

Common challenges, tailored solutions

Air pollution is not confined to state borders. Fine particles of hazardous pollutants are often carried over vast distances threatening territories far removed from the original source.

Each of the seven partner countries participating in the project experiences serious challenges associated with air pollution. However it is not readily apparent how substantial the pollution is since the existing monitoring systems currently in use are either outdated or insufficient in number to provide an accurate assessment.

Local legislation often differs from European Union standards and multilateral international agreements are not always enforced. While all seven countries have ratified the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution, only a few of the protocols governing the Convention implementation have been signed to date.

The need to bring local legislation closer to EU standards, to implement international agreements and to improve national air quality monitoring systems is a common challenge that the countries engaged to tackle as a regional priority.

This programme is implemented by the MWH Consortium. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission

Project duration

48 months - January 2011 - December 2014

Partner countries



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AIR QUALITY GOVERNANCE IN ENPI EAST COUNTRIES



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About the project

Industry and transport are the main contributors to air pollution. Experience has shown that emission reduction is possible through the introduction of cleaner technologies, better planning of traffic flows and the development of better regulatory systems.

The project includes an extensive [training program](#) and [study visits](#) which will facilitate the creation of networks and encourage regional cooperation while taking into account the individual needs of each country. Specific priority areas have been identified by each of the seven countries which will serve as basis for the design and implementation of a series of pilot projects.

The introduction of best practices will be a major task of the project. To achieve this goal, the project will create an enabling environment for [specialists](#) and [experts](#), [policy makers](#), [government officials](#) and the [business community](#) to work together and share experiences.

However no policies on improving air quality will succeed if the process doesn't involve the support and participation of the [wider public](#). Changing one's attitude and lifestyle – trading the comforts of a car for a bicycle, or at least a more environmentally friendly car – is sometimes more difficult to achieve than creating new legislation. Accordingly the raising of public awareness is one of the main goals of the project, improving public access to information on air quality and steps to be taken for its improvement.

Project components and activities

Air quality assessment and management

- promotion of environmental protection measures
- creation of modern air quality modeling tools
- implementation of complex analytical models
- assessment of environmental impact

Industry, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)

- introduction of integrated permits
- Support to the best available technologies
- Development of limit values of emissions

Transport

- introduction of legislative and regulatory systems, modern traffic planning, fuel quality and reduced emissions
- promotion of the use of public transport and change of public attitudes in general regarding the use of transportation alternatives.



The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievement and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.