



## Life IP "Implementation of Air Quality Plan for the Lesser Poland Region – the Lesser Poland Voivodship in a healthy atmosphere [Poland]"

### Context

The LIFE programme finances innovative ideas concerned with environmental protection in Europe, including integrated projects, which have become the fundamental element of widespread strategies for environmental protection. The project coordinated by the Lesser Poland Voivodship engages 62 partners. Its main goal is the implementation of solutions aimed at increasing air quality which were proposed in the Program for Air Protection for the Lesser Poland Voivodship.

### Description and Main Objectives

The main goal of the LIFE IP project is the implementation of the assumptions of the air quality plan for the Lesser Poland Voivodship. The project is the first of its kind in Poland, making it one of the few countries engaged in such an initiative. Integrated projects are still a new practice even in Europe. In Poland the implementation of air quality plans is at a negligible level. The LIFE project challenges the main barriers opposing the implementation of remedial actions possibly leading to increased resident awareness and air quality.

### Implementation Strategy and Outcomes

The LIFE IP project engaged the local authorities of the Lesser Poland Voivodship and it was targeted at the residents. The project's approval was sought as part of a technical support project. The integrated LIFE IP Lesser Poland Voivodship project was chosen for co-financing as the best of the 39 submitter, with only 5 projects receiving financing. The main goal of the project was achieving national and European Union air quality targets.

The following actions were taken to achieve the project goals:

- A net of Eco-advisors was hired in order to educate the residents on the proposed solutions, motivate them to engage in the project and acquire external funding for initiatives limiting pollutant emission.
- Counselling concerning the most effective ways of limiting pollutant emission and ways of financing related investments was provided for the Voivodship residents.
- A Centre of Competence was created on the regional level in order to provide trainings and knowledge for all local governments, which should aid the local communities in realizing environmental activities.



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- The theoretical and administrative support was increased for Krakow residents wishing to exchange old boilers for new, energy efficient ones and engage in initiatives supporting energy efficient solutions.
- An interregional database of emission sources was created for the Lesser Poland Voivodship, the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic.

## Time Frame and Financing

The project started in October 2015 and is supposed to last until the end of 2023. The predicted total cost of the project amounts to 17 mln EUR. The European Union LIFE Programme and the Voivodship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Krakow will co-finance 60% of the project. The beneficiary's own input will cover approximately 40% of the predicted costs.

## Contacts & Links

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