

th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

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Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of priority axis 5 «Improvement of ambient air quality» of OP «Environment» 2014- 2020



Ministry of Environment and Water (Bulgaria), Managing Authority of Operational Programme Environment 2014- 2020

FUND COVERED

- ▶ CF

PROGRAMMING PERIOD

- ▶ 2014-2020

PROGRAMME COVERED

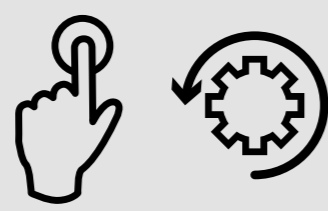
- ▶ Operational Programme Environment

THEMATIC OBJECTIVE

- ▶ TO6. Environment and resource efficiency

TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ impact, process/implementation



YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2020

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To provide an independent analysis of the implementation of PA 5 “Improvement of the Ambient Air Quality” of OPE 2014-2020. The evaluation answered predefined evaluation questions, structured as follows: relevance of support, effectiveness of delivery of results; efficiency of implementation; and application of financial instruments.

Some of the questions are:

- ▶ Are the procedures relevant to the specific needs of the beneficiaries?
- ▶ Are there critical factors that could negatively affect the implementation and effectiveness of interventions?
- ▶ Is there a need for corrective actions in the procedures and in the implementation of the interventions?
- ▶ What are the main difficulties in applying financial instruments?

METHODOLOGY USED

Intervention logic analysis; indicator analysis; financial performance analysis, efficiency analysis (cost/results (benefits)).

DATA SOURCES

Programme monitoring system; desk research, meetings with stakeholders, online survey among beneficiaries, a focus group.

MAIN FINDINGS

The Strategy of Priority axis 5 of OP Environment 2014-2020 correctly defines and addresses the needs associated with the pollution of ambient air with Particulate Matter, a major problem in many municipalities in the country.

The largest direct effect is expected from the investment measures for the replacement of solid fuel heating devices with lower emission heating alternatives in seven municipalities (Burgas, Vidin, Dimitrovgrad, Montana, Plovdiv, Smolyan and Sofia Municipality). Compared to the measures targeting domestic heating, the support to address the public transport has a smaller direct contribution to reducing

Particulate Matter emissions. However, these measures also impact indirectly the ambient air quality through the reduction of the usage of private cars and consequently, the pollution generated by them (including the secondary pollution by the re-emissions from the road surface).

CONCLUSIONS

Information and educational measures as one of the keys for the successful implementation of measures to improve the air quality. They will be directed both to general public and to specific target groups such as citizens in the municipalities with poor air quality, youth and students.

The change in citizens’ mindframe is crucial for a change in their overall attitude and behavior to the problems of air quality. People’s awareness that investments in clean air are investments in their families’ health and in a better quality of life will stimulate the phasing out of solid fuel heaters and high-emission diesel cars and hence, the shift to ecofriendly options provided by OP Environment through the Cohesion fund.

