

2. Air Quality

OVERVIEW

Monitoring system data availability is reducing year after year. This is putting in doubt the achievements in better air quality. Some progress was made in drafting document with the aim to improve air quality, but no progress was made when it comes to the adoption or implementation of the documents.

RATIONALE

There have been improvements since 2014 in **air quality** in 2 out of 8 agglomerations in Serbia.

The annual update of air quality⁹ showed that three of Serbia's eight urban agglomerations fall into air quality category III, exceeding the margin of tolerance of several pollutants. Improvements have been noted since 2014 in air quality in two agglomerations: Belgrade (from category III (over-polluted) to category II (moderately polluted)), and Kosjerić (from category II (moderately polluted) to category I (clean to slightly polluted)). However, there has been reduction in operational air quality monitoring carried out in 2014 in comparison to previous years. Majority of the monitoring system missing in the analysis are from agglomeration Belgrade.

Draft **Air quality plans** for Belgrade entered public consultations.

Public participation in the process lasted 2 weeks. That period is completely inadequate to allow proper assessment of a 170-page document that represents the action plan for better air quality. Such a process hampers the comprehensive participation of the public in environmental decision-making. Moreover, to date, draft air quality plan for Belgrade has not been adopted. It cannot be determined with certainty what the barriers in the adaptation of the plan are.

Due to the obligations under the Energy Community Treaty Serbia has started work on a National Emission Reduction Plan (**NERP**) for its power sector, in order to achieve nationwide emission reduction. It is reported that NERP is submitted to Energy Community Secretariat.

Full functioning Air quality monitoring systems need to assure the full functioning in order to provide unbiased data for air quality in the country.

Speeding up, ensuring transparency and public participation in the process of adopting Air quality plans for Belgrade and other cities urgently need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Air quality monitoring systems need to be improved, particularly in agglomerations such as Belgrade.
- ✓ Transparent public participation needs to become a priority.

⁹“Kvalitet vazduha u Republici Srbiji 2014. godine” <http://www.sepa.gov.rs/download/VAZDUH2014.pdf>