

# AIR QUALITY IN ENPI EAST

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*Welcome to the last edition of the Air-Q-Gov project newsletter! This issue focuses mainly on the project activities of the last few months but it is also a flashback. The project team would like to thank everyone who contributed to the successful completion of the Air-Q-Gov project. We sincerely wish that our network of air quality experts continue their cooperation far into the future.*

## IN FOCUS

### Project Final Conference and 5th Steering Committee

**On November 27, 2014 the Air-Q-Gov Project will hold its Final Conference and 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting in Brussels, Belgium. Over 60 participants are expected to attend from the partner countries and various delegations of the European Commission.**

The Final Conference will offer an opportunity to present the achievements and results after 4 years of project implementation. Aside from the expected presentations from partner countries and key experts, the Conference will also receive a report on the

conclusions of the Gap Analysis/Impact Assessment performed in 2014. The report will focus on relative improvements and changes in air quality assessment and management systems observed in the partner countries as a result of four years of project activity.

Another important program feature will be the introduction of the Cap4Dev dissemination platform and recommendations (both for the EU and for the countries), on possible ways to maintain the cooperation and dialogue in the air quality sector and continue the dynamics of the existing networks established during the Project. An updated mapping and mailing list of relevant stakeholders in each Partner Country will be presented for this purpose. It is anticipated that the many experts and stakeholders who participated in Project activities will be the immediate beneficiaries of this initiative.

A separate showcase will feature relevant publications, Project reports (including pilot project final reports), Project newsletters and the presentation of the newly published Handbook on transport emission reduction in urban areas. A video on the Air-Q-Gov project is expected to be one of the highlights of the Conference and is intended to be

broadcast later in the Partner Countries as both an advocate on air quality issues and as a lasting legacy of the Project's pioneer activities in the ENPI-East Countries.

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The Final Conference and Steering Committee  
will be held at the Albert Borschette Center  
on November 27, 2014



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## Highlights on recent project activities

### Seeking better economic well-being

**Twenty six participants gathered for the last in a series of five workshops on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) issues, which was held on 30 September – 1 October in Tbilisi, Georgia. The opening of the two day workshop was attended by Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, and Mr Stephen Stork, an official from the European Delegation to Georgia. Six partner countries of the Air Quality Governance project were represented by specialists from government permitting departments and inspectorates dealing with industrial pollution, policy development and legal departments in charge of harmonization of national legislation of partner countries with the EU Environmental Acquis.**

Industrial production not only plays an important role in the economic well-being of the countries, but also has a significant impact on the environment. One of the main components of the Air Quality Governance project is the introduction of an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) approach in the industrial sector. This component is dedicated to providing support towards the implementation of an integrated approach to permitting,

as well as the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and best practices for selected industrial sectors.

The main objective of the workshop was to review progress in IPPC project activities and to specifically address the following topics:

- Capacity building programme for decision makers for small businesses regulation;
- Review of nationally adopted BAT, best practices and GBR in selected economic sectors;
- Recommendations for implementing legislation for integrated permitting, GBR permitting and registration system;
- Phase-in schedule recommendations for existing large and medium polluting installations.

The opening session began with an overview of the main provisions and expected impact of newly adopted IPPC Legislation in the Russian Federation. The presentation focused on the introduction of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) principle; why it is needed, what expectations and fears it raises and what economic incentives can be used to promote its introduction. Project experts concluded by discussing the adaptability of the Russian experience to similar initiatives undertaken by the other partner countries.



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The presentations continued with each country sharing their recent experience, achievements and future plans for implementation of integrated pollution prevention and control. From the presentations, it was evident that the countries have taken the necessary steps to revise their relevant national legislation and have planned further steps to control industrial emissions. A lively round-table discussion on specific features of environmental permitting reform in the partner countries concluded the first session of the workshop.

The second session of the first day was dedicated to the latest activities in the IPPC component. With an estimated 50-70% of industrial air emissions in the EU originating from small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the presentations focused on capacity building programs for decision makers responsible for regulating SMEs. Project experts began by providing an overview of the regulatory systems utilized in three countries, namely; Latvia, the Czech Republic and the UK and discussed possible approaches based on each of these systems. During the session, recommendations were made for the improvement of SMEs environmental performance by focusing on the reduction of administrative burdens and related costs. The session also examined Russian experience on the application of BAT via the implementation of pilot projects in select economic sectors, e.g; metal production, pulp and paper, oil

processing, cement production, district heating, food and textile industry. The session concluded with a presentation introducing a new initiative of the European Commission which promotes resource efficiency improvements among SMEs with the goal of helping them perform in green markets. Group exercises and a round table discussion added variety to this interesting and very useful session of the workshop.

The second day began with a review of internationally funded projects in the field of environmental permitting, the specific legal and practical aspects to IPPC reform, management requirements and implementation challenges. The Czech experience with industrial inspections and a case study analysis of a biochemical firm producing ingredients for the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry provoked further discussion on the challenges involved with IPPC reform.

A final round table discussion concluded that the four year implementation of IPPC Project activities produced a wide range of useful and comprehensive recommendations for the reform of the environmental permitting systems in the Eastern ENPI East countries. There was a further consensus that Project was also successful in being able to source and share many of the best practices, both EU and regional, devoted to the regulation of air emissions in the industrial sector.

### Learning from success stories in the Baltics

**Over 25 senior air quality experts from six Partner Countries (namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) travelled to Latvia on June 9-13, 2014 to participate in a one week study tour designed to show-case air quality assessment and management systems in a post-Soviet EU member country. Latvia today, along with its two other Baltic countries, Lithuania and Estonia, have successfully completed their political and economic transition enabling them to serve as excellent examples for the ENPI EAST countries to emulate.**

Historically, the environmental protection system in Latvia developed along the classic centralized model that was common in the former USSR. Since regaining its independence in 1991, Latvia began to gradually replace its soviet-era laws with new legislation which met the demands of a free market economy and adopted modern

environmental policies typical of a democratic society. Legislative reform subsequently became even more intensified once EU integration processes began in earnest. This all culminated in 2004 when Latvia became accepted into the European Union and now the country has a modern air management system capable of properly regulating harmful industrial emissions, vehicle traffic, energy plants and the agricultural sector, all with the view of reducing their impact on human health and the environment.

Taking advantage of the Latvian setting, the Project organized an extensive Study Tour program which provided participants with an opportunity to become better acquainted with the air quality assessment and management system at the national, regional and municipal levels as well as to learn about public participation practices and public awareness activities in the Baltic countries.



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The program commenced with a visit to the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development. It was here that the participants received an overview of the air quality assessment and management system in Latvia. Experts from the Centre also explained how assessments of air quality were carried out on a practical level using a variety of different assessment methods. In addition the participants were informed on how environmental data is managed and respective databases maintained throughout the country.



Follow-up discussions focused on the challenges Latvia faced in developing an environmental monitoring system in line with national and European policy needs, together with international recommendations and guidelines.

The Study Tour next continued to the Baltic port city of Ventspils where the participants became acquainted with air quality management systems at the local level and learned how air quality planning and public participation is organized by the Ventspils city administration. This was followed by a visit to "Ventspils Commercial Port", one of Europe's largest shipping ports for dry goods, and also to the "Baltic Coal Terminal" which provides the same services for coal exports and is distinguished for its modern, closed type operations which minimize coal dust emissions to the atmosphere. Such facilities have no equal among the participating countries and they served as an excellent example of practical cooperation between local industry, national and municipal government. Visitors were additionally impressed to see how these huge terminals can be fenced and landscaped with idyllic sand beaches while being located near densely populated urban centers.

On the final day of the Study Tour, the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development hosted a final conference in Riga. During the conference, the participants were addressed by representatives of the national environmental authorities of the three Baltic countries, including Estonia and Lithuania. These experts shared their countries' experience on air quality policy at national level and especially their respective efforts to harmonize their national legislation with EU requirements and the challenge of maintaining such legislation up to date.

The conference concluded with an expert level discussion on industrial permitting, public participation and awareness-raising during the final session. Participants were introduced to the latest EU and national requirements in these fields as carried out in the Baltics. The carefully selected speakers representing national authorities, non-governmental organisations and the private sector demonstrated how these requirements work in practice by referring to actual case examples from the experience of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

The past soviet-era heritage of the Baltic states, that is commonly shared with the partner countries as well, made this Study Tour that much more relevant as the participants were better able to understand the problems faced by these states in their transition process which are common to the ENPI-EAST countries as well.



## From the project archive



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## Highlights on recent project activities

### Learning from Danish experience

**A Training and Study Tour to Denmark took place for air quality specialists and country policy makers on 23-26 September, 2014. The four day event was organized by the Air Quality Governance Project and hosted by project team experts from Aarhus University (Denmark) who are also the implementers of Regional Pilot Project (RPP-3). A total of 20 experts from six partner countries were selected by their respective governments to participate in this unique training.**

The objective of the Study Tour was to finalize the operational aspects of the THOR modelling system component of the RPP-3 and additionally to provide air quality experts with first-hand experience on management of air quality and urban transport development at the national and municipal level in an EU country.

The format of the four day event was composed of two stages. The first stage began with a one day enhanced training course on the THOR modelling system which was intended as a follow up to the ones which took place earlier this year in Yerevan and Chisinau. The participants in this first training course consisted of technical specialists who were already familiar with the THOR modelling software. They were guided through a series of exercises during which they learned how to evaluate and calibrate the UBM and OSPM models based on existing background and street measurements. These skills will be particularly useful for them as learning how to develop such modelling scenarios will enable these experts to make calculations and environmental assessments for various municipal authorities in their home countries. A final training focused on the preparation of contour maps of simulated air pollution scenarios and plotting outcomes for entire cities. The various outputs consisting of high resolution air quality maps are intended to be uploaded to the project website at the conclusion of the RPP-3 later in November.

The above training was followed by a second day visit to the Risø, Roskilde to examine the practical application of the THOR modelling system within the larger context of air quality management where a wider category of air quality specialists and policy makers joined the group. Presentations on subject were made by experts from the AU Team as well as a KE from the project. The experts introduced the concept of integrated monitoring and the role of air quality modeling with the THOR system. Specific examples were used to show the operational

capabilities of the THOR system down to the street canyon level using emissions data from one of the RPP-3 pilot cities. The above examples were contrasted with a scaled up presentation which showed how the Danish air quality monitoring network was designed at the national level and how pollution trends could be predicted and managed utilizing the inputs received from the many municipal and regional monitoring stations located throughout the country. The day concluded with a site visit to one such automated rural monitoring station outside of Risø (Roskilde) and the Laboratories at ENVS.



The second stage of this event was designed only for a wider category of air quality specialists and policy makers familiar with urban transport issues. These experts participated in a program of presentations of political initiatives, both national and municipal, which demonstrated the links between the THOR system and how measurements and model results are used in developing urban transport policy in Denmark. This was supplemented by two specific presentations on Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark. One focused on "Copenhagen as Green Capital in 2014 (12 environment indicators - among them air quality and transport, initiatives to improve the environment in Copenhagen)" and the other on "The Climate Plan 2015 for Copenhagen Municipality (Making Copenhagen fossil free)".

As before the day ended with a site visit, this time to the Amager Resource Center, a new energy plant facility in Copenhagen which is intended to pioneer and foster links between the technology of waste combustion, energy and culture.

The final day was devoted to presentations prepared by SEIS, a sister project to the Air Quality Governance project, which informed the participants about the latest developments from the UNECE Joint Task Force on indicators. These are the fundamental tools used by air



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quality specialists for high resolution urban air quality modelling and planning and are very much sought after by specialists from the participating countries. Used effectively, such systems have the capacity to provide government policy makers with an enlightened set of policy options for air quality management.

Taken together, the four day training was the most intense and ambitious of the study tours undertaken by the Project to date. With an exceptionally diverse program, the participants obtained a concise overview of the THOR system and an examination of the practical application of urban transport modelling in policy implementation at municipal and national levels in Denmark, one of the most advanced EU countries in this field.



### Training on air pollution dispersion modelling as a tool for IPPC permitting and EIA

**As a direct response to partner countries requests for additional training on air pollution dispersion modelling, the Project organized a sub-regional training on 1-2 July, 2014 in Minsk.**

This was the second in a series of such regional initiatives which brought together project experts and local experts from Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Specifically the workshop focused on:

- Principles of air quality management according to EU Directives
- Air pollution dispersion modelling as a tool for IPPC permitting and EIA
- Modelling as an air quality management tool
- Introduction to air quality modelling
- Introduction to an industrial air pollution dispersion model
- Introduction to an urban air pollution dispersion model
- Use of air pollution dispersion models for IPPC permitting and for EIA – experience in Latvia.

One may ask - why modelling, if it only provides theoretical calculations rather than badly needed practical results? Key expert, Vladimir Morozov, explained that air pollution dispersion modelling is now a commonly used approach which has been adopted everywhere around the world. Both in economically developed countries as well as in the ENPI

East region, air pollution modelling has become an essential tool of air quality management. Not only does it help set environmental standards for potential polluters – industries, regulating emissions of polluting substances, but it also helps establish sanitary zones for industrial enterprises, urban planning infrastructure and helps provide options to minimize the negative impacts from unfavorable meteorological events/conditions. The application of such models helps to accurately calculate the level of air pollution and understand where the various sources of air pollution come from. As a general conclusion, one might note that human health and environmental quality in general, depend on the effective use of air quality modelling tools. As a result, the predictive and remedial value of such tools cannot be overestimated.

Ms. Aksana Yuchakovich, one of the participants in the workshop (from the Belarus Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection), drew attention to the fact that one of the European air quality models is currently being tested in the framework of the current Air Quality Governance Project in the Belarus city of Navapolatsk. The successful testing and assessment of this modelling tool is expected to generate a replication effort for all major cities of Belarus.

As an example of the latest best practices on the subject, the workshop heard a presentation on the Latvian experience in the use of air pollution dispersion models when issuing industrial installation permits and the assessment of environmental impacts from economic activities in a given region.



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### Towards Sustainable Urban Transport

***The Air Quality Governance Project hosted its long awaited workshop “Towards Sustainable Urban Transport” on 21-22 October 2014 in Chisinau, Moldova. A total of eighteen local experts from seven partner countries participated in the event, many of whom had a direct connection to urban municipalities in their home country which were the main focus of the workshop presentations.***



The objective of the workshop was to train ministry and municipal officials on how transport emissions may be reduced by utilizing economic measures for promoting sustainable urban development. Participants were offered practical insights on the current use of various economic instruments in the EU at central, regional and local levels, as well as the latest in public participation practices and awareness raising activities.

The objectives of the workshop were timely and well formulated as the problem of urban air pollution generated by greenhouse gas emissions by the transport sector is extremely urgent. In the ENPI East neighborhood alone, emissions from transport account for more than 70% of the overall urban emissions and in some cases they reach 90% and more. Solutions taken at the national level, for example, introducing better standards for fuel and cars will obviously make a positive impact on emission levels in municipalities. Ongoing technical innovations are also expected to have a significant positive impact as well.

It goes without saying that many of the reform measures that could be implemented at the municipal level are easily achievable as they fall under the jurisdiction of municipal authorities. It should be emphasized, especially for the partner countries, that such measures would not necessarily require the allocation of additional scarce financial resources. Representatives of the partner

countries have already expressed an interest in the application of such low-cost economic instruments as they are able to offer significant results from a rather modest investment. As the familiarity with such instruments is not widespread in the ENPI-East region, the issue of training of policy makers at central authorities of government, and specifically at the municipal level, is considered to be an urgent issue for the partner countries. Activities driving a solution of this problem are set out in the project work plan and the current workshop was a direct output of such planned activities.

The workshop in Chisinau consisted of several modules of delivery. The program began with an overview of the latest EU strategy on transport development and EU activities in this sector. This was followed by two presentations in the second module which focused on the various classifications of economic instruments that could be applied to reduce air pollution and examples of their successful application in EU countries. Both modules were accompanied by lively question-answer sessions involving the lecturers and country participants.

The third module was devoted to an overview of current international programs in the partner countries which include international and bilateral, national and municipal programs. In this regard the Project assembles an excellent selection of external speakers to address the workshop.



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These included:

- *Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa* - Environmental Affairs Officer from UNECE who provided an overview of THE PEP Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme;
- *Mr. Teije Gorris* – who spoke on the CIVITAS Network which brings together European cities that are committed to introducing ambitious, clean urban transport strategies;
- *Mr. Mathias Merforth* - Expert from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, who spoke on German bilateral experience in the ENPI East region in the field of transportation policies.

The above presentations were further supported by project experts, including Prof. Alan Gross from Aarhus University, who presented the first conclusions from the ongoing regional pilot project devoted to the effective use of urban modelling tools. The presentation was further supplemented by specific reference to the Danish experience on urban transport policy who are world recognized leaders in the design and use of such modelling tools.



A separate session was devoted to a presentation by Azerbaijan which was given an opportunity to show case the specific efforts undertaken to incorporate economic tools into their urban transport planning process. The local experts shared the results of their recent pilot project devoted to “Improvement of Legislation on Assessment and Management of Ambient Air” and cited numerous examples from their Draft Action Plan for Baku, which was produced as a direct output of the Air Quality Governance Project.

By all accounts, the workshop fulfilled its purpose and a significant group of policy makers and municipal officials from the partner countries were further trained on the latest applications of economic measures to reduce urban air pollution generated by the transport sector.

### Smiling curious faces

**Very young children develop a relationship with nature by getting their feet wet, exploring worms, building with sticks or rocks, running on grass, climbing trees and rocks, following insects, and so forth. The Air Quality Governance Project has decided to contribute to environmental education in early childhood in a slightly different way.**

The children's coloring book “The air we breathe” was published by the Project as part of its communication actions program. The objective is to raise environmental awareness and disseminate project results. In the case of the coloring book, children are invited to use their imagination with black and white colors to differentiate between clean and polluted air.

The first official dissemination event took place in one of kindergartens in Chisinau, Moldova early in September 2014. On the occasion of World Car-Free

Day the project team, together with a team of educators from the pre-school education centers from Chisinau, organized an education program about air pollution. Stories about what causes air pollution and how it affects us and our environment have obviously fostered curiosity in the young audience and distribution of the coloring book was welcomed by many smiling faces.

A similar activity followed in the town of Staueni town near Chisinau and will continue in other towns throughout Moldova and the project Partner Countries in the coming months.

The same approach was used in Ukraine, where preschool children in Kyiv were introduced to air pollution problems and provided with printed illustrations.

In Armenia a total number of 250 books were delivered to 6-7 years old children, but also in secondary schools of Yerevan, in orphanages, to mentally disabled children as well as to a childrens' eco-club at the Geological Museum of the Institute of Geological Sciences. When delivering the coloring books, volunteers and the National



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Coordinator of the Air-Q-Gov project facilitated discussions with children about air pollution and the way it affects human health and the environment. Another 20 books are planned to be distributed during an exhibition of drawings by children with hearing problems organised by the local NGO 'Voice of silence' on December 3, 2014.

During the month of September active dissemination activities took place in the Russian Federation as well. Copies of coloring book were delivered to the respective national authorities, including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, Ministry of Economic

Development, Ministry of Industry and Trade and a number of educational institutions such as general education schools in Moscow, Moscow State University, Higher School of Economics.

**The project team expects that the book will help children better understand the importance of good air quality and show how air pollution affects our health and the environment.**



## News on the National Pilot Projects

### Positive feedback from pilot activities

***The Air-Quality project's pilot activities began with country consultations to determine national and regional priorities and stimulating country ownership through country driven activities. In time the specific priority areas were identified for all seven participating countries and this served as the basis for the design and implementation of seven national and three regional pilot projects.***

- Transfer of know-how in building integrated monitoring systems.
- Introduction of advanced modelling tools for the development of emission inventories and emission projections.

Moreover, pilot project implementation ensured the largest involvement of civil society in the Air-Q-Gov project as NGOs were selected in four out of the seven countries to implement such projects. They offered the benefit of their considerable expertise and also their supplementary channels for distribution of project results and best practices.

Pilot project activities focused mainly on the following 5 areas:

- Legal harmonisation/ approximation focusing on newly adopted EU directives, especially Ambient Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC and Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU.
- Introduction of advanced methodologies for the development of emission inventories.
- Enhancement of capacities for joining and facilitating compliance with the commitments under the UN Convention on Long-range Trans boundary Air Pollution and its protocols and other international .

All the beneficiaries have stressed that the pilot activities were of great value for the countries and one of the largest benefits of the Air-Q-Gov project. Recent GAP updates indicate that pilot activities helped to tackle the specific challenges of each country and/or the region in fighting air pollution. Today, almost all pilot projects are now completed or close to finalization. As a result of these activities, a number of tangible results have been achieved which stand a good chance of being sustainable, e.g. improved legislation, national strategic and planning documents, introduced air pollution monitoring, assessment and





## Project Partners talk about the Air Quality Governance project

Convention on Long-range Trans boundary Air Pollution and

***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 Mrs. Lilia Kozak, Deputy Head of Ukrainian National Coordination Committee for Air-Q-Gov project, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine***

### ***1. What are the main problems in the field of air quality management in Ukraine?***

To begin with, Ukrainian legislation in this field has not yet been adapted to EU standards. Areas which need specific attention include: automated monitoring, including vacant businesses, updated list of substances and the criteria on which the continuous monitoring is based. In addition, regulatory changes are necessary for Ukraine to fulfill its obligations under three key protocols; Gothenburg, Heavy Metals and POPs. There is also a need to apply modern European approaches for the development of air quality management techniques.

### ***2. What are the main benefits that Ukraine expects from the Air Quality Governance project? How does the country accept the project?***

The main benefit for Ukraine from participation in the Air-Q-Gov Project is that we improved our understanding and acquired new expertise in the field of air quality management. Moreover, we received an excellent opportunity to learn about best practices in this field from other countries via the many trainings and study tours organized by the Project. We expect that the skills and information exchange received during the project will facilitate the improvement of the legal and regulatory framework for control of air pollution emissions in Ukraine.

### ***3. How do you evaluate the project's contribution so far?***

Several key contributions stand out in particular. Firstly, Ukraine was offered an opportunity to choose its own national pilot project and the selected choice; "Implementation of international commitments on the

requirements of the Convention on Long-Range Trans boundary Air Pollution and its Protocols" was successfully implemented. The main outputs of this project are very valuable to Ukraine and comprise improved practices for collecting and processing of national data and the preparation of the national reporting system on air protection issues in line with LRTAP Convention requirements.

Secondly, the Air-Q-Gov project supported Ukraine in drafting a law "On the Protection of the Ozone layer" which will assist with compliance to the Montreal Protocol and also the support given to the National Programme for Approximation of Ukrainian legislation with EU requirements.

Lastly, Ukraine was the beneficiary of an important training course on GAINS modeling. The course was designed to provide a consistent framework for the analysis of co-benefits reduction strategies from air pollution. The use of this Model will now help strengthen the assessment and forecasting of air pollution within the regional and cross-border areas in different regions of Ukraine.

### ***4. What could be your suggestions for the effective finalisation of the project and/or future EU assistance in this field?***

Generally speaking, our country needs more assistance in transposing all the provisions of European legislation on air quality management into our national legislation. We feel that continued EU assistance would be of great benefit in this regard as the expert assistance in drafting of specific legislation received during the Project was of great incremental value to Ukraine.



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