

Concept on the development of an e-learning course on air pollution effects work under the Convention

Background

Over the last two years, the secretariat has developed an [e-learning starter course on the Convention and its three most recently amended protocols](#) and an [e-learning course on emission inventory development](#). Up to 6,000 enrolments and more than 1,000 certificates issued for the course on the Convention and its protocols demonstrate the usefulness and attractiveness of the e-learning approach in promoting the Convention within and beyond the UNECE region.

The existing courses have raised the interest of parts of the Working Group on Effects (WGE), specifically the Coordination Center for Effects, to develop an e-learning course on air pollution effects work under the Convention, which is suggested as item under 1.3.10 of the draft 2024-2025 workplan for the Convention.

Aim

The aim of this course would be to make the effects-related knowledge and expertise under the Convention more accessible and to create an entry point for experts from countries who would like to be further involved in the work on effects. The course would strengthen involvement of EECCA and Western Balkan countries in the effects-related work under the Convention and build capacities for assessing risks of air pollution on ecosystems and health. The course would also further promote the Convention and its work outside the UNECE region.

Project modalities and implications for WGE

This activity would be coordinated and managed by the UNECE secretariat in close cooperation with WGE. The secretariat would build on its previous experiences with the e-learning, making sure that the course is aligned with the previous ones, using the same infrastructure for hosting the course, working with text inputs from WGE, and developing the course in the authoring software. WGE would provide texts and other materials (e.g. graphics) in accordance with a jointly developed course structure/outline and review edited texts and slides in the authoring software. The course might be split into 2-3 modules, possibly focusing on a) effects b) methodologies to assess effects c) examples and case studies.

Funding

UBA Germany would be in a position to fund part (80 %) of this project through the [German advisory assistance program for EECCA countries](#). However, this will only be possible after a successful project application under the leadership of the secretariat. Co-funding by other donors in principle would be needed. This could either be through contribution in kind by the secretariat and the ICPs or through in-cash contribution by other parties, to be specified in the application.

Process and timeline

At the 9th Joint Session of EMEP/WGE, WGE should discuss whether there is support for this workplan item and which groups would like to participate in the project. Once the workplan is adopted by the Executive Body in December 2023 and the project is set up, it could run throughout 2024-2025 so that the course would be available in English and launched in late 2025. Should additional funding become available, the course would be translated into Russian language in 2025 (2026).