

**Template for the submission of  
examples of good practices with regard to air pollution  
related policies, strategies and measures**

**Background**

1. The Executive Body, at its thirty-sixth session, adopted decision 2016/3 on Improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols. This decision stipulates that *“the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions, article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) is **at least once every four years**”*. As per this decision, the Executive Body also *“invites States and organizations referred to in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention that are not Parties to these four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.”*

2. The enclosed template has been developed to facilitate the submission by Parties of examples of and good practices with regard to different regulatory, voluntary, economic and other measures relating to air pollution in advance of WGSR’s sixty-first session. The templates with information filled in should be sent to the secretariat at [air\\_meetings@un.org](mailto:air_meetings@un.org) by **1 August 2023**.

3. Delegations are invited to submit to the secretariat case studies/examples which could be of interest to other countries. A summary of submitted information will be made at the Working Group’s session. Parties that had not shared such information during the recent years are particularly invited to do so. An overview of the previous reporting at WGSR sessions since 2013 is available on the Convention website:

<https://unece.org/strategies-and-policies-abatement-air-pollution>

4. Examples could comprise, among others, economic measures such as financial incentives or disincentives (such as taxes, subsidies, set prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates), voluntary measures (such as voluntary agreements, programmes or contracts), regulatory or legislative measures or other measures (such as educational or informational measures). They can include policies, strategies and measures emanating from different sectors with positive effects on air pollution abatement (such as acts/laws on sustainable transport, sustainable agriculture/farming, energy, green building, biodiversity conservation and enhancement). A more detailed description of the implementation of your chosen policy, strategy or measure and related challenges and problems as well as solutions would be more useful than the presentation of many different examples. Furthermore, your examples could also be useful to other Parties even if they have not been successful by indicating why this was the case. You are thus also invited to submit experiences that cover such items as:

- a) A measure that was less effective than you anticipated and why;
- b) A measure that was actually more effective than you predicted;
- c) A measure that had particular implementation challenges – what were they and how did you address them;
- d) A measure that was either less expensive or more expensive than you had estimated. What caused the increased or decreased costs?
- e) Goals that were set and were met by innovative strategies.

**Template to facilitate the submission of examples/good practices of strategies, policies and measures employed to implement obligations under any of the protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**

<p><b>Country:</b> Slovakia</p>	<p><b>Pollutant(s):</b>  <i>Please indicate the pollutant(s), emissions of which are being controlled</i>            PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, (B(a)P), SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub></p>
<p><b>Protocol(s):</b>  <i>Please indicate the name of the protocol(s) to the Convention, obligations under which are being fulfilled</i></p> <p><b>Gothenburg Protocol</b></p>	<p><b>Sector:</b>  <i>Please indicate the sector (e.g. agriculture, industry, urban planning, environment, etc.), or sectors (if several) for which the strategy, policy or measure has been mainly designed</i></p> <p><b>Residential heating</b>            Individual residential heating, especially the burning of solid fuels, including biomass, in old boilers with insufficient efficiency significantly contribute to air pollution and the poor air quality.</p>
<p><b>Type of strategy, policy or measure and the level of implementation:</b>  <i>Please identify the type of strategy, policy or measure – economic e.g. incentive or disincentive (taxes, funds, subsidies, prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates, etc); voluntary (agreements, programmes, contracts), regulatory (legislation), or other measures (educational, informational, other)</i>  <i>Please state at which level (municipal, regional, sub-national, national) the policy, strategy or measure is targeted or implemented</i></p> <p><b>Regulatory measures</b> – resolution of educational measures through the <b>Life program (2021-2027)</b>.</p> <p>Several measures were taken to solve the problem:  <b>Regulatory measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. prohibition of burning low-quality fuels and waste - introduction of sanctions</li> <li>2. introduction of inspections of small combustion plants in household</li> </ol> <p><b>Incentive measures</b> – project  <b>1.Restore the house</b> – the renovation of family houses is part of the renovation plan as part of the fight against the climate and energy crisis, but also with air pollution. Houses built before 2013 mostly do not meet the current standards of energy efficiency and are a burden on the</p>	<p><b>Method used for the current analysis:</b>  <i>Please identify the method used for collecting information and the analysis made</i></p> <p><b>1.</b>Emission inventories show that emissions from residential heating create in 2021:</p> <p>81% share of total <b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b> emissions          62 % share of total <b>PM<sub>10</sub></b> emissions          90,3 % share of total <b>B(a)P</b> emissions          63 % share of total <b>BC</b> emissions</p> <p><b>2.</b> The assessment of air quality shows that Residential heating with solid fuel (coal and biomass) significantly contributes to the poor air quality, especially in locations where, due to the rugged orography of the territory, there are frequent temperature inversions in the winter.</p>

environment. Investments in insulation and replacement of boilers will be supported.

**2. Restore the house life** – a support scheme is being prepared.

**Educational measures**

Integrated project LIFE - Improvement of air quality - The main goal of the project is to contribute to the improvement of air quality in Slovakia through a series of measures, especially through the strengthening of capacities in the regions - positions of air quality managers. The project also deals with activities aimed at raising awareness and enlightenment, as well as complementary activities aimed at, for example, the exchange of old heating equipment or the support of ecological forms of transport.

**What is the main objective of the strategy, policy or measure? When has it been implemented/or will be implemented?**

*Please describe briefly what the measure attempts to achieve or what has been the result of its implementation. Please also describe since when it is being employed or for when its implementation is foreseen. Please explain whether implementation is/was immediate or gradual. [150 words max]*

The main goal of the adopted policy measures is to reduce PM and B(a)P emissions from residential heating, as these emissions significantly contribute to the poor air quality in many locations in Slovakia.

The aim of reducing air pollution from residential heating is:

1. reduction of the impacts of air pollution on the health of the population, since PM particles from combustion processes are among the pollutants with the highest impact on premature deaths in the Slovak Republic, and since they are carbon particles they also carry various carcinogenic substances.
2. reduction of BC emissions also due to the fact that it belongs to substances causing the greenhouse effect and participates in the melting of Arctic glaciers through long-distance transmission, thereby accelerating climate change.

Improving air quality can be achieved by promoting more efficient and better combustion devices for households, as well as by switching to more environmentally acceptable heat sources and introducing control of combustion devices in households.

**Background and driving forces:**

*Please explain briefly why this strategy, policy or measure was implemented; mention the driving forces for its introduction e.g. policy development, legislation (EU, national), action plans, voluntary, incentive, or other [150 words max]*

The air quality in some areas of Slovakia is not ideal due to the orographic division and meteorological influences, and in some cases the limit values for PM and B(a)P are exceeded. An important role in increasing the concentration of PM in the air is played by inefficient heating, especially the use of inadequate combustion devices in households and the burning of low-quality fuel, for example, non-dried wood, waste.

The driving force behind adopted policies and measures was:

- the need to improve air quality also due to the fact that the EU filed a infringement against Slovakia for exceeding the limit values for PM<sub>10</sub>
- EU policy – possible financing from **The recovery plan** and **The modernization fund**
- ensuring national commitments to reduce emissions for 2030.
- change in air protection legislation - adoption of new Act no. 146/2023 Coll. on air protection and amendments to some laws and their implementing regulations

An important step in the adoption of the new legislation was to find the political will to adopt these measures, such as the control of combustion devices in households.

**Description of the strategy, policy or measure:**

*Please explain briefly how the strategy, policy or measure works and why it has been chosen compared to other policies/measures. Please also explain how its implementation is being monitored. [200 words max]*

To solve the problem of air pollution by emissions from household heating systems, several measures were taken, including regulation, education and support for replacing boilers and insulation. The need to solve this problem from several sides emerged from the analysis, during which we found that there are several factors that cause this problem:

1. Energy poverty.
2. Lack of awareness about the harmfulness of emissions from solid fuels and about the correct way of heating.
3. Impunity for actions of irresponsible citizens.
4. Lack of motivation to replace the boiler.

The given problem cannot be solved with one measure. Therefore, we have introduced a set of measures so that each of these measures is focused on one of the factors that needs to be addressed. The financing scheme for the renovation of family houses also uses a synergistic effect with the policy to support energy efficiency.

**Costs, Funding and Revenue allocation:**

*Please state how much the implementation of the measure costs including its monitoring and how it is funded (national budget, industry, taxes, etc.) If the measure is creating revenue, please also explain how this revenue is being allocated and collected. [200 words max]*

Individual investments and reforms are financed from the resources of the Recovery and Resilience Plan as follows:

Support scheme : Restore the house - allocation 442 mil. €

The program IP LIFE- overall project ...15 mil. €

The indicative amount of funds allocated for the call within the Restore the House program ... 190 mil. EUR.

**Effect and impacts on air pollution abatement:**

*Please explain briefly the effect of the policy, strategy or measure and how it has impacted the abatement of air pollution. If impacts are known, please quantify, if possible. Please highlight also other effects of the implementation of the measure e.g. with regard to compliance, the acceptance of the measure or its transposition (e.g. from a voluntary to a regulatory or another type of measure). [150 words max]*

Around 2026, around 30,000 houses are expected to undergo a renovation that will lead to savings in emissions as well as energy by replacing inefficient heating plants.

**References/Further information:** *Please provide most relevant sources for information such as references for web links, books, other resources.*

<https://obnovdom.sk/o-programe.php>

<https://www.minzp.sk/life-2021-2027/>

<https://populair.sk>

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**Additional comments:** *Please include any additional information you may wish to provide here.*