

Coordination between national institutions and LSGs for air quality planning in North Macedonia

Aneta Stefanovska, Head of air quality monitoring unit

Ministry of environment and physical planning



Ohrid, 8-9 November 2023

Legislation



2008/50/EC

Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air in Europe

2004/107/EC

Directive relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air

2015/1480/EC

amending several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC has not been yet transposed in national legislation

- **Law on Environment**
- **Law on Ambient Air Quality**
- **16 sub-legislation acts**
 - Limit values on air quality;
 - Methodology on monitoring of ambient air quality;
 - Limit values on emissions;
 - Emission measurement methods from stationary sources;
 - Methodology for managing a Cadaster of polluters
 - Types and content of planning documents;
 - ...

National legislation




Law on ambient air quality


(Official Gazette of RM No. 67/04, 92/07, 35/10, 47/11, 59/12, 163/13, 10/15, 146/2015, 151/2021)

Chapter IV. Ambient air quality management

Subchapter 2. Planning the protection of the ambient air quality



National plan for ambient air protection of the ambient air of the Republic of Macedonia



National program for gradual reduction of emissions of certain polluting substances at the level of the Republic of Macedonia



Plan to improve ambient air quality



Short-term action plan for the protection of ambient air



National air quality plans



- National plan for ambient air protection for the period 2013-2017
- National program for gradual reduction of emissions of certain polluting substances at the level of the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2012-2020
- Plan for clean air 2018
 - Air pollution reduction programs for 2019, 2020 and 2020
- New National plans will be developed within the project "Support the implementation of air quality directives", which according to current estimates should be implemented in the period 2024-2026.



Air quality plans



Law on ambient air quality

Article 26 и 27

- Air quality plan and content of the Plan

Article 63 и 64 и Article 28

- Financing the air quality improvement measures on central and local level



Air quality plans

Rulebook on the detailed content and manner of preparation of the plan for ambient air quality improvement (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 148/14).

1.	Introduction
2.	General information for the municipality
3.	Relevant legislation
4.	Connection with the other strategic document
5.	Air quality assessment
6.	Identification of emission sources
7.	General conclusions and identification of critical pollutants
8.	Measures for protection and air quality improvement



Air quality plans



Article 26

(1) In zones and agglomerations, where the levels of polluting substances in the ambient air exceed the limit or target values, as well as any relevant margin of tolerance, an Air Quality Plan is drawn up for those zones and agglomerations, in order to achieve appropriate limit or target value determined by the by-laws

(2) The body of the state administration responsible for carrying out work in the area of the environment once a year, no later than March 31 in the current year, publishes a list of zones and agglomerations, where exceedances of paragraph (1) of this article were found in the previous year, including municipalities, i.e. the City of Skopje, in whose area exceedances were determined according to the ambient air quality assessment.



Air quality plans



Responsibilities for preparation of air quality plans

- The municipalities, i.e. the City of Skopje, which are determined by the list from Article 26 paragraph (2)
- Municipalities whose territories have more than 35,000 inhabitants, regardless of whether there are exceedances from paragraph (2) of Article 26



Air quality plans



- **Adopted**

- Agglomeration of Skopje region (2017-2021), Tetovo (2017-2021), Bitola (2012-2016, 2022-2026), Veles (2018-2022), Strumica (2019-2023), Kumanovo (2022-2026), Kavadarci (2022-2026), Gostivar (2022-2026)

- **Produced and expected to be adopt**

- Kicevo, Kocani

- **Preparation and improvement**

- Veles, Ohrid, Prilep, Struga, Shtip, Gevgelija (Environmental Investment programme for 2022)
- Kavadarci, Strumica, Struga, Gostivar, Kumanovo (UNDP project, financed by SIDA)
- Bitola, Kocani, Kicevo (World bank regional project)



Short-term action plans



Article 27-a, Law on ambient air quality

- In the zone or agglomeration where there is a risk that the levels of polluting substances will exceed one or more of the alarm thresholds, short-term action plans are drawn up, in which the measures to be taken in the short term are determined in order to reduce the risk or the duration of such overcoming.
- Every year, the Ministry of environment and physical planning publishes a list of zones and agglomerations in which, based on the results of the monitoring a risk of exceedances has been determined, including a list of the municipalities for each zone and agglomeration, in accordance with the air quality assessment no later than March 31;
- In cases of exceeding the alarm thresholds and with the aim of realizing the short-term action plan for the purpose of reducing the emissions of polluting substances, **the mayor of LSG unit** may, for a specified or indefinite period of time, introduce measures by making a decision which prohibits or restricts certain activities that significantly affect air pollution in the municipality.

Rulebook on the detailed content and manner of preparation of short-term action plans for ambient air protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, no. 148/14)



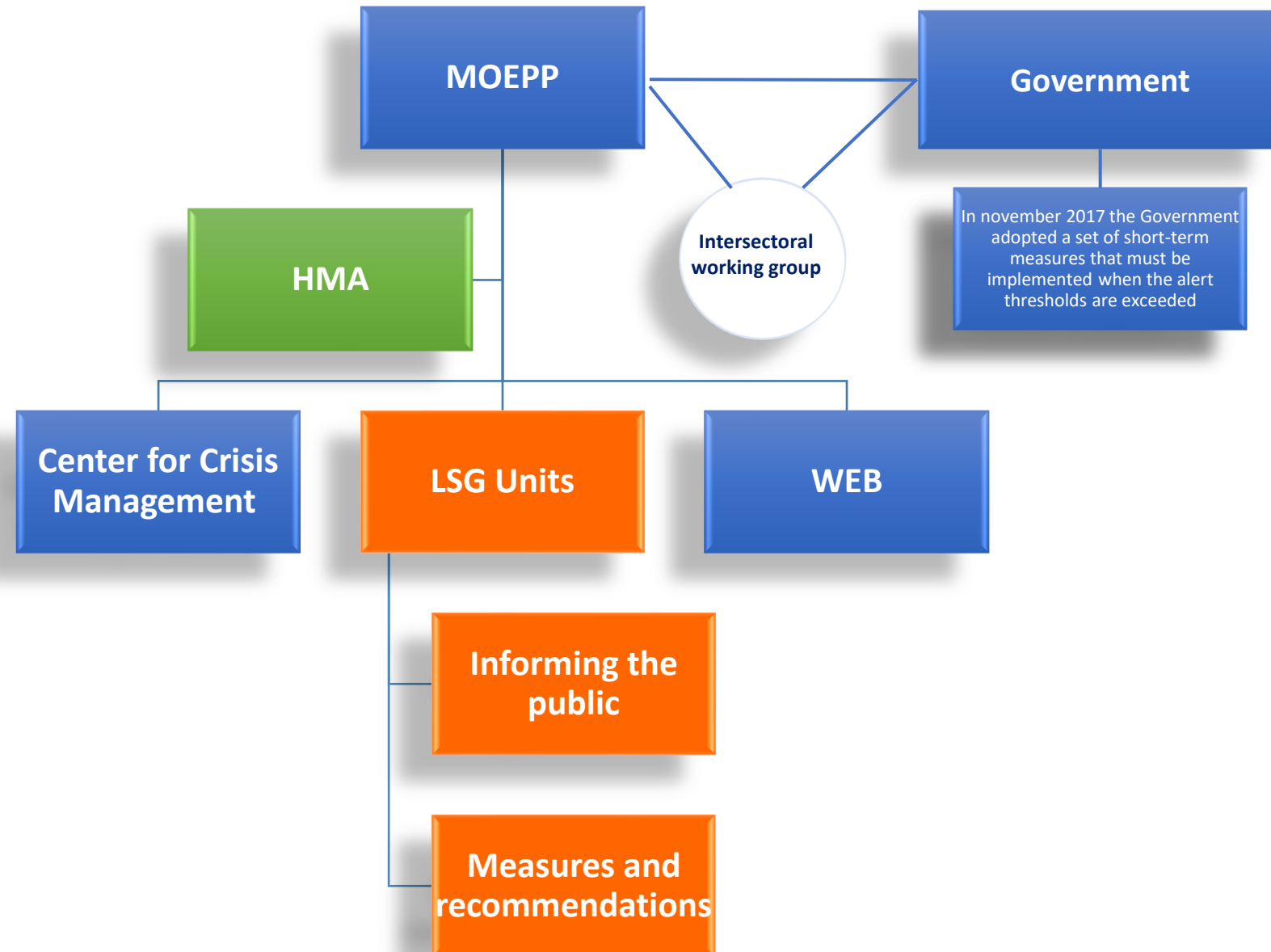
Short-term action plans



Pollutant	Period	Information threshold	Alert thresholds
SO₂	3 hours		500 µg/m ³
NO₂	3 hours		400 µg/m ³
PM₁₀	2 days	100 µg/m ³ and forecast for a stable weather condition	150 µg/m ³ forecast for a stable weather condition
O₃	1 hour	180 µg/m ³	
	3 hours		240 µg/m ³



Procedure for informing the public when the information/alert threshold are exceeded



Main challenges



- Lack of administrative capacities on central and local level
- Securing the relevant data
- Insufficient knowledge for
 - preparation of the local emission inventory,
 - using the modeling technics,
 - conducting an air quality assessment
- Proper definition of the air quality improvement measures
- Estimating the effectiveness of the measures
- Following the implementation of the plan



Thank you

