

Conference on air quality

How can cities address air pollution?

7 April 2022, 10 a.m.

- **Venue:** Hall Slaveykov, French Institute, 3 sq. Slaveykov, Sofia
- **Format:** Conference with online participation for some of the speakers
- **Online viewing:** Streaming of the conference
- **Participants on-site:** municipalities, NGOs, schools.
- **Registration:** please click [here](#)
- **Objectives:**
 - **Recognize the challenges ahead:** The conference will give an overview of the air pollution situation in Bulgaria, including compliance with the EU rules and effects on public health and the environment.
 - **Provide stakeholders with the latest information:** The association of Bulgarian municipal environment experts will present exclusive data and analysis on the needs of Bulgarian municipalities and their recent actions against air pollution.
 - **Propose solutions:** The conference will provide recommendations to municipalities (as well as public authorities and citizens) on how they can tackle air pollution and help raise the awareness on the issue. Environmental experts and civil society organizations will provide examples of good practices that can be implemented at the local level.
 - **Inspire closer international cooperation:** The conference will act as a bridge between key actors with extensive experience in fighting air pollution from France, Bulgaria and other European countries.
- **Moderator:** Ms Desislava Stoikova, legal advisor, National Association of the Municipalities of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Target audience**
 1. All Bulgarian municipalities, especially the ones that are most concerned by air pollution
 2. French and European cities concerned by air pollution
 3. Professionals involved in air quality in Bulgaria: health professionals, environmental experts, NGOs, enterprises
 4. Educators, teachers and schools who want to raise awareness about air pollution in Bulgaria
 5. Public institutions (in Bulgaria and Europe) responsible for acting against air pollution
 6. The general public in Bulgaria
- **Language:** Bulgarian / French (with simultaneous translation)



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PROGRAM

9:30 – 10:00 Registration and welcome coffee

Opening speeches

10:00 – 10:05 H.E. Florence Robine, French Ambassador in Bulgaria

10:05 – 10:10 Mr Nikolai Sidjimov, Vice-Minister of Environment and Water

10:10 – 10:15 Ms Desislava Stoikova, representative of National Association of the municipalities in Republic of Bulgaria

❖ Panel 1: The challenges ahead (50 min.)

10:15 – 10:30

The health aspects of air pollution, including a study about local effects of air pollution on healthcare utilization in Sofia, by Dr Alexandar Simidchiev, pulmonologist, founder and head of 'Air 4 Health'

10:30 – 10:45

The challenges of National Air quality policy in the context of the Climate goal for 55% decrease of CO2 to 2030

Representative of the Directorate "Protection of the Air Quality", Ministry of Environment and Water) (TBC)

10:45 – 11:00

Financing for municipal air quality policies in the period 2022-2027.

Representative of the General Directorate 'Operational Programme Environment', Ministry of Environment and Water (TBC)

11:00 – 11:15

The smoky road to clean air in Bulgaria by Mr Ivaylo Hlebarov, leader of the clean air team at the environmental association Za Zemiata

11:15 – 11:30

The needs of Bulgarian cities in dealing with air pollution: results from the latest survey by Assya Dobrudjalieva, Chairperson of the Board of Bulgarian Association of municipal environmental experts ASEKOB

11:30 – 12:00

Panel Discussion + Q&A

❖ Panel 2: Examples of practices improving air quality (1h)

12:00 – 12:15

Examples from Bulgaria: the experience of Sofia Municipality and the progress of OP Environment and LIFE projects (TBC)

12:15 – 12:30

Examples from France: by Paris Air Agency 'Airparif' or by CITEPA (French Agency for Air Quality) (*online connection*) (TBC)



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12:30 – 12:45

Presentation from Poland: Assessment of the Polish government's programme against air pollution by Mr Aldo Vargas Tetmajer, coordinator of the [national URBACT point](#) (*online connection*)

12:45 – 13:00

Presentation by Junior Achievement Bulgaria: 'Solving environmental issues from an early age - raising awareness and changing mindsets through education' by Evgenia Nestorova (educational initiatives in coal-transition regions and student entrepreneurs improving air quality)

13:00-13:15

Panel Discussion + Q&A



13:15 – 13:25

Closing remarks



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