

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY GEORGIA

AIR QUALITY PORTAL OF GEORGIA

www.air.gov.ge

I. Description

- **1. Brief description:** Air Quality Portal of Georgia is an official web platform developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia that provides detailed online information about ambient air quality in the country. The platform is bilingual (Georgian, English), it is public and accessible for everyone and does not require any authorization.

The portal provides live information from air quality monitoring stations, data of indicative measurements, daily, monthly and annual reports in machine-readable format, information about emissions and sources of pollutants, Tbilisi state program on air protection, health recommendations related to air quality, general recommendations on air protection, main legislative acts, implemented activities, information about the monitoring network, etc. It also provides a possibility to see the data from monitoring stations of recent 48 hours via slider.

- **2. Type:** [governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other] Governmental
- **3. Scope:** [international, sub-regional, national, local] National
- **4. Working language(s):** Georgian, English
- **5. Target users:** Public, private and international organizations; NGO's; academia; local communities; general public
- **6. Starting year:** 2018
- **7. Budget and funding source:** State budget
- **8. Contact:**
Environmental Information and Education Centre of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
info@eiec.gov.ge

National Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
info@nea.gov.ge

II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context:** The Third National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia 2017-2021; Law of Georgia on Protection of Ambient Air; Technical Regulation on Approval of Ambient Air Quality Standards; European Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC.
- **10. Partner organizations involved:** European Environmental Agency (EEA)
- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, specifically, Ambient Air Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, LEPL Environmental Information and Education Centre and LEPL National Environmental Agency. The expected benefits of the portal are to have a centralized source of air quality information providing live data for more efficient policy making as well as ensuring access to environmental information for general public.
- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment:** The main needs of public considered and fulfilled by the portal are as following: open platform, easy and user-friendly tool, free access to constantly renewable and reusable data and validated reports as well as healthcare recommendations according to the different air quality levels.

- **13. Technology choice:** Web technologies with responsive design to be useful with almost any device.

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:** Online platform that provides detailed, live and summary information on air quality in Georgia to all stakeholders at the national and international level.
- **15. Efficiency gains:** Online, reliable, open, accessible and reusable information data source for quick and efficient decision-making and ensuring access to environmental information.
- **16. Risks:** None.
- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):** The challenges encountered and resolved are as following: establishing network for all stations and centralizing all data into one system; providing complex data requiring knowledge in specific thematic area to broad public in a simple and understandable way; using the European Air Quality Index presenting air quality data in a user-friendly manner.
- **18. Lessons learned:** Air quality information is crucial and required for public. Availability of air quality information in an easily understandable format is essential to avoid misleading the general public and decision makers from wrong conclusions.
- **19. Conditions for successful replication:** Cooperation between the stakeholders, sharing the knowledge and mobilizing the information technologies.
- **20. Overall assessment of the tool:** Air quality issue and data is crucial in Georgia. The portal meets the needs of general public and decision makers, has positive feedbacks and assessments from users and provides constantly updated and visualized data in very simple, understandable charts, graphics and grids that makes air.gov.ge more helpful and useful for users.