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LIFE17 IPE/BG/000012 - LIFE IP CLEAN AIR

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AFTER-LIFE PLAN OF INTEGRATED PROJECT

“BULGARIAM MUNICIPALITIES WORKING TOGETHER OT IMPROVE AIR QUALITY”

(After-LIFE plan)

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1. PROJECT DATA SHEET

Acronym:	LIFE IP CLEAN AIR
Number:	LIFE17 IPE/BG/000012
Start date:	02 October 2018
End date:	02 October 2025
Beneficiaries:	Sofia municipality (Coordinating Beneficiary) Associated beneficiaries: Burgas municipality Ruse municipality Stara Zagora municipality Veliko Tarnovo municipality Montana municipality Club "Economika 2000"
Official website:	www.lifeipcleanair.eu
Total project budget:	€ 16 666 266
Financial contribution of the LIFE Programme:	€ 9 999 760



2. INTRODUCTION

The current After-LIFE Action Plan for the period following the completion of Integrated Project "Bulgarian municipalities working together to improve air quality" (IP) has been developed in implementation of Activity F3 "Development of an After-LIFE Action Plan". In accordance with Activity F3, the Plan is submitted as part of the Final Report for the IP, in Bulgarian and English, in both hard copy and electronic format.

The objectives of the "After-LIFE Action Plan" (the Plan) is to ensure the sustainability of the key project results and impacts.

The Plan is a tool through which progress towards achieving its objectives will be ensured and monitored during the five-year period after the completion of the IP (3 October 2025 – 3 October 2030), as well as the achievement of the key project indicators (LIFE Project Indicators – LPI) set out in the Grant Agreement, five years after the completion of the IP.

The After-LIFE Action Plan includes:

- A brief overview of the IP and its main results;
- Planned activities after the end of the IP implementation (5-year horizon);
- Action Plan;
- Monitoring.

3. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE IP

3.1. POLICY AREA OF THE IP

The IP falls within the scope of the Environment Sub-programme of the LIFE Programme, LIFE Priority "Environment and Resource Efficiency", Thematic area:

- *Integrated projects contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Air Quality Directive (Directive 2008/50/EC) through the implementation of Air Quality Programmes.*

The main strategic objectives and expected impacts of the Integrated Project have been formulated In accordance with the specified policy area and thematic area, in which the IP falls.

3.2. MAIN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



3.3. MAIN ACTIVITIES

The following main activities, designated into three phases, were implemented as a means to achieve the key objectives of the IP:

Phase 1: Preparatory actions, including elaboration of a scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating

A.1 Analysis of the Air Quality Programs and collection of additional information

A.2 Analysis and assessment of household heating as a source of air pollution

A.3 Analysis of alternatives for household heating and market research

A.4 Analysis of the Target Energy Assistance Program of Bulgaria

A.5 Design of a scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating

A.6 Building the capacity of the coordinating beneficiary, the associated beneficiaries and

the stakeholders

Phase 2: Pilot testing of the Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating

C.1 Demonstration (testing) of the scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating

C.2 Assessment of the pilot testing scheme and finalization of its design

C.3 Building the capacity of the coordinating beneficiary, the associated beneficiaries and the stakeholders

Phase 3: Application of the scheme – planned replacement of the heating devices of 10 000 households in 6 municipalities

C.4 Implementation of the transition scheme to alternative forms of household heating

C.5 Assessment of the scheme implementation

C.6 Building the capacity of the coordinating beneficiary, the associated beneficiaries and the stakeholders

C.7 Developing a proposal for implementing the scheme at national level

Horizontal actions

D. Monitoring of the impact of the project actions

E. Public awareness and dissemination of results

F. Project management and monitoring of project progress

As a result of the implementation of the IP activities and the complementary actions encompassed by the IP, the planned project results were achieved, while simultaneously contributing to the fulfilment of the objectives of Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.

3.4. ACHIEVED RESULTS

Significant results were achieved from the implementation of the IP, for which sustainability must be ensured after the end of the IP (use, maintenance and/or replication):

- Improved capacity of municipal staff for air quality management
- Reduced PM_{10} emissions
- Developed and implemented a scheme for the replacement of household heating devices in the six beneficiary municipalities

- Delivered and commissioned air quality monitoring stations in the six beneficiary municipalities
- Established and maintained a municipal cooperation network in the field of air quality management
- Increased public awareness about the importance of issues related to air quality
- Established and maintained a network with other EU projects
- Developed methodological guidelines for assessment of ambient air quality during the elaboration of municipal programmes for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions reduction and reaching the permissible thresholds
- Prepared recommendations for application of the Scheme for transition to alternative forms of household heating at the national level

3.5. KEY IMPACT OF THE IP AND THE COORDINATED COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Ambient air quality has improved in the six beneficiary municipalities and the EU regulatory standards for air quality for the indicator PM_{10} (annual average and daily limit value) have been achieved[1].



[1] The data are published in the latest National Report on the State and Preservation of the Environment for 2023, which has been approved by the Council of Ministers of Republic Bulgaria.

4. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY AFTER THE END OF THE IP (5-YEAR HORIZON)

The significant results and impacts achieved through the implementation of the IP must be sustainable over time. Even at the preparation stage of the IP, several groups of expected project results were identified, for which transfer and replication must be ensured after its completion. Activity F3 of the IP, "Development of After-LIFE Plan," is entirely focused on ensuring the sustainability of the IP. Other sections and activities in the Application Form also contain elements related to ensuring the sustainability of the project results (Section "Continuation/valorisation and long-term sustainability after the end of the project"; Activities A6, C3, C6, C7, E1, E2).

The planned activities have a five-year horizon after the end of the IP. The main objective is to ensure the sustainability of the project results and impacts. They will be implemented in the following areas:

4.1. INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Result: Improved capacity of municipal staff to deal with air quality issues

The knowledge acquired by municipal experts through the IP trainings, both from seminars and from "learning by doing" through participation in various IP activities, was fundamental to the success of the IP and will continue to be used and further developed after its completion. The majority of experts who worked on the IP continue to work in the municipalities in the departments responsible for air quality policies[2]. They will apply their knowledge both when updating the target plans under the IP (municipal Air Quality Programmes) and during the implementation of new projects for replacement of household heating devices using other financial sources (Environment Programme 2021–2027). Five of the six municipalities are approved beneficiaries under this programme and have commenced the implementation of large-scale projects to continue the replacement of household heating devices, with a completion deadline of 2029.

The built capacity will continue to be used during the updating the Air Quality Programmes after the end of the IP. In the six beneficiary municipalities of the IP, the air quality standards for PM_{10} were achieved. However, at the end of 2024, a new Directive (EU) 2024/2881 of 23 October 2024 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (revised) was adopted, which

[2] A small part of the experts who worked actively on the IP no longer work in the municipalities for objective reasons, such as one expert from Montana municipality and one from Burgas municipality, due to retirement.

sets new, much stricter air quality standards (daily and annual) for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, to be achieved by 2030. The review of the data from the National Report on the State and Protection of the Environment in the Republic of Bulgaria for 2023, approved by the Council of Ministers in 2025, shows that all six municipalities are at significant risk of not meeting the new air quality standards without additional measures. This will require actions not only to maintain the air quality already achieved level for at the time of IP completion, but also to conduct the necessary analyses and assessments and propose new measures to improve air quality. For this purpose, the municipalities need to prepare Air Quality Roadmaps, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 4 of Directive (EU) 2024/2881. These are, in practice, preliminary air quality plans aimed at undertaking measures even before the new air quality standards come into force, unlike the Air Quality Plans, which are developed after exceedances of the set thresholds have already been registered. The requirements for the content and the approach to developing the Roadmaps are fully identical to those for Air Quality Programmes, as regulated in the new Directive (EU) 2024/2881. In this directive, the Air Quality Programmes are referred to as "Air Quality Plans" and will be developed when exceedances are registered, once the new air quality standards come into effect in 2030.

The knowledge and experience gained by municipal experts during the IP, including through trainings and the task of updating the Air Quality Programmes, will continue to be used and will significantly contribute to this process.

The municipalities will build upon the efforts towards continuous training of the staff on air quality issues even after the end of the IP, including with regard to the new requirements of Directive (EU) 2024/2881. At the national level, training for municipalities across the country on air quality issues is planned under a large-scale national project, and experts from the six IP municipalities are expected to participate in these trainings. The seminars are expected to start in 2026. The project is titled "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts", financed under Priority 5 "Air" of the Environment Programme 2021–2027, procedure code BG16FFPR002-5.006. The beneficiary of the project is the Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE) - a non-profit organization, in which 176 out of the 266 municipalities in Bulgaria are members. The project is currently in its very early phase.

The six IP municipalities are actively implementing the EU policy of Lifelong Learning, which is a prerequisite for maintaining and ensuring the sustainability of the IP result "Improved capacity of municipal staff on air quality issues".

The highly qualified experts who worked during the implementation of the IP at the Expert Centre of Club "Economika 2000" also enhanced their empirical experience and knowledge. The Expert Centre will provide consultations and expertise to municipalities from the Municipal Air Quality Network created under the IP, who wish to apply the Scheme for

transition towards alternative forms of household heating in their territories, and will actively disseminate opportunities in this thematic area among them.

Result: Elaborated Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating

The "Scheme for Transition towards Alternative Forms of Household Heating", developed during the pilot phase of the IP and implemented in the main phase in each of the six IP municipalities, included a comprehensive set of provisions and rules (calls and guidelines for applications with the required documents, spreadsheets for entering the necessary information during the application process, contracts with households, declarations, criteria for prioritizing applicants, rules for evaluating submitted application forms, etc.). This toolkit was a fundamental condition for the successful implementation of the Scheme in the six beneficiary municipalities.

The experience gained from developing and implementing the Scheme will continue to be used after the end of the IP in new municipal projects for replacement of household heating devices under the Environment Programme 2021–2027, in accordance with the specific requirements of this programme. Five of the six IP beneficiary municipalities fall within the scope of these procedures; their projects have been approved and are at the beginning stages of implementation.

Result: prepared recommendations for application of the Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating at the national level

At the beginning of the IP, a Replication Plan was elaborated. The purpose of the Replication Plan was to analyse and justify the possibility of financing a similar project(s) during the next programming period after 2020 (2021–2027) as well as to provide corresponding recommendations. The Plan was submitted to the Managing Authority of Operational Programme Environment. The main principles and approaches of the Scheme for Transition towards Alternative Household Form of Household Heating, developed under the IP, were incorporated into the Application Guidelines for the two "For Cleaner Air" procedures under Priority "Air" of the Environment Programme 2021–2027. A total of 21 Bulgarian municipalities with excess air pollution in terms of PM_{10} are eligible under the two procedures. A large number of the eligible municipalities in the country have applied and are at an early stage of implementing projects to replace household heating devices using wood and coal with environmentally-friendly alternatives.

In addition, at the end of the IP, a "Proposal for implementation of the Scheme for the

transition towards alternative forms of household heating at the national level" was prepared. Its objective is to ensure sustainability through replication and upscaling of the Scheme across the entire country; not only in municipalities that currently register excess pollution. The proposal includes detailed justification for upscaling the Scheme at the national level and identifies potential sources of financing. The prepared proposal was presented at a regular meeting of the Standing Committee on Environment, Circular Economy and Green Policies of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria, held on 18 September 2025. The NAMRB is a key stakeholder and is interested in ensuring that the population of the largest possible number of municipalities in the country has access to grant funding for replacement of old heating devices with environmentally-friendly alternatives.

The proposal will be sent to the competent national institutions, which could initiate the replication and upscaling of the Scheme across the country. The proposal will also be sent to the Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE), which is currently implementing the project for "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts", financed under the Environment Programme 2021–2027, with an implementation period: 07.03.2025 – 07.03.2029, in order to present the opportunities for upscaling the Scheme to the national level.

Both the six IP beneficiary municipalities and the Expert Centre of Club "Economika 2000" will, after the end of the IP, present the prepared "Proposal for implementation of the Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating at the national level" at all possible forums. For example, experts from the IP beneficiary municipalities will become members of the National Network of Air Quality Experts, which is being established under the project "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts", currently in its early stage of implementation and financed under the Environment Programme 2021–2027. During the trainings and other forums, organized under this project, these experts will share the good practices from the IP and will promote the prepared Proposal for implementation of the Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating at the national level.

Result: Established and maintained Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management

The "Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management", which was established under the IP and which includes 35 municipalities, will continue to be maintained after the completion of the IP. Its ongoing operation will be ensured via the Air Quality Expert Centre, by the Associated Beneficiary Club "Economika 2000". Immediately after the end of the IP, the prepared "Proposal for implementation of the Scheme for transition towards

alternative forms of household heating at the national level" will be sent out to the municipalities that are members of the Municipal Network. During the training seminars for experts from this municipal network, conducted within the framework of the IP, participants showed strong interest in applying the scheme for replacement of household heating devices with environmentally friendly-alternatives in their own territories. Interested municipalities will receive information, know-how and support from the Expert Centre for future implementation of the scheme, in case it is upscaled to the national level.

The "Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management" inspired the non-governmental organization Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE) to establish a National Network of Air Quality Experts[3]. During the first phase of the IP, the project, including the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management, was presented at the annual members meeting of BAMEE. In this context, BAMEE prepared and will implement the project for establishment of a "National Network of Air Quality Experts" with financing under the Environment Programme 2021–2027. The National network is planned to include not only municipal experts but also other air quality experts working in governmental and other organizations with air quality competencies. In this way, the Municipal network created under the IP will be upscaled to the national level.

Result: Elaborated Methodological Guidelines for assessment of ambient air quality during the elaboration of municipal programmes for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions reduction and reaching the set thresholds

The objective of the elaborated Methodological Guidelines is to improve and detail the informational basis and approach for the development of municipal Air Quality Programmes. The Guidelines were coordinated with the Ministry of Environment and Water and the Executive Environment Agency, and all their recommendations were incorporated. At the request of the Bulgarian Association of Municipal Environmental Experts (BAMEE), the Guidelines will be used in one of the main activities of the project for "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts", financed under the Environment Programme 2021–2027, namely: "Enhancing the expert capacity of administrative staff performing tasks in the field of air quality through the organization of trainings." The trainings are expected to encompass 180 trainees, including: training of trainers (lecturers); training of municipal staff; training of staff from central government institutions with air quality competencies and of

[3] IP "Bulgarian Municipalities Working Together to Improve Air Quality" was presented during one of BAMEE's annual meetings, including the task of establishment of the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management.

their regional branches in the country. After the end of the IP, the Guidelines will be disseminated amongst the members of the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management, which was established under the IP, as well as among the members of the National Network of Air Quality Experts, once it is established under BAMEE's project for "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts." The methodology will be used by municipal experts during the process of updating their Air Quality Programmes in response to the new, much stricter air quality standards, imposed by Directive (EU) 2024/2881.

Result: Established and maintained networking with other EU projects

The exchange of good practices and the sharing of achievements from other projects in EU member states play an important role in the progress towards overcoming air quality issues in European cities. Therefore, after the end of the IP, the exchange of information will continue, both with the projects with which contacts were already established during the IP and with other projects. For this purpose, the Expert Centre, established under the IP by Club "Economika 2000", will conduct ongoing research on newly launched projects, including projects under the LIFE Programme in the field of air quality, and will disseminate information among the six IP municipalities. Experts from the six municipalities will also share information about other EU projects in the field of ambient air quality. Depending on the specific projects, experts from the municipalities and the Expert Centre will share the experience gained during the IP, participate in forums organized by these projects, and study the best practices of these projects.

After the completion of the IP, the information and knowledge acquired through networking with other EU projects, will be presented on the IP website and shared within the National Network of Air Quality Experts, which will be established under BAMEE's project for "Establishment of a National Network of Air Quality Experts" (experts from the IP municipalities are members of the National Network).

Result: Developed dedicated project website

After the end of the IP, Sofia Municipality will continue to maintain the developed project website. For this purpose, the Expert Centre, established under the IP, will prepare and provide information to Sofia Municipality about:

- Upcoming European and national forums and events in the thematic area of air quality as well as key results from them;

- Current news and publications from the European Environment Agency, other European and national institutions, Eurobarometer, the LIFE Programme, other programmes and other European projects in the relevant field;
- Other relevant information.

The Layman Report, prepared after the end of the IP, will also be published on the project website.

4.2. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE DELIVERY EQUIPMENT

Result: Implemented Scheme for replacement of household heating devices in the beneficiary municipalities

As a result of the implementation of the "Scheme for replacement of household heating devices" within the framework of the IP, each municipality provided various types of new heating devices to the households selected through the application process. The heating devices will continue to be used by the households after the end of the IP. The IP municipalities exercise control in order to ensure that households are fulfilling their obligations under the contracts signed between them and the municipalities for the supply and installation of the heating devices.

Result: Delivered and commissioned AAQ monitoring stations in the six beneficiary municipalities

For each of the six IP beneficiary municipalities, two automatic air quality monitoring stations were delivered for measurement of the indicators PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. After the completion of the IP, data collection on air quality through these monitoring stations will continue. The information will continue to be stored on the server purchased under the project, which is operated by the Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000". The municipalities will use this information to build their air quality information platforms. Sofia municipality and Burgas municipality began this process during the project. The municipalities will ensure the maintenance and operation of the air quality monitoring stations. In the event that, after the end of the IP, all or some of the monitoring stations delivered under the project are integrated into the National Air Quality Monitoring System, which is developed and maintained by the Executive Environment Agency under the Ministry of Environment and Water, they will continue to be maintained and operated in the same way as the other stations in the National Monitoring System. Under this scenario, the transfer of the stations to the Executive

Environment Agency by the respective IP municipalities will be regulated through a formal agreement.

4.3. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ACHIEVED PUBLIC AWARENESS REGARDIGN THE IMPORTACE OF AAQ ISSUES

The information campaigns conducted by the municipalities during the implementation of the IP in order to raise public awareness on air quality issues, as well as at the national level, played a significant role in the success of the Scheme for replacement of household heating devices using wood and coal with environmentally-friendly alternatives, which was implemented under the IP. For this reason, the activities of the six municipalities to raise public awareness on air quality issues and to motivate citizens to contribute to cleaner air in the cities through their daily practices will continue after the end of the IP.

The already established initiatives in these municipalities, such as the European Mobility Week, World Earth Day, World Environment Day and others, will continue to be actively used. Information campaigns will also be carried out by five of the six beneficiary municipalities within the framework of their ongoing projects for replacement of heating devices using solid fuel with environmentally-friendly alternatives under the Environment Programme 2021–2027.

The municipalities will be implementing the information activities for citizens as specified in their updated Air Quality Programmes in accordance with the specific needs of each of the six municipalities.

4.4. CONTINUATION OF THE DISSEMINATION OF THE RESULTS FROM THE IP

During the implementation of the IP, both in the Pilot and in the Main phase, information on the achieved progress and results was actively disseminated at both the national and local level. In addition to the project website numerous articles and media reports covered this process. The information was also shared through the network established with other projects, both within the country and abroad.

The IP was one of the first in the EU to implement the replacement of household heating devices and is unique in the country in terms of its scale and objectives. Its successes and results will continue to be disseminated after its completion. For this purpose, information on the project's results and impacts will be presented at various local, national, and European forums dedicated to improving urban air quality, including conferences, roundtables, seminars, platforms and other events.

5. ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan outlines the specific activities for ensuring sustainability of the project results as well as their dissemination after the end of the IP. The time horizon of the Plan is five years after the end of the IP (03.10.2025 - 03.10.2030). In compliance with the structure foreseen in Action F3, the Plan includes four main elements:

- description of the activity;
- deadlines for implementation;
- sources of funding for the implementation of the activity;
- responsible institution.

The Action Plan is presented in the following table.

Table. Action Plan for implementation the activities for ensuring sustainability of the IP results.

Activity	Deadline	Source(s) of funding	Responsible institution(s)
INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY			
Continuation of the work of the municipal employees who worked on the Integrated Project (IP) within their respective municipalities	2025-2030	Municipal budget	IP municipalities
Application of the knowledge and experience gained by municipal employees under the IP to the implementation of similar projects for replacement of heating devices under OP Environment 2021–2027 and other programmes	2025-2030	Municipal budget, budget of PE 2021-2027	IP municipalities
Involvement of the municipal IP experts in the National Network of Air Quality Experts under the project of BAMEE	2026	Municipal budget, budget of PE 2021-2027	IP municipalities
Further building of the AAQ-related capacity of municipal employees acquired during the IP; including the necessary trainings in the annual training plans of the municipalities	2030	Budget of the IP municipalities; budget of PE 2021-2027; BAMEE Project, other programmes	IP municipalities
Application of the accumulated experience from the municipal regulations and provisions, elaborated under the IP, when launching new projects for the replacement of household heating devices in accordance with the specific requirements of the respective funding programmes	2030	Budget of the IP municipalities; budgets of the respective programmes	IP municipalities

Activity	Deadline	Source(s) of funding	Responsible institution(s)
Submission of the "Proposal for a Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating," prepared at the end of the IP, to: the Managing Authority of OP Environment 2021–2027; the Ministry of Energy; and others	2025	No budget necessary	Sofia municipality
Submission of the "Proposal for a Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating," prepared at the end of the IP, to BAMEE	2025	No budget necessary	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Submission of the "Proposal for a Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating" to the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management, which was established under the IP	2025	No budget necessary	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Promotion of the "Proposal for a Scheme for transition towards alternative forms of household heating," among other municipalities across the country at various forums and seminars	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities; Budget of Club "Economika 2000"	IP municipalities; Club "Economika 2000"
Updating of the Air Quality Programmes /elaboration of Roadmaps of the IP municipalities with the aim of planning measures to maintain the achieved results and to meet the new AAQ standards enforced by Directive (EU) 2024/2881	2028	Budget of the IP municipalities, other sources	IP municipalities
Providing consultations on AAQ matters and on implementing replacements of household heating devices, upon request, to municipalities from the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management, which was established under the IP	2030	Budget of Club "Economika 2000"	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Provision to BAMEE of the "Methodological guidelines for assessment of ambient air quality during the elaboration of municipal programmes for PM10 and PM2.5 emissions reduction and reaching the permissible thresholds," elaborated under the IP, for use in the AAQ training programme under BAMEE's national project for establishment of a National network of air quality experts	2026-2028	No budget necessary	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Dissemination of the "Methodological for	2026	Budget of Club	Expert Centre at

Activity	Deadline	Source(s) of funding	Responsible institution(s)
assessment of ambient air quality during the elaboration of municipal programmes for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions reduction and reaching the permissible thresholds" amongst the experts from the Municipal network for cooperation in the field of air quality management (created under the IP) for the purposes of the elaboration of Municipal AAQ Programs/Roadmaps		"Economika 2000"	Club "Economika 2000"
Continued participation of the six IP municipalities and Club "Economika 2000" in the established and maintained network with other EU projects; dissemination of good practices from other EU projects amongst the municipalities from the National network of air quality experts	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities; Budget of Club "Economika 2000"	IP municipalities, Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Maintenance of the IP website	2025-2030	Budget of SM	Sofia municipality
Compiling information for the IP website and social media profiles	2025-2030	Budget of Club "Economika 2000"	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE DELIVERED EQUIPMENT			
Maintenance and operation of the air quality monitoring stations, which were delivered and installed in the six IP municipalities under the project	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities/Budget of ExEA upon transfer of stations to the National System	IP municipalities
Continued data storage on the server, which was purchased under the project and is operated by the Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"	2025-2030	Budget of Club "Economika 2000"	Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000"
Exercising control to ensure that households fulfil their obligations under the contracts concluded between them and the municipalities for the delivery and installation of heating devices	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities	IP municipalities
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ACHIVED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AAQ ISSUES			
Continuation of activities aimed at raising public awareness on air quality issues and motivating personal engagement and contribution to air quality objectives	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities; other programmes and projects	IP municipalities
DISSEMINATION OF THE IP RESULTS			
Continuation of the dissemination of the IP results at various forums dedicated to	2025-2030	Budget of the IP municipalities	IP municipalities

Activity	Deadline	Source(s) of funding	Responsible institution(s)
improving ambient air quality at the local, national and European levels (conferences, round tables, seminars, platforms, etc.).			

6. MONITORING

Every planning document must be implemented in accordance with its predefined objectives, deadlines and allocation of responsibilities. This is why the standard approach for monitoring will be applied to the implementation of:

1) The activities set out in the After-LIFE Plan
2) The collection of information on the achievement of target indicators (target indicators/LPI (LIFE Project Indicators) five years after the end of the Integrated Project

It is essential to ensure that information on the progress in the implementation of the activities is collected in an organized and planned manner and at regular intervals.

For the purposes of monitoring the implementation of this After-LIFE Action Plan following the completion of Integrated Project "Bulgarian Municipalities Working Together to Improve Air Quality," all project partners will establish an internal organization for monitoring of:

- progress in the implementation of the activities from the Action Plan
- information on the key project indicators (LPI) up to the fifth year after the end of the Integrated Project.

Each IP municipality will organize the collection of information on the status of the actions from the Action Plan, for which the respective municipality has assigned responsibilities. The organization will be specific to each municipality, in compliance with its established internal rules and procedures.

Annually, for the period 3 October 2025 - 3 October 2030, the municipalities of Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo and Montana, as well as Club "Economika 2000", will submit to the Coordinating Beneficiary of the IP – Sofia Municipality. information on the status and progress in the implementation of the activities from the Action Plan. Club "Economika 2000" will provide methodological support to Sofia municipality with regard to the analysis and summary of the information, received from all IP beneficiaries. The required information will be provided by the Associated Beneficiaries of the IP to the Coordinating Beneficiary by 30 September of each of the five years, during which monitoring will be performed. The Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000" will prepare the format, in which the information should be compiled and submitted. The information will be summarized by Sofia municipality with the assistance of the Expert Centre at Club "Economika 2000".

Non-implementation of the activities from the Action Plan is not expected. In the event that a significant delay in the implementation of a given activity by an IP partner is identified, meetings will be organized in order to clarify potential issues and provide recommendations

for their resolution.

The deadlines, organization and approach towards the collection and summary of the information on the status of the key project indicators (LPI) will be analogous.

At the end of the five-year monitoring period for the current After-LIFE Plan, a summary report will be prepared. The report will be prepared by the Coordinating Beneficiary - Sofia municipality, with the methodological support of the Expert Centre at Club “Economika 2000”.