




Manual for Area of Support: **Reducing the negative impact of human activities on air quality**



In order to keep our „**heart of Europe**“ healthy, it is necessary to protect it effectively and strategically.



## ***Air quality has long been a priority***

*„The Czech Republic, often called the „heart of Europe“, achieved considerable progress in improving air quality. But there is still struggling in many places to exceed the limit values for pollutants and it can have serious impacts on human health. In an unequal struggle, we face an invisible adversary who can spread regardless of the administrative organization of each country or its economic priorities. It is necessary to protect our air effectively and strategically in order to keep our „heart of Europe“ healthy. Before implementing concrete air protection measures, it is necessary to identify sources of pollution, their severity and environmental impacts.*

*Addressing problems related to air pollution has long been one of the main environmental policy priorities in the Czech Republic. Our country has already adopted its strategic plans to reduce pollution and many realistic measures and instruments have been applied to protect it. In many regions, however, the identification of the main sources of local pollution is still subject to intense debate, as there are so-called white spots on air monitoring maps. In order to be able to respond effectively to the individual needs of all localities, it is necessary to add these white spots in the monitoring, obtain the necessary data and propose effective measures for air quality protection at the local level. Therefore, our Programme offers the means to obtain relevant data on air pollution in your area and to implement selected measures that will help improve the quality of life of the population.*



***Addressing problems related to air pollution has long been one of the main environmental policy priorities in the Czech Republic.***

## Air Protection in the Norway Grants Programme

So far, projects focusing on air quality protection in the Czech Republic have been a rather minor type of project within the EEA and Norway Grants. The Environment, Ecosystems and Climate Change Programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) allocates **EUR 6 726 669** for this area under the Norway Grants 2014–2021. The focus of the projects was determined, based on a discussion with air quality experts in the Czech Republic.

Although air protection is one of the priority areas of many subsidy programs from recent years, there are many sites in the air pollution monitoring network for which data are only calculated and averaged from surrounding measurements. Within the Programme, we will support the implementation of monitoring in order to identify the main sources of pollution in the locality. Based on the data gathered from these measurements, the development of action plans proposing concrete measures will be supported. It will then be possible to obtain funds for the implementation of some of the measures proposed in these plans as part of the subsequent call.

A specific problem is air pollution caused by inadequate heating of households. In the Czech Republic, the problem of using unsuitable types of solid fuels as the primary energy source (approx. 44 % share) is also faced by municipalities in foothill areas. Especially in the autumn and winter months, the inhabitants of these municipalities face high concentrations of pollutants, and the overall adverse effect is often compounded by the surrounding relief. The program will provide the means to install monitoring sensors to identify the contribution of household pollution to total air pollution in a given location and to answer, for example, the question of how serious the problem is at the location and whether the supported measures so far have been effective.

The area of support is also supplemented by an allocation for raising public awareness of air pollution, suitable methods of heating and the need to implement measures identified in the action plans.

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**The aim of the Programme is to contribute to reducing of the negative impact of air pollution of the health of the population especially as regards exposure to suspended  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2,5}$  particles, benzo[a]pyrene,  $No_x$  or ground-level ozone.**

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## Basic information about the area of support

The second area of support of the Norway grants Programme focuses on **reducing the negative impact of human activities on air quality**. Within the first major open call, it will be possible to obtain funds for **monitoring air pollution**, especially in so-called „white-areas,“ which at the moment are not sufficiently covered by the monitoring network, or these measurements can help specifically identify the originators of specific sources of pollution in different parts of agglomerations or regions. These activities also include the development of **action plans** and the identification of appropriate measures to reduce air pollution. Under the second open call, it will be possible to raise funds to implement specific measures identified in these action plans. In case when the potential project promoters already have their action plan (or similar document) approved by the locally competent executive body, they can apply for support in the second call without having to perform a monitoring and prepare an action plan in the first call. Under a small grant scheme, it will be possible to obtain funds for the installation of **monitoring sensors** to help identify the impact of pollution from domestic heating in a given location. The second small grant scheme will provide funding for education and information campaigns on air protection.

### What is the project grant rate?

→ The grant assistance is provided up to 100 % of the total eligible expenditure of the project. The maximum amount of project grant within the call can be found on the following pages of this manual. Total allocation for this area of support: 6 726 669 EUR

### Who can apply for a grant?

Eligible beneficiaries are all entities of a private or public, commercial or non-commercial nature and non-governmental (non-governmental) non-profit organizations established in the Czech Republic as a legal entity. Due to its focus, support in the area is intended, inter alia, for:

- Representatives of public administration at regional or local level
- Representative of organizations dealing with air protection issues, including educational institutions
- Representatives of organization that manage significant unit of our territory

**Are you interested in applying for support?** Detailed information for applicants can be found at the text of each call on the website [www.sfzp.cz](http://www.sfzp.cz)

## What do we expect from your projects?

The area of support focuses on three basic types of projects. The first is **monitoring of air pollution using mobile devices and similar types of measurements** in order to determine the values of air pollution in a given locality and possibly to identify the cause of this pollution. Projects that will benefit from this call should focus primarily on locations where active measurements of air pollution have not yet been / are not being carried out or measurements are not carried out sufficiently or with adequate sensitivities. Similarly, the measurement may relate, for example, to urban agglomerations that are burdened with different types of pollution, whereby the measurement carried out makes it possible to identify the predominant components of the pollution. Based on the results of measurement will be created „action plan“, respectively a conceptual implementation document reflecting the results of this measurement and proposing appropriate measures to reduce this air pollution or reduce the negative impact of this pollution on human health and the environment.

In the context of the follow-up open call, it will be possible to raise funds for **the implementation of specific measures identified in these plans, or in other policy documents** that aim at protecting air quality and reducing air pollution. It should be primarily close to nature measures, such as planting of line insulating greenery, or other, mostly “green” measures, which will demonstrably contribute to the improvement of air quality in the locality concerned, or other (eg organizational) measures.

The third type of project that will be supported under a small grant scheme is activities focused on local air quality monitoring with respect to pollutants related to household heating. The call will support the installation of simplified air quality monitoring systems (eg by means of monitoring sensors), which, based on measurements and taking into account local conditions, can **assess the impact of households on air quality**. The aim of these measurements is to obtain background information for planning of information campaigns and other activities in the area of air protection in given localities or in case of already performed activities to verify their effectiveness.

Increasing public awareness is also an important part of all areas. In this case, these are **educational and information projects** focused on the issue of air protection and air pollution. Examples include educational projects for the public and schools focusing on the right ways of heating households, preventing smog situations, the impact of deteriorated air quality on human health, etc.

Within the Programme preference is given to such measures that bring new innovative solutions to environmental problems and have the potential to serve as examples of good practice in the Czech Republic, Norway or other countries.





It is not visible, but you can't live without it: clean air. Wondering what its quality is in your area? What causes its contamination?

We will provide you with the means **to monitor and develop an action plan.**

# Call 2a: Monitoring and identification of the main sources of air pollution in the regions and creation of action plans to improve air quality

Open Call

<b>Total allocation:</b>	<b>2 500 000 EUR</b>
<b>Expected date of announcement:</b>	<b>the first half of 2020</b>
<b>Minimum and maximum project grant:</b>	<b>200 000–750 000 EUR</b>

## What key will we use to evaluate the submitted applications

In particular, the following groups of criteria will be considered when evaluating and selecting projects:

- Link to European or national air protection documents
- Territorial scope and impacts of monitoring
- Nature and effectiveness of the proposed measures
- Cost and efficiency
- Bilateral, possibly other international cooperation
- Conditions of sustainability of the implemented measures
- Innovative approach and transfer of good practice examples

## What mandatory indicators do you must follow in your project?

- Number of sites where the main source of pollution has been identified
- Number of newly created air quality action plans

### And in the case of action plans we will also be interested in:

- Number of new measures identified (in action/strategic plans) to improve air quality

## Supported measures:

- Conducting a temporary (mobile) air quality monitoring at regional or local level to identify the prevalent type of air pollution, including relevant concentrations and to identify the source of the air pollution
- Evaluation of data obtained from temporary (mobile) monitoring
- Subsequent elaboration and preparation of “action plans” for air quality improvement, which are part of the Air Quality Improvement Program (issued by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic) and contain proposals for further measures. Or elaboration and preparation of similar documents with proposals of appropriate measures, which will take into account the results of the performed monitoring and thus contribute to the improvement of the detected state of pollution.





**Funds for the implementation  
of measures proposed**

in the action plans can be obtained  
from the Programme's resources.



# Call 2b: Implementation of selected measures identified in adopted air protection action plans

Open Call

<b>Total allocation:</b>	<b>2 926 669 EUR</b>
<b>Expected date of announcement:</b>	<b>the first half of 2022</b>
<b>Minimum and maximum project grant:</b>	<b>200 000–750 000 EUR</b>

## What key will we use to evaluate the submitted applications?

In particular, the following group of criteria will be considered when evaluating and selecting projects:

- Link to the action plan and other air protection documents
- Evaluation of the implemented measure in terms of economic, environmental, social, technological and possibly other benefits
- Innovative approach and transfer of good practice examples
- Cost and efficiency
- Conditions of sustainability of the implemented measures
- Bilateral, possibly other international cooperation

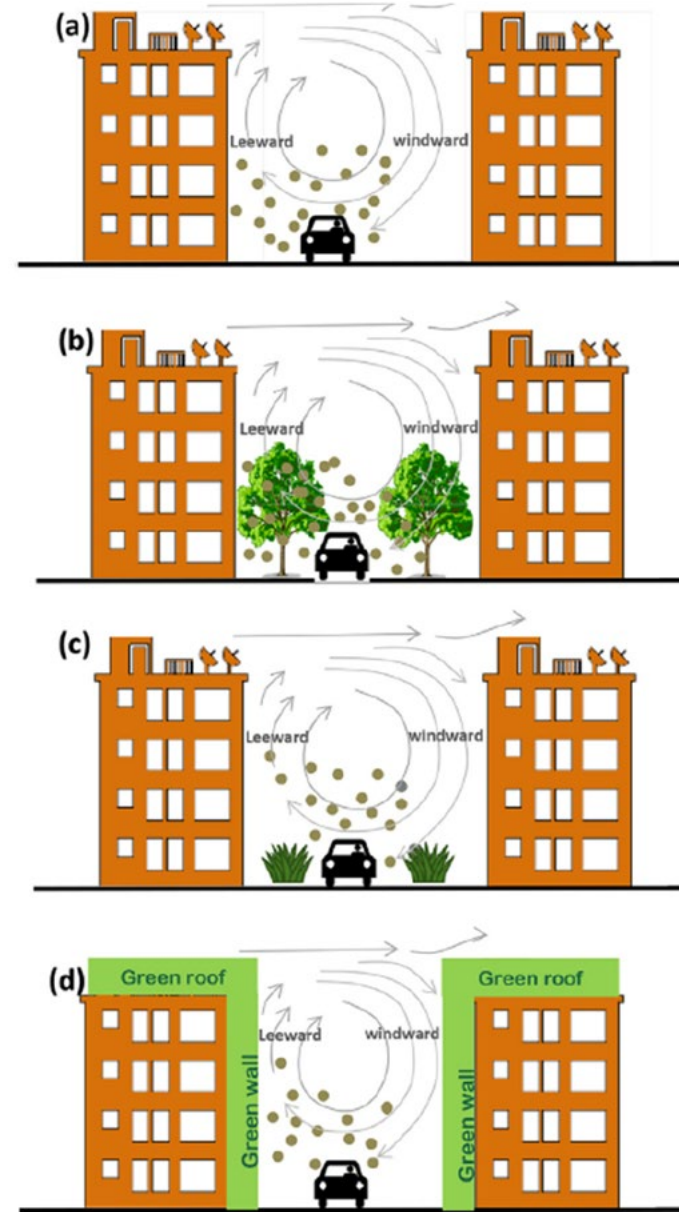
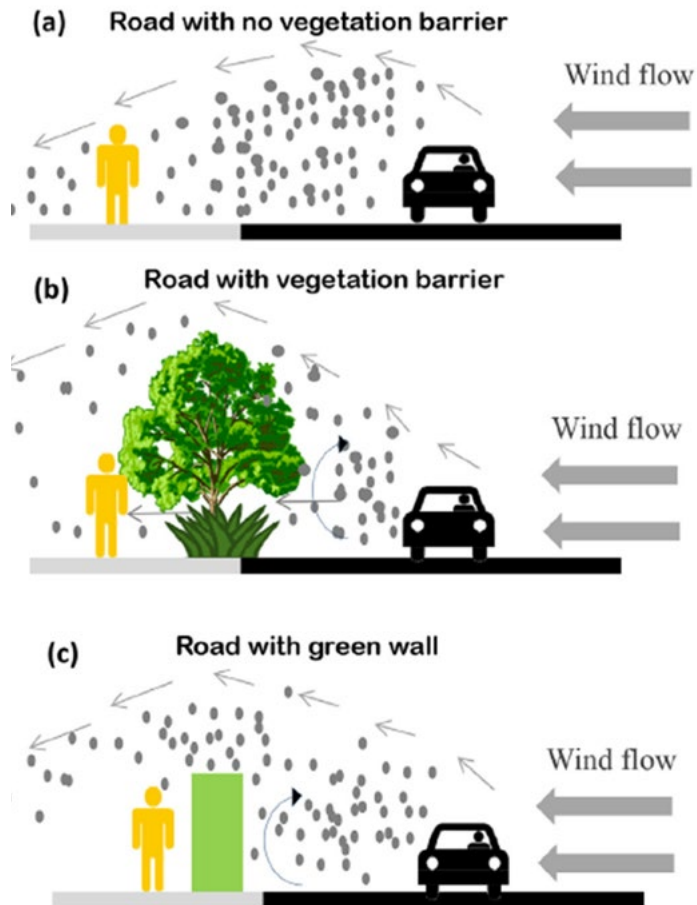
## What mandatory indicators do you have to follow in your project?

- Number of people who benefit from the measures applied to improve air quality
- Number of municipalities that implemented measures to improve air quality

## Supported measures:

- Linear elements of green infrastructure that significantly contribute to the favourable dispersion and flow of pollutants, including green elements to reduce noise and dust (eg in playgrounds, etc.)
- Acquisition and implementation of green elements of modern construction (a significant part of which are living vegetation), which significantly contribute to the favourable dispersion and flow of pollutants, including the reduction of noise and dust, excluding unrelated building modifications
- Support for other landscape elements of green infrastructure that cannot be supported by the Operational Program Environment and which have proven benefits in terms of reducing air pollutants
- Territorial study of low emission zones

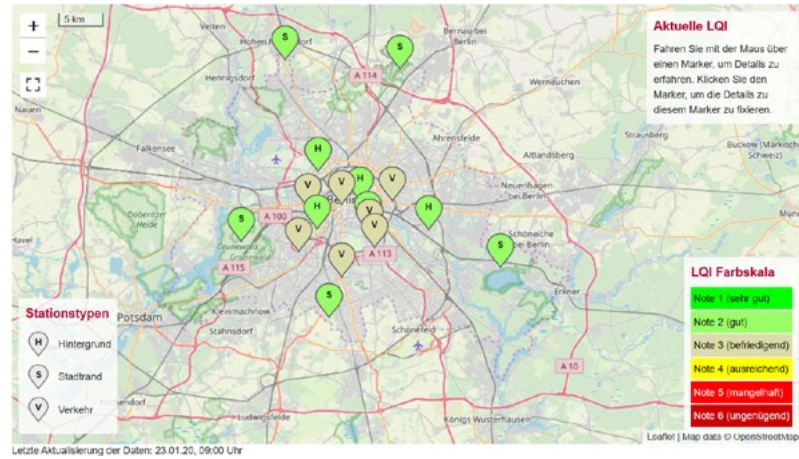
## What can the implemented measures look like?





## Example of air monitoring in Berlin

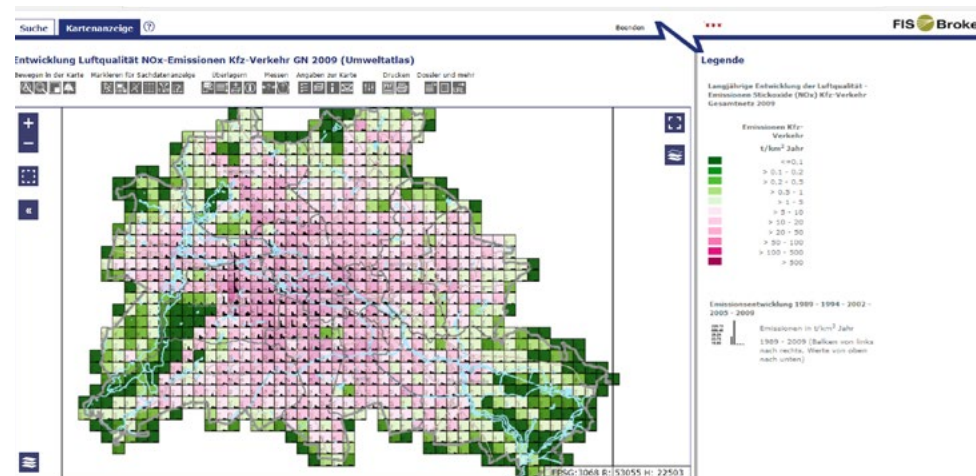
Current air quality index



Area of low emission zone



Yearly averages map (2009 NO<sub>x</sub> example in Berlin)



A photograph of a residential neighborhood in winter. The houses have snow-covered roofs, and many chimneys are emitting thick plumes of white smoke that rise into the air. The scene is set against a clear, bright sky. In the foreground, a white semi-transparent box contains text.

We will help to **identify the share of household pollution in total air pollution in a given locality** and to answer the question of how serious a problem there is.



# SGS\* 2d: Monitoring and identification of local pollution caused by local fireplaces

Small grant scheme

<b>Total allocation:</b>	<b>1 000 000 EUR</b>
<b>Expected date of announcement:</b>	<b>spring 2021</b>
<b>Minimum and maximum project grant:</b>	<b>10 000–100 000 EUR</b>

## What key will we use to evaluate the submitted applications?

In particular, the following groups of criteria will be considered when evaluating and selecting projects:

- Technical solution proposal, incl. methods of evaluation and further processing of the obtained measurement data
- Territorial scope and impact of the proposed monitoring
- Link to other air protection measures (sustainability) innovative approach and transfer of good practice examples
- Longevity and sustainability of the proposed measures
- Bilateral, possibly other international cooperation

## What mandatory indicators do you must follow in your project?

- Number of air quality monitoring systems in place for home heating

## Supported measures:

- Acquisition and installation of air quality sensors for the purpose of local monitoring with an emphasis on the issue of domestic heating (so-called local heating) (*Note: the performance of air quality sensor measurements shall be simultaneously verified by reference measurements*)
- Provision of medium-term local air quality measurement with an emphasis on domestic heating issues
- Acquisition and installation of accompanying information equipment (including software) enabling recording and providing of acquired data from the performed measurements

\* SGS – Small Grant Scheme.





**Education and enlightenment**  
to the public are essential  
a prerequisite for success.

# SGS\* 2c/2e: Raising public awareness and capacity building on local air pollution issues and implementing action plans / the right way to heat households, appropriate types of fuels and the necessary maintenance of fireplaces

Small grant scheme

<b>Total allocation:</b>	<b>300 000 EUR</b>
<b>Expected date of announcement:</b>	<b>spring 2020</b>
<b>Minimum and maximum project grant:</b>	<b>5 000–50 000 EUR</b>

## What key will we use to evaluate the submitted applications?

In particular, the following groups of criteria will be considered when evaluating and selecting projects:

- Numbers of directly and indirectly addressed participants
- Range and quality of media outputs
- Professional contribution
- Innovative approach and transfer of good practice examples
- Cost and efficiency
- Short / long term benefits of promotional activities

## What mandatory indicators do you must follow in your project?

- Number of information and capacity education campaigns created
- Number of people who have received training
- Number of people affected by the information campaign
- Number of people in the target area who have increased their knowledge of air quality and air quality improvement measures

## Supported measures

- Carrying out information campaigns and informing the public about the benefits of implemented measures in terms of air protection
- Organization of seminars and workshops on air protection
- Preparation and publication of professional and information media outputs on the issue of air protection
- School projects

\* SGS – Small Grant Scheme.

## **Bilateral aspect within the area of support**

Cooperation with entities from Norway or other countries is a welcome added value of all projects. Whether it is cooperation in sharing some of the results of the air quality monitoring carried out, as well as transferring examples of good practice to find appropriate measures to tackle air pollution at the local level. Their long-term experience in transboundary air pollution transmission, where the originator of the pollution lies outside Norway, can serve for bilateral cooperation with Norwegian entities. Many foreign entities, including potential Norwegian partners, also have experience **with the use of monitoring sensors** to verify the impact of pollution at the local level or to implement specific **measures to reduce the negative impact of air pollution**, often using elements close to nature.

There is also room for cooperation in the case of a small grant scheme to raise awareness of air protection. Examples include joint projects for Czech and Norwegian educational institutions. Alternatively, you can be inspired by successful information campaigns in other countries that have been or are facing similar issues.



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If you have any questions or concerns regarding this area of support, please send your question to [norwaygrants@sfzp.cz](mailto:norwaygrants@sfzp.cz).



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