

## EU-funded Twinning Project

"Further strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of air quality"



### PROJECT AND OBJECTIVES

Population can be adversely affected by exposure to air pollutants in the ambient air. The European Union has developed an extensive body of legislation which establishes health based standards and objectives for a number of pollutants in the air. Followed by previous support by the EU and the efforts on national level, the EU legislation has been in most parts transposed to the national legislation, but further support is needed in the implementation of the legislation.

**Recognizing the need to further improve the air quality management in the country, the European Union, through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, is funding the Twinning Project ‘Further strengthening the capacities for effective implementation of the acquis in the field of air quality’ (MK 12 IB EN 01). The project duration is 21 months (May 2015 – January 2017) with a budget of 1.1 million Euros.**

The main purpose of this EU-funded project is to strengthen the administrative capacities in the area of air quality management and health impact of air pollution by implementing the appropriate EU acquis<sup>1</sup>. The activities of this EU-funded project will aid the beneficiaries in making the necessary reforms and improvements for the implementation of air quality acquis. This should ultimately lead to improved air quality and reduced impacts of air pollution to the human health. The mandatory results to be achieved with the project activities include:

- Strengthened capacities for the central environmental laboratory in the field of air quality measurements, emission measurements and chemical analyses related to air pollution;
- Strengthened capacities for performing emission inventories and dispersion modeling including exposure modeling;
- Air quality data management and reporting of air quality related information and use of air quality information to support environmental policy and planning and implementation of Clean Air Action Plans further improved;
- Strengthened capacities for health impact assessment of air pollution to human health.

<sup>1</sup> EU acquis or Acquis communautaire is the accumulated legislation, legal acts, and court decisions which constitute the body of European Union law.

## INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

The main beneficiary institution of this EU-funded Twinning project is the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning with the Institute of Public Health, the City of Skopje and other municipalities also being involved and benefiting from project activities.

Finnish Meteorological Institute is the main EU member state partner with the Environment Agency Austria as the junior partner. Specialized experts from other member state organizations are also involved in the project activities.

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

### **Component 1: Strengthened capacities for the central environmental laboratory in the field of air quality measurements, emission measurements and chemical analyses related to air pollution.**

Efforts will be undertaken to further improve the air quality monitoring, chemical analysis and calibration laboratory activities for provision of good quality data of pollutant concentrations in the air. Among other things this will include improvement of measurements and calibration, preparation of the calibration laboratory for the accreditation and organization of a campaign to analyze PAH and heavy metal concentrations.

### **Component 2: Strengthened capacities for performing emission inventories and dispersion modeling including exposure modeling**

Emission inventories for different sectors will be improved and reports prepared for the delivery towards international organizations. Review will be performed to improve national emission reduction program and emission projections. Air quality dispersion modelling will be improved to support the preparation of air quality assessments, air quality improvement plans and health impact analyses.



### **Component 3: Air quality data management and reporting of air quality related information and use of air quality information to support environmental policy and planning and implementation of Clean Air Action Plans further improved**

Major effort will be put in development of air quality improvement plan for the City of Skopje including the short-term and long-term measures to improve the air quality. In addition, the focus will be on improving the functionality and content of the air quality web portal (<http://airquality.moepp.gov.mk/>) and creation of tools for the new e-reporting of the air quality data to the EU. Work will continue to improve the air quality assessments and data management. Citizens' awareness on air quality issues will be increased with organization of a public awareness campaign.

### **Component 4: Strengthened capacities for health impact assessment of air pollution to human health.**

Plan for the health impact assessment of air pollution will be developed to guide the work related to the estimation of the health impacts of the air pollution to the population. Training will be provided on basic health impact assessment methodologies including preparation of a pilot health impact assessment study for the City of Skopje.

## CONTACTS

Sari Lappi, Resident Twinning Adviser  
Email: [sari.lappi@fmi.fi](mailto:sari.lappi@fmi.fi)

Aneta Stefanovska, Resident Twinning Adviser Counterpart  
Email: [A.Stefanovska@moepp.gov.mk](mailto:A.Stefanovska@moepp.gov.mk)

Harri Pietarila, Member State Project Leader  
Email: [harri.pietarila@fmi.fi](mailto:harri.pietarila@fmi.fi)

Svetlana Gjorgjeva, Beneficiary Country Project Leader  
Email: [S.Gjorgjeva@moepp.gov.mk](mailto:S.Gjorgjeva@moepp.gov.mk)



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