

## **A report on the progress aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ratification of the protocols to the Convention**

Georgia became a party of the UNECE 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution from 1999. From its 8 protocols Georgia ratified only the first Protocol (EMEP) in February 2013.

As a party of CLRTAP, Georgia intends to ratify last three Protocols and therefore fulfill their obligations. Collaboration of National Action Plan is necessary to develop this process efficiently. Hence, under the framework of EU project - Air Quality Governance in ENPI East Countries, one of the main priorities has been identified to assess capacity of Georgia for joining the CLRTAP protocols and meeting corresponding commitments.

“Air Quality Governance” project includes 3 regional and one national pilot project for each country. These projects intend to improve air quality in partner countries with implementation of contemporary European methods and practice. “Assessment and enhancement of national capacities for joining Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) protocols and meeting corresponding commitments” is one of the regional pilot projects (RPP1), which spreads over Moldova with three Caucasian countries. In the framework of RPP1, was done a National Action Plan in order to ratify and implement the fulfill obligations of the CLRTAP Protocols.

The preparation work was very important to create an effective plan, which would foresee real situation in Georgia, its weak and strong sides, risks and abilities and possible costs and benefits linked with ratification of the Protocols. On the base of results and with a close co-operation to stakeholders has been chosen the most optimal scenario - to ratify all three protocols (Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Protocol on Heavy Metals) by the end of 2019 year. In the document there are requirements of the protocols, current state, the process of creation NAP and its aims, tasks and subtasks.

It should be mentioned that Georgia has been already initialed EU Georgia Association Agreement (AA) in which Environment has one chapter. Therefore Georgia intends to harmonize national legislation with EU regulations. The requirements of CLRTAP Protocols are integrated in the EU legislative sphere. It would be better for Georgia to synchronize the process of ratification and fulfillments of the CLRTAP Protocols obligations with the process of harmonization national legislation with EU standards in air quality management sphere. Hence, Georgia has decided to create “National Action Plan for Implementation of the EU Harmonization plan in the field of air quality governance and meeting corresponding international obligations” under the framework of EU project “Air Quality Governance” (Second Regional Pilot Project - RPP2).

Under the project has been assessed the current state in the field of air quality management and collaborated Road Map. Now is being taken place the final phase of the project – preparation of National Action Plan, which includes detailed activities and tasks, dates and probable budget to realize the NAP.

In Georgia, the air quality monitoring system is not developed enough. Therefore, for National Pilot Project (NPP) under “Air Quality Governance” Project, has been identified “Feasibility Study of Introduction of Air Quality Monitoring System in Georgia”. Under the project is being prepared the program to develop air quality monitoring system in accordance with EU standards. This program will give us information regarding monitoring stations – what kind and how many stations are necessary for Georgia, where should they place, which pollutants should be monitored by each station, and how much financial and human resources are enough to develop the monitoring system.

According to this program, the rehabilitation of the monitoring network will be done step by step. It can be said that this process has already started. By the end of this year our Ministry intends to purchase one automatic monitoring station. Next year with the support of Japanese government is intended to modernize 3 non automatic monitoring stations in Tbilisi. On the base of the Pilot Project results will be placed above mentioned stations.

And finally, I would like to highlight that air pollution in Georgian urban area comes from transport sector mainly. Air pollution from this sector is depended on several factors. To solve this problem complex co-working of different governmental bodies is needed. On the initiative of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia has been created governmental commission. Commission created state program on “Reduction of environment pollution from transport sector in Georgia”. The program includes: renovation of car park with improvement of excise tax system, improvement of fuel quality and introduction of its control system, reduction of number of cars and traffic, optimization of transport flows and further development of public transport system, improvement of public awareness etc. This program is being developed and hopefully it will be approved and asserted by the government until the end of the year.