

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE for CITIES AIR QUALITY PLANS

The Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans provides guidelines for cities in drafting and implementing of Air Quality Plans, in order to fulfil with EU Ambient Air Quality legislation and to realize the 'Healthy city.' This guidance is one of the resulting products of the *Action 2 - Better Air Quality Planning (Governance)* of the Partnership for Air Quality under the umbrella of the European Urban Agenda.

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 health effects which lead to huge societal and economic costs and to find solutions is one of the greater challenges.

Ambient Air Quality Directive (Dir. 2008/50/EC) introduced Air Quality Plans 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. By mean of the Air Quality Plan 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*'.

The work of the Partnership for Air Quality has allowed identifying issues of concern for many cities relating to the development and implementation of their Air Quality Plan (AQP). Notably, it has been found that access to knowledge and experiences on processes of preparing AQP from front-runner cities having already designed and implemented AQP is often crucial to avoid inefficiencies. Furthermore, knowledge of best practices in the selection, design, funding, and implementation of air quality measures is essential to facilitate the choice of the relatively most effective measures for the AQP. These are the motivations for drafting the Code of good practice for Cities Air Quality Plans.

The support given by the Code would facilitate local decision making, improve understanding and create uniformity in Air Quality plans, safeguard compliance with EU legislation and help cities bring down concentrations of air pollutants and thus improve public health by mean of appropriate measures. The adoption of an effective AQP lets also achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals settled by United Nations for the 2030 Agenda.

The Code describes the standard content of an AQP starting from mandatory elements required by the Dir. 2008/50/EC and contains schemes and suggestions to organize a smart process of drafting and implementing it for cities authorities. A list of successful factors and recommendations are given for the related governance. A specific section reports the state of the art for methodologies and tools available to perform the assessments needed for developing the strategy of the AQP. Each topic starts with references to the legislation, with citation of the related articles of directives and the description of required elements and tasks. An analysis of good practice examples selected from some EU cities Air quality Plans complete different topic sections. In Annexes some examples of AQPs fully in compliance with Directive 2008/50/EC provisions and of Air Quality measures successfully adopted are presented.

The Code of Good Practice is being developed in more than one year of work with the cooperation of the Members of the Partnership Air Quality, joining forces, competences and experiences.

The Code of is not intended to be a fully exhaustive guidance but the Partnership is sure that it can help in the practical work and that it can be a source of inspiration for cities that want to manage air quality issues and at the same time create multiple benefits for their citizens, ecosystems and economy.

The Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans will be available starting from December 2018 on the Futurium Platform <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/air-quality>....Please stay tuned!