



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU Assistance

FACT SHEET 2010/04

EU BUILDS AIR QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES AT LOCAL AND CENTRAL LEVEL

Air pollution caused by human activities such as energy production, industry and traffic can cause high concentrations of different pollutants with significant impacts to the human health. For years, the European Union has been working to improve the air quality and reduce the harmful impacts on human health and environment in Europe by controlling the emissions of harmful substances, issuing legislation for permissible levels of pollutant concentrations, conducting research on health effects of pollutants and focusing the international cooperation to reduce the cross-boundary pollution. Even though the levels of some harmful pollut-

ant concentrations have been significantly reduced, the air quality continues to cause negative health effects in Europe.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has significant problems with the air pollution. Intensive urbanisation and significant increase of traffic volumes are among the main reasons for this. In order to protect the environment and the health of the population in the country, there is a strong need for acceleration of the process of strengthening the administrative and technical capacities in the area of air quality management on central and local level.

The European Union is financing

Project name:

Twinning project 'Strengthening the central and local level capacities for environmental management in the area of air quality'

Sector:

Environment

Source of financing:

IPA 2008

Value:

1 million EUR

Period:

September 2010-August 2012

Beneficiary:

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

a Twinning project 'Strengthening the central and local level capacities



for environmental management in the area of air quality'. The project continues the work and builds on the achievements of the air quality improvement Twinning project finished in 2008. The project is jointly carried out by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, Environment Agency Austria and Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. The project duration is 24 months (September 2010-August 2012) with a budget of 1 million EUR. Technical specifications for procurement of equipment for the air quality monitoring and information system for data management have also been prepared. The EU financed supply with a budget of 600.000 EUR will be realised before September 2011 and will support the Beneficiary Country to meet the Twinning project objectives and requirements of the EU legislation. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the administrative capacity to implement and enforce legislation at central and local level in the area of air quality. During the project the current air quality legislation of the country will be reviewed and updated to be in line with the European Union legislation. Secondary legislation in a form of rulebooks and guidelines will be prepared to regulate the air quality monitoring and emission measurement methodologies, creation of emission and air quality

data and to outline the emission limit values for mobile and stationary sources.

In addition to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Hydro-meteorological Administration and Public Health Institute will participate in the Twinning. The activities of the project will support setting up a strong foundation for the national institutions to build a good cooperation which is essential for an effective national air quality management.

The project will also contribute to improve the administrative capacity of the local authorities. The municipalities of Gostivar, Berovo, Kavadarci, Aerodrom, Karpos, Bitola and City of Skopje will be involved in the project. The Twinning project will enhance the cooperation mechanisms between the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning and the local level institutions. The project team will assess the availability of air quality data in central and local level, evaluate the capacity of the institutions to produce data and identify the training and other needs relevant for effective air quality management. Based on the assessments an action plan for improvement of the administrative capacities for air quality management will be designed and prioritised actions implemented. During the project several workshops and seminars will be organ-

ised to train the local and national level experts in air quality assessment methods, air quality legislation and preparation of action plans and programmes to improve air quality. Pilot programme and action plan to reduce pollution and improve the air quality in Bitola will be prepared in cooperation with the local experts. The project team will design and implement a campaign to raise public awareness of issues regarding air quality and protection.

To follow the requirements of the European Union Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) an efficient national environmental information system concerning air quality will be established. In addition a web portal for dissemination of air quality information will be developed. The portal will include general information of air quality and emissions, real-time measurement data from air quality monitoring stations, information of concentrations relative to the limit values effective in the country and possible warnings of levels of concentrations that may have negative impacts on human health.

For more detailed information of the project, please visit the project website at:

<http://www.moepp.gov.mk/airqualitytwinning/en>

Summary

The European Union is financing a Twinning project 'Strengthening the central and local level capacities for environmental management in the area of air quality' with an aim of improving the air quality administration of country. The project continues the work and builds on the achievements of the air quality improvement Twinning project finished in 2008. The project is jointly carried out by the Finnish Meteorological Institute, Environment Agency Austria and Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. The main beneficiary organisation is the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. The project duration is 24 months (September 2010-August 2012) with a budget of 1 million EUR.