Action Plan comprises information on climatological and geographical conditions affecting dispersion of pollutants in the Baku city area. It overviews available air quality data, analyses existing air quality monitoring data, current trends, source apportionment, emission data of the city, as well as existing air quality management systems for pollution permits, emission data collection and storage, data validation and verification. The plan provides information on air quality standards applied and recommends necessary changes in legislation. It identifies target values and objectives, and proposes a set of actions and measures in order to improve air quality and avoid exceeding limit values. The Draft Action Plan divides emission reduction measures into technical, administrative, political and legislative. Moreover, suggested technical and administrative measures are specified for industry, transport, residential and commercial sectors.

To conclude with, the plan also provides recommendations on improvement of city planning, increasing public awareness and other issues important to overall air quality management. Measures described in the Plan are listed along with expected outcomes, identified responsible organizations and expected timeframe for their implementation.

In parallel, the preparation of the draft National Strategy on Air Quality Assessment and Management is progressing. Here, the recommendations on air quality monitoring, modelling and emission inventory have been formulated following the objectives defined in the previous project stages.

During the last stage of the project implementation a number of expert meetings have been organised. The Project Steering Committee consisting of 11 members met for the third time on December 5, 2013. In addition to the progress achieved, the meeting specifically focused on discussion about potential measures of the Draft Action Plan for Baku and objectives for the Draft National Strategy on Air Quality Assessment and Management.

Final report of the project is expected in March 2014.



## News on the National Pilot Projects

### Pilot project to define a future course of action in Georgia

*Common practice in the EU requires the establishment of a network of air monitoring stations as an integral part of an air quality management system. This national pilot project aims to develop a feasibility study on the introduction of an Air Quality Monitoring system in Georgia that is in compliance with the EU requirements, including the development of the Program of the National Ambient Air Monitoring System and elaboration of relevant guidelines.*

The first progress report describing the start-up of the project and activities implemented during the reporting period was issued at the end of last year.

In the starting phase, the project team worked in close cooperation with the national environmental authorities not only to ensure a common understanding of the project objectives and outputs, but also to establish a working group consisting of different stakeholders and discuss working methods for collecting information and the identification of polluted regions and cities.

During the reporting period, an extensive analysis was completed of the existing air quality monitoring system in Georgia. The analysis consisted of a review of the legal and organisational aspects of air quality monitoring and assessment in Georgia. It will also serve as a basis for the development of comparative and gap analysis with EU provisions and practices.

The project is proceeding with an initial assessment of air quality on a municipal, regional and national scale. During this exercise, the project will primarily concentrate on mostly polluted urban areas – big cities, neighborhoods with air quality problems as well as industrial regions.

Later the project will apply an ADMS Urban – a comprehensive modelling tool used to for tackling air pollution problems in large urban areas, cities and towns. Based on such modelling results together with a population factor analysis, the project will propose a recommended air quality monitoring network for the city of Tbilisi and the country.

The next progress report is due to be issued in April 2014.

### Pilot project in Moldova takes a good pace

*Following the kick-off meeting of the National Pilot Project held in Chisinau on 3rd of September, two quick working group meetings were held in rapid succession on October 29, 2013 and November 25, 2013 together one early this year on January 23, 2014. The pilot project is designed to assist the country in creating national emission inventory system needed for joining CLRTAP protocols and meeting corresponding reporting requirements.*

During the first meeting the working group held a frank discussion on how best to use existing inventory resources, check data quality, coordinate and motivate different sectors to contribute to inventory preparation. Additional topics included the need to plot geographical coordinates for industry and other major point sources, improve data reliability for reporting purposes as well the need to create a national methodology for inventory subject to EMEP Guidelines. The subject of a future software product for emission inventory was introduced for the first time as well.

Air Quality Governance project Team Leader, Lubomyr Markevych, and Key Expert, Vladimir Morozov, also emphasized the need to conduct an in-depth diagnosis of the current inventory system, adopt lessons learned from other transition experiences and to concentrate on more realistic outputs and the strengthening of institutional frameworks.

The main objectives of the second working session were to introduce new group members, discuss methodology priorities, technical details relating to data collection methods and reporting requirements and to agree on next steps for project implementation. The twelve members of the working group also exchanged views on the legal aspects of information sharing and progress in the development of new legislation and its possible implications on the project. Members of the working group also discussed the institutional aspects of data collection/reporting, and problems related to data inconsistencies and their possible solutions.

The national pilot project implemented by local NGO BIOS will continue till the end of July 2014.



## Project Partners talk about the Air Quality Governance project

*We continue with our next section where our Project Partners talk about the main problems related to air quality management in their respective countries. This time, we are pleased to present views points of Mr. Mehman Nabiyeu, Chief Advisor of Ecology and Environment Protection Policy Unit of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan*

### **What are the main problems in the area of ambient air quality management in Azerbaijan?**

The main problems in the ambient air quality management in Azerbaijan is lack of perfect legal framework harmonized with EU Directives, which would allow to efficiently managing the ambient air quality. The legislation does not describe the obligations of stakeholders focused on implementation of actions related to provision of the respective ambient air quality, outdated national ambient air protection standards are used, the emission limits in new industries are not set etc.

The country uses the former Soviet methodologies to conduct inventory of emissions into ambient air. The methods of inventory recommended by international organization during the period of 2006 - 2013 are not used. There is a necessity to use modern, rated and instrumental methods of inventory, to train people and to apply such methods in practice.

Ambient air quality management starts with monitoring of ambient air pollution. However, unfortunately, there are currently many problems in the area of ambient air monitoring in industrially developed cities of the country, for instance, the observation points use, mainly, the outdated instrumentation, the automated observation systems do not exist. Despite the considerable pollution of ambient air with dust of complicated content, we still did not switch to assessment of atmospheric dust on PM10 and PM2.5. To develop the unified approach to address the issues related to ambient air monitoring high importance is given to cooperation at all levels. As it is known, in many countries the sources and nature of ambient air pollution do not differ largely, including those in the EU countries.

### **What are the main benefits Azerbaijan can expect from the Project? What is the Project in view of citizens?**

This is the first project of such caliber in the area of ambient air quality management. Therefore, for us it is very important to, under this Project, amend certain laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in particular, improve the rationing system in the area of environment protection and to introduce the measures of economic

encouragement of business entities to introduce the best technologies as well as to introduce into legislation the integrated environment protection permitting system. Additionally, we will achieve improvement of national on assessment and management of ambient air quality, including the draft action plan for Baku and the draft National Strategy for ambient air quality assessment and management. We hope that the Project will help to ensure foundations to ratify the protocols to Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Pollution through assessment of available potential.

Another important issue is to create the potential for inventory of emissions in ambient air, broadly implement "COPERT 4" Programme for inventory of emissions from motor vehicles. Besides, we also believe that the Project will help to elaborate the Action Plan to manage the ambient air quality in Sumgait.



### **How can you evaluate an input from the Project nowadays?**

Due to the activities implemented under the project, the specialists of this region of Azerbaijan acquired the basic knowledge and skills as well as the conditions to use such European inventory instruments as "COPERT 4" and "2009 ЕМЕП/ЕАОС Guidelines on Emissions Inventory" were created. Within the National Pilot Project, the foundations of strategy on ambient air quality management in the country were created.

Under the "COPERT 4" Programme, the calculation to determine an amount of emissions from motor vehicles in Azerbaijan was conducted. At that consumption of transport fuel and a number of motor vehicles by individual categories are accounted.

The stakeholders received information and took part in elaboration of the Action Plan to improve potential and to carry out the activities towards provision of grounds necessary to ratify protocols to the respective Convention.





## Project Partners talk about the Air Quality Governance project

### ***What would you suggest to improve efficiency of the Project during the second half of its implementation?***

In our opinion, to gain benefit from experience of countries of the European Union necessary to implement national and regional pilot projects is important to strive for closer cooperation. Taking into consideration the needs of the country, it would be useful to conduct

workshops, training courses at national level covering much broader audience. In addition to the EU countries, we would gain benefit from experience of the Partners-Countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Mehman Nabiyev

Chief Advisor of Ecology and Environment Protection Policy Unit,  
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan.

## What's beyond?

### **Key events, activities, results**

- ✓ Next Project Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 February, 2014 in Chisinau, Moldova.
- ✓ Pending announcements of three new projects under the Regional Pilot Project 2 in Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova in the area of legislative reform dealing with specific air quality issues.
- ✓ The next in a series of workshops on IPPC in April, 2014
- ✓ Two sub-regional seminars on emission inventory planned for early, 2014.
- ✓ Preparation for a workshop on Transport Emissions in municipalities focusing on usage of economic tools to ensure sustainable development of transport in cities.
- ✓ Preparation of two study tours for government experts to EU countries with organizations having appropriate training and hosting capabilities.
- ✓ Final reports from the conclusion of National Pilot Projects in Armenia, Belarus and Russia.
- ✓ Final report from the conclusion of RPP-1 consisting of developing National Action Plans for ratification and implementation of CLRTAP protocols in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Regional Pilot Project 3 will continue with the data collection and emission inventories to provide information for the setup of UBM and OSPM models in selected pilot cities in all seven partner countries.
- ✓ Publication of reports produced under the IPPC component consisting of the following:
  - 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.
- ✓ Finalize the report on the introduction of Intelligent transport systems and post it on the Project website.

For more news and useful documents, visit our website : [www.airgovernance.eu](http://www.airgovernance.eu)

For any comments or suggestions on our newsletter, please contact the Air Quality Governance in the ENPI  
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