



Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe

**Regional Study
on local government obligations and
national level guidance to local
governments in Air Quality Management
in the Western Balkans**



Why this study?



Air quality management is becoming increasingly important topic in the Western Balkans

- Alarming levels of air pollution
- Citizens raise their voice
- EU integration
- Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

Commitment and action by all needed

The focus of the Study



6 WB economies: desk study,
interview with LGAs, survey with LGs

What are the legal obligations of LGs in
AQ management?

What are the legal obligations of national
institutions for provision of guidance to LGs?

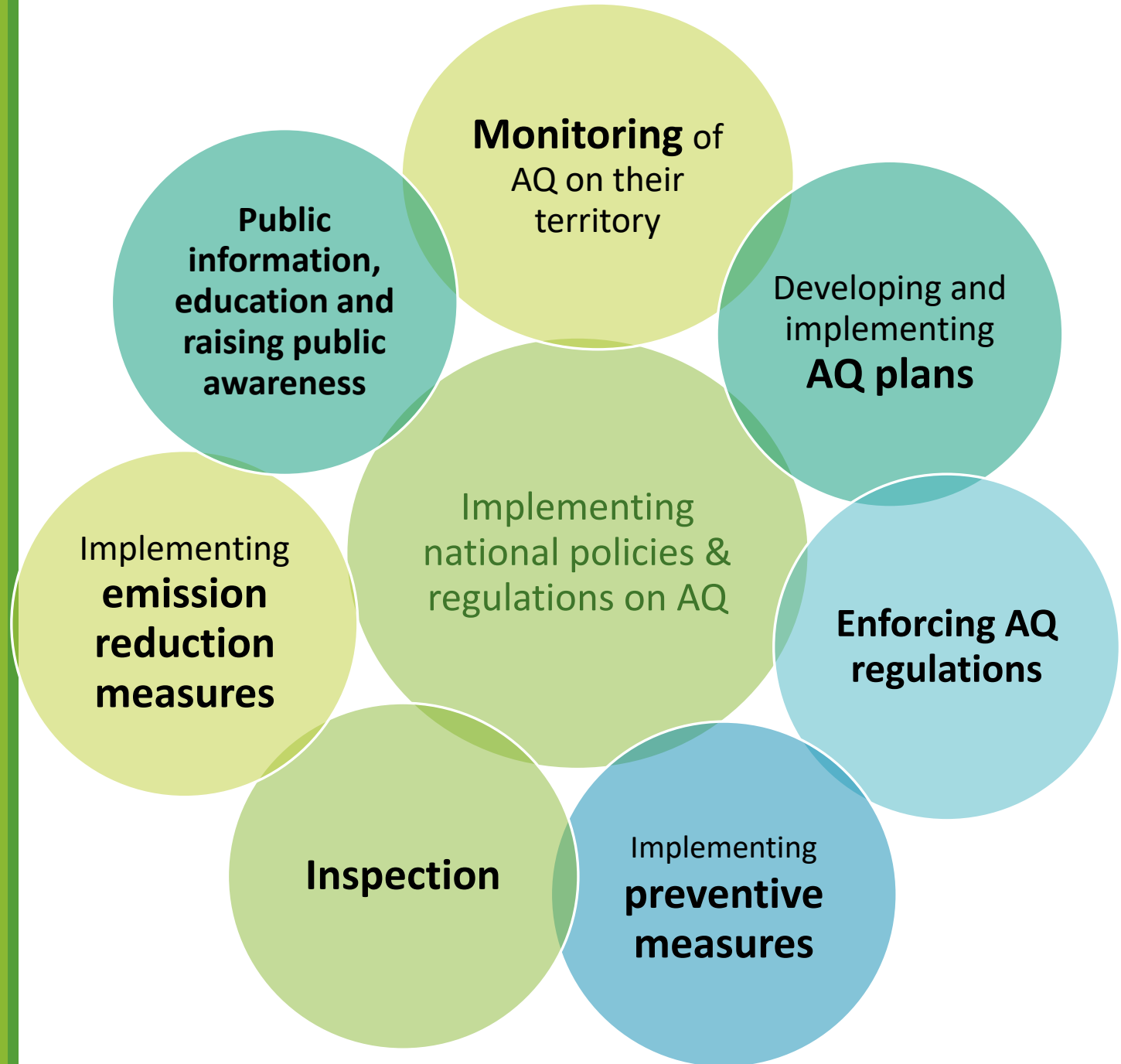
How are these obligations
performed in practice?

What can be
improved?



Legal obligations of Local Govs in AQ management?

**LOCAL
GOV**



Legal obligations of national institutions for provision of guidance to LGs?



The legislation is **not** always **specific** on the focus and responsible institution for **providing guidance**

National institutions with legal obligations for provision of guidance to LGs?



- **Albania:** National Environmental Agency and the line ministries-on local AQ plans
- **B&H:** Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of BH and the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the RS-guidance and supervisory guidance
- **Kosovo:** Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure-on local AQ plans
- **Montenegro:** Ministry for Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism
- **North Macedonia:** no clear responsibilities, apart from inspection and monitoring, and cooperation in preparing planning documents
- **Serbia:** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Serbian Environmental Protection Agency-coordination

Economy	Legal obligations of LSGs, air quality management	Legal obligations of national institutions, guidance to LSGs
Albania	Drafting and implementing air quality plans Implementing air quality improvement measures	Guidance to LSGs for development and revision of air quality plans
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Monitoring air quality Reporting air quality data to entity-level authority Public information and awareness raising Enforcement	Guidance for air quality management
Kosovo	Drafting local air quality plans Monitoring air quality where there are exceedances of legal thresholds	Review and provide input on air quality plans
Montenegro	Cooperation with national institutions regarding development and implementation of air quality plans	Guidelines for air quality measures
North Macedonia	Drafting and implementing air quality plans Short term measures when exceedances of legal thresholds occur Submitting measurement data to national institutions if they collect it Make data available to the public if they collect it	Cooperation in the preparation of air quality plans
Serbia	Monitoring air quality Reporting data and exceedance of thresholds to the public Report data to EPA Develop and implement air quality plans	Coordination



Obligations performed in practice

LGs with limited capacities on AQ issues: scarce finances, lack of human resources and sector expertise

Hinders systematic approach in protecting AQ

Guidance from national institutions of **crucial** importance for LGs to fulfill their legal obligations

The guidance can be effective only if it is **timely, systematic, regular**



Regulations



Legal System



Standards



Law



Rules



Requirements

What can be improved?



Ways that LGs can further support national level institutions

Increase human and institutional capacities for AQM

Share collected data with national institutions and the public

Develop local AQ strategies and participate in developing national and regional strategies

Raise local awareness on AQ

Increase public participation in AQ improvement measures

Ways that national level institutions can further support LGs

Ensure that LGs have enough resources to fulfil their legal obligations

Increase coordination and support between national level institutions and LGs

Store data in easy to access and well-maintained databases

Educate LG staff on AQ

Improved communication and collaboration with LGs

Guidance on air quality monitoring

What can be improved?

Areas for cooperation for improving air quality and air quality management



- Quality inspections of monitoring stations
- Increase polluters responsibility to monitor their environmental impact
- Creating air pollution cadastres
- Increase investments in environmental protection at local level
- Public awareness of air quality improvement measures



Thank you!