

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### The Citizens of Tuzla have a Right to Know! (City of Tuzla)

*Implemented by NGO The Center for Ecology and Energy (CEETZ)*

*Implementation period: Dec 2005-Nov 2006*

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#### Project background



The project is working with the air quality monitoring system in the city of Tuzla. There are five air quality monitoring stations in and around Tuzla, and the media reported only once a month about the air quality level. In cases of critical air pollution levels, special announcements are not made to alert the public nor are special measures taken to safeguard public health. The scope of the project is to achieve a change in this matter, more concretely: to have day to day dissemination of the data, to deliver them in a user friendly format to the community and that legal measure can be taken when pollution exceeds the limits set by the permits of the industrial operators.

#### Activities implemented

- Several meetings of the Working Group formed from representatives of the Public Health Institute, the University of Tuzla, Ministry of Urban Planning and Environmental Protection and the NGOs were held to discuss the methods of improving the information dissemination.
- A questionnaire that assessed local awareness about the problem and its possible solutions was disseminated to 600 people randomly in Tuzla.
- Capacity building workshop was held and attended by representatives of different authorities and locals during which active and passive information dissemination issues were addressed and new format of information delivery that was previously discussed in WG was further distilled.
- Eye catching street campaigns and continuous media campaigns ensure that the locals awareness is increased about their possibility to access information and ask for measures to be taken when limits are exceeded.
- As an effect of the project, currently there are daily announcements on the TV and webpage of the Canton Government. The Ministry agreed about regular daily announcement, they also will develop instructions about reporting. The Ministry also prepared a statement about taking measures for air quality and initiated operative office meetings during extraordinary situations. They also support the idea of getting aromatic CH stations.
- The working group proposed AQI system of presenting the results of air monitoring which was not accepted by the ministry but the idea of presenting the pollution levels using different with colors was accepted and implemented which is positive change.

- Billboards that were posted were covering the progress of the project and called upon citizens to get engaged into activities, check air related information and give their opinion.
- Agreement was reached with the cantonal ministry to take initiatives and implement measures for improving air quality for example introducing measuring gases from traffic.

### **Final result and outcomes**

Using an approach where the relevant authorities were organic parts of the process, initiation of changes was based on a cooperative environment where both the NGOs, public and relevant local and regional authorities put time and energy.

Several relevant changes were achieved with regard to how information is presented to the public, improving both on regularity as well as its delivery form using colors. Members of the general public were reached about this changes via media coverage, radio jingles and their attention was also attracted on the air pollution issues by the street campaigns. A breakthrough is to be considered that the cantonal ministry initiation of the meetings for extraordinary situations, supporting the process of purchasing CH stations as well as introducing measurements for traffic emissions.

Follow the success of the activities duplication of the process and approach was initiated in the neighboring Lukavac municipality