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EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

EU4Environment in Eastern Partner Countries:
Water Resources and Environmental Data (ENI/2021/425-550)

REPORT

REGIONAL WEBINAR "CLEAN AIR DAY: HOW MUNICIPALITIES TAKE ACTION AND TALK ABOUT IT"

Date:
7 September 2023 (online)

Workshop Lead:
Johannes Mayer

Output/Activity n°:
2.3.2

Author(s)
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Date
9.4.2024

Implementing partners



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DOCUMENT AND PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE:

<https://www.eu4waterdata.eu/en/resource-library-hidden/56-eap-region-3/362-air-quality-regional-webinar-september-2023-report-and-presentations.html>

1. Objective(s) and scope of the workshop / training

Air pollution is the main environmental threat to human health. The World Health Organization (WHO) assumes that around 7 million premature deaths are globally related to air pollution. The pollutant with the most severe health impacts is fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}.

The main sources of PM_{2.5} are domestic heating with biomass or coal, diesel vehicles, open burning of waste and agricultural waste, industry and power plants. A number of good practice examples are available that can be implemented to reduce emissions of PM_{2.5} from these sources. In most cases, these measures contribute to further environmental topics such as climate change and noise as well as improving energy security and mobility.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- Raising awareness about the impact of air pollution
- Showcasing good practice examples to reduce PM emissions from major sources
- Highlight options for municipalities to take action

2. Main results

The objectives of the webinar were addressed by several presentations about the impacts of air pollution on human health to support awareness raising in the countries, about good practice examples to address major sources of air pollution and to reduce energy poverty. The focus of the presentations and the discussion was on the municipal level.

More than 100 participants took part to the regional webinar co-organised by the Covenant of Mayors East and the EU4Environment Water and Data programme.

2.1. Covenant of Mayors East overview of activities and “My Air Quality Tool”

Maksym Vereshchak from Covenant of Mayors East (CoME) provided a short overview of the activities of CoME, see also: <https://com-east.eu/en/>.

Artem Kharazyan gave an overview of the My Air Quality tool, prepared for CoME by the Joint Research Centre, JRC, of the European Commission. The main tool of CoME is the Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plan, for which the My Air Quality tool supports municipalities in preparing emission data.

2.2. Health impacts and main sources of particulate matter

C. Nagl highlighted the substantial health impacts of particulate matter (PM), based on results by WHO. He provided an overview of methods to identify the main sources of PM. For details, see the presentation.

2.3. Mitigation measures

C. Nagl and S. Böhmer presented guiding principles for selecting and implementing measures to improve air quality. The focus was on agricultural waste burning, domestic heating, traffic, and electricity generators.

For details, see the presentation.

2.4. Energy poverty

S. Böhmer provided an overview of definitions, causes, statistics, information sources, and activities on EU level to address energy poverty.

For details, see the presentation.

2.5. Communicating air quality

Chloé Déchelette highlighted the importance of communicating air quality problems to raise awareness and supporting the implementation of solutions. She provided several good practice examples of communication activities and participation processes.

For details, see the presentation.

3. Follow-up national webinars

Based on the regional webinar, five national webinars were held to provide the possibility of more in-depth discussions of air quality measures and good practice examples from both EaP and EU countries:

25 September: Armenia

26 September Azerbaijan

27 September Georgia

28 September Moldova

29 September Ukraine

Annexes

3.1. Agenda

AGENDA

Regional webinar “Clean Air Day: How municipalities take action and talk about it”

Date:
7 September 2023

Venue:
online Webex (English with simultaneous interpretation to/from AZ/AM/GE/MD/UA)

Time:
9 – 11:30 a.m. CEST

Time	Item	Speaker
9:00-9:10	Air pollution awareness towards clean air action	Johannes Mayer, Christian Nagl, Gabriele Vincze (Umweltbundesamt)
9:10-9:25	Municipalities act for climate and sustainable energy use (including “My Air Quality” tool by JRC)	Christophe Frering (Covenant of Mayors East)
9:25-9:45	Health impacts and main sources of PM	Christian Nagl
9:45-10:00	Possible mitigation measures domestic heating, agricultural waste burning, electricity generators, traffic	Christian Nagl, Siegmund Böhmer (Umweltbundesamt)
10:00-10:15	Energy poverty	Siegmund Böhmer (Umweltbundesamt)
10:15-10:40	There’s something in the air – Communicating Air Quality and mitigation measures	Chloé Déchelette (OiEau), Johannes Mayer (Umweltbundesamt)
10:40-10:45	Comfort Break	
10:45-11:20	Discussion of air quality problems and good practice examples in the region (preparation for national workshops)	all
11:20-11:30	Conclusions	Chloé Déchelette (OiEau), Johannes Mayer (Umweltbundesamt)

The webinar will be held online on Webex – please [register](#) to confirm your participation and to receive detailed instructions including the [meeting link](#) and alternative access modes

Background

Air pollution is the main environmental threat to human health. The World Health Organization (WHO) assumes that around 7 million premature deaths are globally related to air pollution. The pollutant with the most severe health impacts is fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}.

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Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- Raising awareness about the impact of air pollution
- Showcasing good practice examples to reduce PM emissions from major sources
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Participants

- EU4EnvWD counterparts and air quality experts on state level
- Participants from Covenant of Mayors East municipalities in all EU Eastern Partner Countries.

Practical Information

The webinar will be held online on Webex – please [register](#) to confirm your participation and to receive detailed instructions including the [meeting link](#) and alternative access modes

About EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

The programme aims at improving people's wellbeing in EU's Eastern Partner Countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme's activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens. It ensures continuity of the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes.

The Action is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The action is co-funded by the European Union, the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 12,75 million (EUR 12 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.