

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CITIES AIR QUALITY PLANS

The *Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans* provides cities with very useful hands-on guidance for drafting and implementing Air Quality Plans, in compliance with EU Ambient Air Quality legislation. It is a smart tool to bring the Partnership's vision of a 'Healthy city' to the light. The Code is one of the deliverables of *Action 2 - Better Air Quality Planning (Governance)* of the Action Plan of the Urban Agenda Partnership for Air Quality.

Air pollution is one of the main environmental concerns in Europe, especially in urban areas where three quarters of Europeans live. Poor air quality in cities is associated with significant negative health effects, which lead to huge societal and economic costs, and to about 400'000 premature deaths every year. The Urban Agenda Partnership for Air Quality was set up to help find solutions to face and overcome that terrible challenge.

Ambient Air Quality Directive (Dir. 2008/50/EC) introduced **Air Quality Plans (AQPs)** as compulsory for zones or agglomerations within which concentrations of pollutants in ambient air exceed Limit or Target values for the protection of human health. Through AQPs local authorities must set out appropriate, cost-effective measures to achieve compliance with air quality Limit or Target values, while keeping the period of exceedance 'as short as possible'.

Developing and implementing an AQP is not an easy task. The Urban Agenda Partnership for Air Quality found that many of the difficulties that cities are encountering could be solved thanks to the **knowledge and experiences gathered from other cities having already successfully designed and implemented AQPs**. Likewise, such knowledge can be **a real game changer for cities having to choose the relatively most effective measures for their AQP**. These are the reasons that spurred the Partnership to invest in the preparation of the Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans.

The Code provides useful **guidance to facilitate local decision-making, improve the efficiency of air quality measures selection and governance, and ultimately help cities improve public health, while safeguarding compliance with EU legislation**. The Code also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals settled by the United Nations for the 2030 Agenda.

With **user-friendly explanations, inspiring examples, and countless hands-on tips**, the Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans is **a unique companion for guiding urban authorities through every step of the process of designing and organizing an AQP**. A list of success factors and recommendations is given for the governance of the AQP. The Code also includes an overview of available state-of-the-art methodologies and tools to perform the assessments needed for the AQP strategy development. Each topic starts with references to the applicable legislation and with the description of required elements and tasks. An analysis of examples of good practices from selected EU cities AQPs completes most of the sections. Some examples of fully EU compliant AQPs and air quality measures are also presented in appendix.

The *Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans* has been **jointly developed by the Members of the Urban Agenda Partnership for Air Quality** in more than one year of intense cooperation. It combines their knowledge, competences and experiences on the field. Although the Code is not intended to be a fully exhaustive manual, it provides a practical source of inspiration for cities that want to manage air quality issues and at the same time generates multiple benefits for their citizens, the ecosystem and the economy.

The *Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans* will be **available for free download on Futurium** <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/air-quality> from December 2018. Stay tuned!