



**RIGHT TO
CLEAN AIR**



LIFE Project Number
LIFE15 GIE/DE/000795

Final Report
Covering the project activities from 01/08/2016¹ to 30/11/2019

Reporting Date²
29/02/2020

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym
LIFE Legal Actions

Data Project

Project location:	Germany, Czech Republic
Project start date:	01/08/2016
Project end date:	30/11/2019 Extension date: N/A
Total budget:	€ 869.936
EU contribution:	€ 521.834
(%) of eligible costs:	59,99

Data Beneficiary

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¹ Project start date

² Include the reporting date as foreseen in part C2 of Annex II of the Grant Agreement

1. Table of contents

1.	Table of contents	2
2.	List of key-words and abbreviations	3
3.	Executive Summary	4
3.1.	General progress	4
4.	Introduction	6
5.	Administrative part	8
6.	Technical part	9
6.1.	Technical progress, per Action	9
6.1.1.	A.1 Communication Strategy	9
6.1.2.	B.1 Background information on legal actions for air quality improvement	10
6.1.3.	B.2 Short Film	12
6.1.4.	B.3 Media work	13
6.1.5.	B.4 Expert talks in Germany	15
6.1.6.	B.5 Capacity Building for European legal action	16
6.1.7.	B.6 Better use of EU funding and Green Public Procurement for improving air quality	19
6.1.8.	B.7 Capacity Building for European legal action	21
6.1.9.	C.1 Impact on the target group and the environmental problem	23
6.1.10.	D.1 Project Website “Clean Air litigation”, Information Board and Layman’s Report	25
6.1.11.	D.2 Networking and Newsletter	26
6.1.12.	E.1 Project Management	27
6.1.13.	E.2 Advisory Board	28
6.1.14.	Outside LIFE	29
6.2.	Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented	30
6.3.	Evaluation of Project Implementation	32
6.4.	Analysis of benefits	33
7.	Key Project-level Indicators	34
8.	Comments on the financial report	35
8.1.	Summary of Costs Incurred	36
8.2.	Accounting system	37
8.3.	Partnership arrangements	37
8.4.	Certificate on the financial statement	37

2. List of key-words and abbreviations

AQD	Air Quality Directive
AQP	Air quality plan
BImSchG	German Federal Immission Control Act
BImSchV	Ordinance on the Implementation of the Federal Immission Control Act
BMVI	German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
BMU	German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BUVKO	Bundesweiter Umwelt- und Verkehrs-Kongress
BVerwG	German Federal Administrative Court (Bundesverwaltungsgericht)
CAAG	Clean Air Action Group
CAWG	Clean Air Working Group
CE	ClientEarth
CEPTA	Centre for Sustainable Alternatives (Centrum pre trvaloudržateľné alternatívy)
DEC	Danish Ecological Council
dpa	German Press Agency (Deutsche Presseagentur)
DUH	Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.
EAP	Environment Action programme
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EKI	Emission Control Institute
FBS	Frank Bold Society
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HEAL	Health and Environment Alliance
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
MoT	Monitoring Team
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides
OTS	dpa original text service
PTI	Periodic technical inspection
UBA	Federal Environmental Agency
WHO	World Health Organization

3. Executive Summary

3.1. General progress

The project Right to Clean Air (LIFE15 GIE/DE/795 Legal Actions) ended in November 2019 after 40 months of intensive work on campaigning for the Right to Clean Air across Europe. Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) and Frank Bold Society (FBS) cooperated very well in spreading information about the European Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and consequential rights for citizens in the EU Member States.

The project was implemented to sensitize all stakeholder, like citizens, non-governmental organizations, responsible authorities and political decision makers for the problem of high pollution loads and illegal limit exceedances. This has been a complete success, as the issues became more and more well-known and discussed by both, policy makers and citizens.

The project aimed to promote legal actions as a tool, to support the implementation of the EU air quality directive. Hence, the legal activities, although they are no action of the project itself, play an important role in and are very important to provide examples for a better implementation of air quality legislation for all EU member states.

The coverage of the big television evening TV news alone, reached more than **61 million** people with the project's media work in total (B.3). Numerous request by media and the continuous coverage of air quality topics in the media shows, how important the issue became for public. We were able to answer more than 2.000 requests from affected citizens across Europe that asked for chances and advice how to support the implementation of new or better air quality measures and technical possibilities to change their own air pollution impact.

Within the campaign we developed and disseminated a lot of information. The most detailed paper is the background information (B.1) that is available in English, Czech, German, Polish, French, Hungarian, Italian and Spanish. During the complete project period, the paper was updated and adapted to reach other target groups. The last adapted version was published in May 2019 and had a focus on European rights, the cases around Europe and provided country specific information. The flyer (B.1) was substituted by a video clip to raise awareness on health effects of air pollutants and your right to clean air in countries, where awareness about these facts is comparatively low. Other than the detailed background information, the video clip (flyer) targeted citizens from Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Germany.

All information is available on the project website since January 2017. With our background information, about **80.000 people** have been reached, overachieving the expected result (55.000 people informed).

The short film (B.2) had a different target group and objective. Through an emotional approach, which reaches people subliminally, the main aim was to sensitize them for the importance of complying with ambient air quality limit values for their own health and the health of the people they love. In contrast, the video clip (flyer) contains facts and shows possible solutions. Both video formats thus complement each other perfectly. The short film reached more than 118.000 people across the European Union and thereby a manifold of the expected result (15.000 views).

To inform the target group "political decision makers and responsible authorities", within the project 19 expert talks (B.4) with relevant stakeholders in Germany were organized. In total, more **than 168 policy makers and experts** from **93 different institutions** attended our expert talks. The expert talks were a valuable source of information and were used to disseminate our publications. In the capacity building workshops on legal actions for clean air in 9 different European countries (B.5), representatives from NGOs, citizen initiatives, but also political decision makers, responsible authorities on national and regional level as well as EU institutions

attended the workshops. Country-specific problems and the transferability of legal practices and national decisions were the main topics of discussion. In total **the workshops reached 299 stakeholder** from **211 institutions**. With webinars, newsletters, direct e-mail and telephone contact as well as video conferences we continued the exchange with participants, followed up on the developments and contributed to country specific strategies. FBS organised and coordinated the capacity building workshop in Brno called “improving air quality in municipalities” and initiated an air quality case on health damages caused by air pollution.

A significant part of the project was the participation in the development of GPP criteria, affecting air quality. Within a long development process two main fields of public procurement were traced, potentially able to be regulated with GPP criteria and hence reduce air pollution. DUH has provided comprehensive information in two main areas (buses and hand-held garden machinery), by organising workshops, publishing of background information, promoted funding and proactively contacting municipal authorities.

We presented the project and our policy recommendations at more than 100 external events for professional audience.

Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period

All difficulties and challenges that occurred during the project were solved by the end of the project. In the meantime there has been a discussion about the harmfulness to health of air pollutants in general and nitrogen dioxide in particular. There was a danger that a few publicists, similar to climate change deniers, would gain the upper hand in the discussion. Therefore, many capacities had to be invested in the evaluation of health studies and public relations work on scientific facts. We published many statements from scientific and medical professionals, to convince the public of the damages, air pollutants can cause. The discussion has now calmed down.

Some parts of the project were of outstanding success, therefore we used the opportunity and intensified work on these actions. The media outcome was surprisingly high and we reached significant amount of citizens as well as decision makers through our press work. That’s why we intensified our press work and published a multiple of the press releases expected. As a result, also the requests from journalists increased, and to provide them up to date information, we had to frequently update our background information.

This effort was partly at the expense of other project areas, resulting in delays in the implementation of individual actions such as the flyer. The organisation of capacity building workshops also came to a partial delay. After one workshop in 2016 and two workshops in 2017 and 2018 each, the project team organized four workshops during 2019. As a result, in many countries there was not yet the possibility of a comprehensive follow-ups. Initiatives launched at the workshops need time to show results. An example is a lawsuit in the Netherlands, for which crowdfunding has been started. The initiatives will be accompanied during the After-LIFE period.

4. Introduction

Air pollution is still one of the major challenges of our time. Despite the existing legislative framework and the citizens' right to clean air in Europe, continuing violations of air pollution limits, e.g. nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) or particulate matter (PM₁₀) remain a problem and threaten health, the environment and the climate. More than 400.000 European citizens die prematurely as a result of air pollution that is associated with increased risk of heart and respiratory diseases and lung cancer. The external health-related costs to society are in the range of € 330-940 billion per year. Up to 95 % of European city dwellers are exposed to concentrations of pollutants above the recommendations by the WHO. Air pollution also damages vegetation and ecosystems. It is estimated that about 73 % of the EU-28 ecosystem area remained exposed to levels of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), leading to exceedances of critical loads for eutrophication.

Major sources of air pollution are transport, small-scale combustion and industry. Eight of the 30 most polluting facilities are located in Germany, six in Poland and one in each of Czech Republic, Italy and Slovakia. The EU Commission started infringement proceedings for non-compliance with the Ambient Air Quality Directive – e.g. against 16 member states due to PM pollution. Five member states were already taken to court. On behalf of NO₂, the EU Commission initiated infringement proceedings against thirteen Member States and thereof already referred five member states to Court. In recent cases, the CJEU ruled in favour of the European Commission urging member states to take further action. Due to the long timeframe of infringement proceedings legal actions in front of national courts initiated by NGOs or citizens are necessary to support compliance with existing limit values as soon as possible.

This project empowered NGOs and citizens, in different EU member states to take part in public participation processes concerning the development or revision of air quality plans. During the project period, 23 plans were commented and the project team supported 10 NGOs from 10 different EU member states in their efforts to promote better air quality plans. Furthermore, the project improved the access to justice as a core fundamental right in the EU and a priority principle within the 2015 Work Programme of the Commission by starting 27 new legal cases. Both principles together with the access to information as an essential precondition for the participation in decision-making are the three pillars of the Aarhus Convention. As of January 2015, 47 parties - among these the EU - signed the Convention. The project supports key pillars of Europe's Clean Air Program like the compliance with existing air quality standards by 2020 at the latest and the priority objections of the 7th Environmental Action Program.

This project aimed at improving the relationship between people and governments as well as accountability, transparency and responsiveness. In different European cities and regions, effective air quality measures were implemented, due to well-founded and technically experienced input submitted from actors connected in the projects network. By this the project supported cities to improve urban air quality. Within a broad network of NGOs, lawyers and local and regional administrations from different Member States, that was built up, a tremendous expertise pool of knowledge collaborating to implement the EU air and climate policies and legislation was implemented and continuously improved. Best-practice measures to reduce air pollutants from transport and small-scale combustion were evaluated and conclusions thereon disseminated within this network and beyond. In addition, the awareness of European citizens about the objectives of European Air Quality legislation and its positive impacts on environment and health increased. During the projects period the amount of citizen and journalist enquiries increased and the content became more detailed and specific.

Thus, our information project Legal Actions aimed at the following goals:

- Reduce emissions of air pollutants by providing information on air quality measures and legal advice enabling to participate in decision-making processes and take action if necessary
- Empower and motivate Europe's citizens and NGOs to campaign for effective air quality measures
- Motivate political decision makers to improve implementation and legislation concerning air quality
- Advise on national and European funding schemes for effective reduction measures
- Promote GPP in the EU to become a more resource-efficient economy
- Transfer know-how on best practice measures

In order to reach citizens, political decision makers, and responsible authorities as our main target groups, the project involved the following stakeholders:

- Environmental organizations, citizens initiatives and consumer protection organization to share knowledge with events in other Member States and increase implementation of air quality measures when participating in decision-making processes
- Media to raise awareness on the issue in general public
- Manufacturers of exhaust gas treatment to promote low-emission technology

Monitoring of the project impact basically includes the following indicators:

Direct and indirect impacts on governance/policy (national, regional, local level)

- Number of multipliers reached with background information
- % of participants of the surveys which feel better informed and empowered to act
- Level of integration of air quality criteria into Green Public Procurement
- Policy change resulting from initiated participation or legal actions (number /quality)
- Number of applications prepared by administrations to implement air quality measures

Empower and motivate Europe's citizens and NGOs

- Number of NGOs /Experts informed
- % of participants of our surveys which feel better informed and empowered to act
- Usefulness of information about sources and effects of air pollution and about solutions for NGOs and citizens
- Usefulness of legal advice to NGOs /citizens
- Number of NGOs /citizens taking legal actions for better implementation of air quality measures

Direct and indirect impacts on citizens (affected by air pollution)

- Number of citizens reached with information
- Feedback of citizens regarding the information received on environmental impact, air quality measures
- Number and quality of articles published

Transferability and replicability of the project's activities (to other European member states)

- Number of experts/multipliers reached via networking activities
- Number and intensity of dialogues with political decision makers and authorities
- Number of organizations support our project objectives and become part of our alliance

In the After-LIFE period, the project aims at further legal actions and public participation across Europe to accelerate compliance with limit values, more ambitious European standards (based on WHO recommendations), better European funding for air quality aspects in GPP, compulsory hardware-retrofit on vehicles which are part of the diesel emissions scandal and stricter export rules for old vehicles to prevent bad air quality being exported to CEE countries.

5. Administrative part

DUH as coordinating beneficiary was responsible for the overall coordination of project activities. In order to specify the cooperation between the coordinating and associated beneficiary, both partners signed a partnership agreement (E.1). Both partners created a cost centre for the project and all employees involved track working hours via time sheets. An updated organigram is provided in the Annex (Supplementary Documents/1). Within the reporting period, there were major staff changes.

The communication officer [REDACTED]. The project assistance [REDACTED]. The project manager [REDACTED].

Within the team of FBS the following changes occurred. In project coordination/management team, [REDACTED]. In the accounting, financial and supervision team, [REDACTED].

DUH developed an annual planning for the project implementation and templates to record the activities (e.g. documentation of background talks, external events, dissemination activities, press coverage, etc.) and the expenses incurred (financial sheets);

First personal meeting of DUH and FBS teams took place in Berlin in November 2016 where cooperation, communication and management details were specified. Further team meeting took place in Berlin in February 2017 and October 2017, in Prague in December 2018 and in advance to the monitoring meeting in September 2019. During the whole project period regular communication between the partners was established via conference calls and emails on certain content, coordination and planning.

The project was supported by three external experts. The legal expert Prof Dr Remo Klinger, lawyer at the law firm Geulen&Klinger and long-term expert in legal activities regarding air quality issues, networking expert Marion Hammerl, managing director of Lake Constance Foundation and expert in networking with municipalities/NGOs on EU level and technical expert Dr Axel Friedrich, international advisor for transport and air pollution. Annex (Supplementary Documents/2): Detailed explanation regarding the contracting of the external experts..

The project team entered into cooperation agreements with NGOs in Slovakia, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria to ensure support for the organization of workshops (B.5). The workshops in the Netherlands and in Spain were joint workshops together with the LIFE Get Real (LIFE15 GIC/DE/000029) project. To simplify accounting, the workshop in Spain was accounted for via 'Legal Actions' and the workshop in the Netherlands via 'Get Real'. The workshops in Poland and Slovakia were organized jointly with the LIFE Clean Heat (LIFE14 GIE/DE/000490) project. The workshop in Slovakia was accounted for via 'Legal Actions' and the workshop in Poland via 'Clean Heat'.

Four monitoring visits have been organized with Ms Pfirrmann from the MoT (13/03/2017; 22/01/2018; 10/12/2018; 20/09/2019). Ms. Oancea from EASME joined the last monitoring meeting in September 2019.

The Advisory Board (C.1) supported the monitoring and evaluation of the project within several meetings and developed indicators that were used for the final evaluation report.

6. Technical part

6.1. Technical progress, per Action

A comparison for all deliverables and milestones is provided for each action, including a reference to the compiled deliverables/milestone in the Annex. Deliverables/milestones that were submitted in the course of the first progress report are indicated with 'PR', those submitted with the mid-term report are indicated with 'MTR'. Deliverables/milestones that were reached or submitted in this final report are indicated with 'FR'. A List of Annexes is provided as separate document. All deliverables/milestones that are submitted in this final report are assorted by the Action they belong to.

6.1.1. A.1 Communication Strategy

DUH developed a **communication strategy** and a **replicability plan** by November 2016. FBS contributes with information about the target groups and stakeholders in the Czech Republic. Both documents are only available in English, as it is mainly an internal guidance and all partners involved use English as working language. The communication plan includes a specification of and communication messages for the main target groups, and a media strategy to approach consumers and policy makers. Important stakeholders and their potential support were analysed, including shared concerns and conflicting issues. Our experts for presswork and social media as well as our external advisors were involved in the elaboration of the plan. The communication strategy was updated in October 2018 last.

DUH sent out a restricted call for tenders for the development of the **corporate design, project logo and the website**. We awarded the contract to the offer with the best value for money. Corporate design and logo were finalized by end of January 2017 and used with the DUH Website and project related documents. The corporate design includes templates for the newsletter, PowerPoint-presentation, flyer, letters and other documents. A roll-up (D.1) with project logo and acknowledgement of the support given by the LIFE grant was produced. In total, the costs for the design of the corporate design and the development of the website were much lower than expected.

Based on the analysis of the results of recent activities with giveaways, the project team decided not to produce **giveaways** for the project. Instead, we produced traffic signs to show the responsible authorities solutions to ban high polluters from cities without being dependent on a nationwide update of the low emission zone regulation. The traffic signs were a very helpful instrument for using in court hearings and social media activities.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Final corporate design and project logo	12/2016	01/2017	PR
Replicability plan	10/2016	11/2016	PR
Communication plan including comprehensive media strategy	10/2016	11/2016	PR
Update of the communication strategy on a regular basis	08/2017	10/2018	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Communication plan including comprehensive media strategy	10/2016	11/2016	PR

6.1.2. B.1 Background information on legal actions for air quality improvement

Foreseen start date:	08/2016	Actual start date:	08/2016
Foreseen end date:	11/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

DUH published a detailed **guideline** “Legal actions for clean air” mid of August 2017, which gives an overview about the relevant aspects of EU legislation, the air quality situation and legal cases in Germany. In addition, readers can find examples for effective air quality measures. The first guideline was available in German, English, Czech and Polish. Following the proposal of the Advisory Board and Monitoring team, the guideline was updated continuously with a changed focus.

A new version gives an overview of relevant aspects of EU legislation as well as important decisions in different Member States, the final version, published 2019 gives country-specific guidelines for France, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Spain and Italy and was published in the respective language. All versions are accessible at the project website and were distributed to stakeholders through different project partners in the respective countries, through the project team at various events and workshops and through downloads at the website. The brochures are useful for affected citizens and NGOs, local authorities and municipalities and journalists. In addition, we uploaded detailed specificities of the countries involved in the project at the project website. The most important and frequently asked questions from citizens were summarized and answered by DUH and uploaded at the DUH website. All the disseminated information was updated continuously.

In total, the guideline was published in 8 different languages and all versions are available digitally. We printed the 975 version of the background information professionally (400 English copies, and 115 copies each in Polish, French, Italian, Spanish and Hungarian). The German version was not printed due to the high frequency of updates, which goes beyond the scope of the grant agreement. The Czech version was distributed digitally by FBS. For events in our house (e.g. expert talks or press conferences) the latest version was always printed on site. This results in at least 500 printed German background papers during the project period.

Google Analytics does not measure file downloads by default. EASME criticized the lack of information on download numbers, and therefore our IT department found a solution since July 2018. Since that day, project publication were downloaded 2.600 times on the DUH website. On the project website it is still not possible to count download numbers. Therefore, this download number only reflect the second half of the project and one of many distribution ways. The actual number of citizens reached, is significantly higher.

Due to the dissemination at workshops, expert talks, external events like the EU Green Week 2019, at least 200 different organisations and legal experts from 10 different focus countries were informed and 900 political decision makers, authorities and experts were reached with specifically dissemination of the background material. Important multipliers like DG Environment linked and referred to our project publications.

There were considerable delays with the flyer, we already explained in earlier reports and at the monitoring meetings. In the last monitoring meeting on 20 September 2019, EASME has made clear to the project team, that the flyer is still a necessary deliverable of the project. It is necessary to provide a brief overview for local people, especially in countries where the awareness on air quality and your Right to Clean Air is comparatively low. Immediately after this feedback, the project team produced a video with Right to Clean Air project coordinator Dorothee Saar, to replace the flyer in an equivalent way. With country-specific facts from the European Environment Agency air quality report about the health effects of air pollutants,

citizens in countries where awareness of air pollution is less developed are made aware of their right to clean Air.

In order to reach as many citizens in the focus countries as possible, the video was advertised on Twitter in specific target groups from 6 selected countries. The video distribution started in October 2019 and is aimed at English-speaking citizens from

Romania: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605619840602114>

Bulgaria: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605618955575296>

Hungary: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605744432414722>

Czech Republic: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605620033708032>

Poland: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605618930438147>

and Italy: <https://twitter.com/Umwelthilfe/status/1186605619559751680>

Additionally, the video is available on DUH website and YouTube, for German audience: <https://lmy.de/9IO99>. All in all, the video is available in two languages and was watched 74.000 times until the project end.

This enables us to reach exactly the target group for which the flyer was designed. Printing costs have been eliminated, but costs for video editing and advertising to the relevant target groups have been generated.

Through all publications of the project we were able to reach more than 80,000 people, which is significantly more than expected in the Grant Agreement. A further indication that the project has reached people throughout Europe with successful work and that the project team, as an experienced player, is called upon to solve problems in numerous cases is shown by the high number of enquiries requests from citizens, institutes, NGOs and journalists. With over 1,900 inquiries, we have received a multiple of the expected project-specific requests. People from everywhere in Europe, but also from Asia and America contacted us with questions regarding their Right to Clean Air.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Updated and extended database of contacts	12/2017	02/2020	FR
Printed flyer in 3 languages	02/2017	-	FR
Flyer online in 5 other languages	06/2017	10/2019	FR
Printed guidelines in 3 languages	05/2017	08/2019	FR
Guidelines online in 5 other languages	09/2017	08/2019	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Feedback from citizens and NGOs shows that the information is considered and taken into account	07/2018	07/2018	MTR
Flyer has been widely distributed either as printed or as PDF version via the website	02/2019	10/2019	FR
All guidelines “Your right to Clean Air” have been distributed successfully	05/2019	05/2019	FR

6.1.3. B.2 Short Film

Foreseen start date:	01/2017	Actual start date:	01/2017
Foreseen end date:	11/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

The short film was finalised by the end of October 2017. After a call for tender and comparing the concepts of five agencies, we decided to hire Mitja von Eisenhart-Rothe. He already worked for DUH and created a short-film about the emission controls of diesel cars that was very successful and received a lot of public awareness. The aim of the short film is to raise awareness for the ongoing and omnipresent exposure to air pollutants for everyone. It shows different people in everyday situations and follows the claim “You can’t stop breathing”. We produced it in German, English and Czech.

We started the distribution of the short film on 2 January 2018. Since the beginning of 2018, we increased the attention on the topic air quality until the important hearing before the Federal Administrative Court Leipzig on 22 February 2018. We distributed the short film via YouTube, Twitter and Facebook and linked it on our project website as well as the websites of the beneficiary. We also shared the link to the film via mailing list of EEB, the NGO GPP Network and other interested NGO contacts. Contacts from our network like the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) distributed the video via social media.

To promote the short film to audiences beyond our network and to reach citizens which are not social media followers of DUH we placed advertisement on Facebook. By these distribution channels, we reached more than 118.500 people across Europe.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Concept for short film and restricted invitation to tender	01/2017	08/2017	MTR
Final version of the short film	04/2017	10/2017	MTR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Publication of short film	04/2017	1/2018	MTR
Short film viewed on YouTube by more than 15.000 people	12/2018	09/2018	MTR

6.1.4. B.3 Media work

Foreseen start date:	08/2016	Actual start date:	08/2016
Foreseen end date:	11/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

The media work within the project was very successful. When the project started in October 2016 the topic of legal activities regarding air quality had already a significant media attention due to the clean air case in Stuttgart. Therefore we skipped the foreseen kick-off-press-release and started right ahead with the project communication. To report the coverage of our media work, without violating the privacy regulations, it was decided with approval by EASME and MoT, to provide a list with numbers of institutions and the amount of individuals of our target groups, which is provided in the Annex.

Within the project period DUH published **104 press releases** about new developments in air quality, new AQPs, political decisions on European, national, and regional level as well as legal actions regarding air quality (Table in the Annex). The media attention on air quality and legal activities was tremendous. DUH reaches about 800 press contacts which subscribes for the press releases directly and approximately 2.000 press contacts via OTS. Via OTS the press releases are distributed nationwide via the technical infrastructure of the German PressAgency (dpa). All newspapers in Germany use dpa information and their cooperation with 90 different press agencies around the world guarantees an international impact. In addition, the DUH owns special distribution lists for certain cities, with which about 500 local journalists can be reached.

FBS continuously informed journalists on air quality and published 18 press releases in Czech and English related to air quality activities. FBS also provided insights and comments to journalists, mostly concerning the AQP cases that were topic of numerous articles (102 online Articles), TV releases (6) and a radio report. FBS presented some outputs and comments on their website and sent out 9 specific newsletters for journalists and 12 newsletters for citizens. Furthermore, DUH has a communication agreement with the international environmental organisation ClientEarth. CE published 30 press releases about project topics with quotes and objectives from the project team, reaching 70 international journalists each.

On average, we received at least 3 project-specific inquiries from journalists every day. On some days there were also 10 or more inquiries that came by phone or e-mail. The effort of a protocol was therefore not feasible. A rough, conservative projection shows that at least 2,000 inquiries from journalists were answered during the project period.

Some events had a tremendous media attention, e.g. the decision of the Federal Administrative Court Leipzig in February 2018 about the legitimacy of bans for diesel cars in the AQP Stuttgart. The project team organized a media event with inflatable elements and a demonstration for clean air. Local and national media published more than 70 articles and the CEO of DUH Jürgen Resch and our advisory and legal expert Prof Remo Klingler had more than 20 interviews in TV and Radio broadcasts on two days.

A comprehensive evaluation of media work and press clippings until September 2018 is provided in the Annex. The press clippings showed more than 536 online articles, 35 print articles and 41 radio and TV broadcast were published about the project activities. The television evening news broadcasted about air quality issues, hence more than **61 million** people were reached. These numbers were achieved until the midterm of the project, with the publication of 51 press releases. Press clippings for 51 press releases are attached in the Annex. Due to a continuation of our media work, and a total number of 104 press releases until the project end, it is a conservative estimation that more than 1.100 articles (online and print) were published. In consultation with MoT we decided, to stop the monitoring, as the media work increased tremendously and the work to cover all media mentioned the activities became too

extensive. Nevertheless, we were able to demonstrate that we were able to significantly exceed the expected results.

Our comprehensive and intensive media work achieved that the topic was constantly covered by the media and the media coverage may even be even higher. Media interest has risen sharply since February 2018, when the German Federal administrative court has confirmed our complaint. The second half of the project was characterised by more media requests than the first half. As the media monitoring was done manually, fewer articles can be recorded than using a digital tool to evaluate the media coverage.

The MoT and EASME have stated on several occasions that comprehensive and simplified press monitoring would be desirable and feasible by using the appropriate software. After several DUH LIFE projects have expressed this wish to the management, an appropriate monitoring tool was finally purchased. Since the beginning of November 2019 it is possible to count articles on the project objectives. For future projects a comprehensive media monitoring is now ensured, but for the duration of the current project it was only possible to show the media coverage in November 2019. 3,400 media articles were published in 11/2019 alone about the fight of the DUH for clean air. There is almost no day without at least 10 articles.

DUH informed regularly via social media about the project: Since August 2016, more than 1363 tweets related to air pollution and your Right to Clean Air have been posted on the DUH **Twitter** account (@umwelthilfe). The tweets addressed the court decisions, hinted at press articles and reacted quickly to current discussions. Twitter reaches professionally interested people, many multipliers, journalists and politicians and I therefore best suited for the LIFE Legal Actions project topics. The project relevant tweets reached more than **7.050.000** impressions and more than **154.000 interactions**. By the End of November 2019, more than 55.000 people follow DUH on Twitter. DUH's **Facebook** account (@umwelthile) is available since February 2016 and news about air quality are posted constantly. The number of likes is constantly growing, at the end of the LIFE project the account counted 18.000 likes. Additionally, DUH uses **Instagram** since August 2018 and already reaches almost 10.000 followers. Instagram will have an increasing relevance to reach citizens in the future. A monitoring tool for Instagram exists since November 2019 and will be used in future projects.

DUH initiated **13 articles in specialized magazines**. e.g. "ADFC Radzeit" a cycling and environmentalism magazine, "Natur" an environmentalism magazine, „Rundbrief Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung“ a publication on environmental law, "umwelt aktuell" a journal for European Environmental Policy and "ZUR Zeitschrift für Umweltrecht" a legal journal. In addition, DUH published six interviews and articles dedicated to air quality and project topics on the DUH website. A list of publications is available in the annex.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Mailing list with press contacts*	09/2016	11/2019	FR
Five articles in specialized journals will be published (starting with 11/2016)	11/2016	11/2017	MTR
Ten press releases over the entire project duration	10/2016	11/2019	FR
Three annual press clippings and internal evaluation of media work (starting with 30/11/2017)	30/11/2017 30/11/2018	11/2017 10/2018	MTR FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	
Kick-off press release	10/2016	-	-

*list with number of individuals and institutions in the Annex.

6.1.5. B.4 Expert talks in Germany

Foreseen start date:	08/2016	Actual start date:	08/2016
Foreseen end date:	11/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

DUH **organized 19 expert talks** during the reporting period. We have established an exchange forum on a regular basis with a fixed circle of 168 different participants from 93 different organisations (445 participants in total) that attended the meetings regularly and received and shared information on air quality issues. The main results were compiled and made available to our partner FBS and other NGOs in our network. They were integrated into the Capacity building workshops across Europe.

The meetings were very well attended by experts from industry, authorities and civil society. We reached manufactories of exhaust cleaning (e.g. HJS, Baumot, Proventia) and measurement devices (e.g. Testo, AVL), testing institutes (e.g. TÜV, Dekra) local authority representatives (e.g. Berlin Senate), environmental associations (e.g. NABU, BUND, VCD), the Federal Environment Agency and Members of German Parliament. Many multipliers like guilds, associations and chambers of commerce have passed on the information to their members. These multipliers in particular were involved in every expert discussion. The guild of the motor vehicle trade, took part in 16 of 19 expert talks. Representatives of the Central Association of the German Motor Trade were also present 16 times. A total of 18 times representatives of the German Federal Environment Agency took part in the expert talks. These are important multipliers and stakeholders.

The expert talks are very helpful for all participants to stay up to date about recent developments on the political and technical field as well as to discuss different perception of stakeholder regarding different air quality issues. The talks were a very good opportunity to discuss informally and develop common strategies. Within the expert talks, a broad range of topics were discussed. A summary of the topics discussed can be found in the annex. Particularly relevant issues and the changes achieved are presented below.

DUH regularly presented the results of measurements conducted within the DUH's Emission Control Institute (EKI). The measurements of real NO_x and CO₂ emissions from passenger cars (mainly Euro 5 and 6 standard) were compared to the official data from car manufacturers, generated in laboratory on a chassis dynamometer. The Federal Environment Agency also carried out measurements and presented them during the expert talks. Together with industry representatives and insiders, it was possible to identify vehicles for which an examination of the emission behaviour is of interest. We also tested the effectiveness of exhaust gas purification systems such as diesel particulate filters and catalytic converters. The expert talks revealed the necessity of testing certain cheap catalytic converters that cannot keep their emission control promises. Together with the partners from industry we established a new initiative to improve the periodic technical inspection (PTI) with integrated exhaust emission tests.

Particularly noteworthy is the close exchange with the Berlin Senate Administration. Employee of the Berlin Senate Department for Environment and Transport participated in 17 out of 19 expert talks. The new Berlin AQP, which was published in July 2019, is exemplary. Numerous measures that were discussed at the expert talks were taken up and implemented. Berlin has retrofitted numerous buses and heavy municipal vehicles such as collection vehicles of the municipal waste disposal company, making it a pioneer in this field. When the retrofitting was announced, DUH contributed a quote to the press release of the Berlin city cleaning service. All participants in the technical discussions were able to benefit from the practical reports. In addition, initiatives were launched by the state of Berlin in the Bundesrat for the amendment of the passenger transport act and the road traffic regulation to establish emission regulations for taxis and car-sharing vehicles and thus provide the municipalities further options.

One result of the intensive exchange with the experts was that a further development of the existing environmental zone system with red, yellow and green stickers would be necessary in order to be able to use a blue sticker to keep newer vehicles out of densely populated inner cities that are not cleaner than the old vehicles due to the diesel emission scandal. Many cities and federal states support this demand in order to easily implement the health protection of their residents. Unfortunately the sticker wasn't implemented so far, although diesel bans for diesel cars with emission standard Euro 4 and 5 are implemented in first cities.

A regular topic of our discussions was the “Immediate Programme for Clean Air” which was set up by the German Federal Government and entered into force in November 2017. This program should help municipalities implementing air quality measures - to avoid diesel bans. All municipalities can apply for financial support for air quality measures. The most effective measure of this programme is the hardware retrofitting of diesel buses in public transport with exhaust gas aftertreatment systems, with is subsidized with € 107 million. In December 2018, the Immediate Programme was extended by retrofit guidelines for heavy municipal trucks (e.g. garbage trucks) as well as light and heavy craftsmen and delivery vehicles by € 432 million. As requested by EASME, further information on the “Immediate Programme for Clean Air” are annexed.

Within the expert talks we addresses the administrative hurdles of the funding application process as well as the very slow approval of new retrofit systems. All problems identified within the expert talks were communicated to the competent authorities by environmental organisations, industry, business organisations and chambers of commerce. This enabled important changes to be initiated. After originally supporting only the retrofitting of buses, there is now also financial support for light and heavy municipal commercial vehicles as well as tradesmen's and delivery vehicles. The subsidy rates have been increased from 40 - 60% to 80% and the remaining holding period has been reduced from 4 to 2 years. With the actively participation of retrofit solution manufacturers in the expert talks, the LIFE Legal Actions project was an actor, pushing the public debate about funding and technical solutions regarding hardware retrofitting of Diesel vehicles.

DUH will continue the expert talks beyond the LIFE project period. The concept turned out to be very successful and all survey participants indicated that they are interested in continuing the expert talks. The next expert talks take place on 15 January 2020 and 24 March 2020.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Documentation of 18 expert talks (continuously)	11/2018	11/2019	FR
Documentation and translation of ideas and solutions (continuously)	11/2018	11/2019	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Transferable ideas and solutions have been widely disseminated	11/2018	11/2018	FR

6.1.6. B.5 Capacity Building for European legal action

Foreseen start date:	08/2016	Actual start date:	08/2016
Foreseen end date:	11/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

During the project period, the team organized nine capacity building workshops in nine different EU member states. These workshops were well attended and received great interest. In total, **we have reached 299 individuals from 211 different organisations**. On 20 February 2018, EASME agreed that due to the high number of participants of the first workshops, 9

events may be sufficient to achieve the expected results. We organised three webinars to follow up on the workshops and to answer questions of citizens.

From 08/2017 to 03/2018 we sent three letters each to the authorities of 45 cities with limit value exceedances. We asked to implement effective measures to reduce concentration of air pollutants, and offered our help and expertise.

Some authorities published drafts of new air quality plans. In the context of public participation processes, **the project team sent statements on 24 draft AQPs and proposed measures to improve air quality**. We forwarded our statements to citizens, initiatives and local NGOs to support them with their statements and published press releases to announce the statements and to raise awareness on local decisions that influence the quality of life of the local inhabitants.

Based on previous experiences with organizing Capacity Building Workshops for NGOs and experts we developed a concept for the series of workshops planned within this action.

11/2016 (Berlin): Capacity building workshop “European legal actions”; attended by 22 representatives from NGOs, citizen’s initiatives and legal experts from different MS (UK, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal and Germany). Experts from Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, United Kingdom and the Netherlands presented current activities and discussed possible strategies together with the audience.

04/2017 (Bratislava): Joint capacity building workshop with our colleagues from the LIFE project Clean Heat (LIFE14 GIE/DE/490). The event was supported by our partner NGOs the Danish Ecological Council (DEC) and CEPTA, as well as the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. 65 participants attended the event. The Ministry of Environment realized that air quality is one of the major challenges in Slovakia and that there is the need to introduce a bunch of measures to reduce air pollution.

10/2017 (Krakow): Conference ‘How to improve air quality in Poland?’- about the air quality situation in Poland, sources of the air pollution, emissions from residential burning and air quality measures. Our partner NGO Fundacja Frank Bold (FFB) supported the event. 48 representatives from 40 different associations took part in the workshops and use the information provided for best practice measures and legal actions in their own country.

12/2017 (Webinar): As a follow up of the first workshops DUH organised a **webinar** with representatives of NGOs in Poland, the Czech Republic (Action B.7) and Slovakia. We discussed results, current activities, chances and obstacles as well as further actions.

03/2018 (Webinar): DUH organised a **webinar**, were CEO Jürgen Resch and lawyer Prof Remo Klinger answered questions resulting from the judgment of the Federal Administrative Court. Interested citizens, representatives from environmental organisations and citizens initiatives were invited to attend the webinar. In total 114 people attended the one-hour event.

04/2018 (Brussels): Capacity building workshop on “European legal actions on air quality”. We discussed current legal cases in different Member States. Different speakers presented air quality cases from Germany, Czech Republic, UK, Belgium, Poland and Slovakia.

11/2018 (Budapest): Capacity building workshop organized together with the Hungarian NGO CAAG and the European umbrella Transport and Environment. 61 experts from NGOs, administrations and law firms attended the workshop located in the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights.

01/2019 (Milan): Capacity building workshop organized together with the Italian NGO “Cittadini per l’Aria” as a side-event of the RespiraMi conference “Air pollution and our health” by WHO. Many international health experts for example Barbara Hoffmann from University

Düsseldorf and Frank J. Kelly from King’s College London spoke about new evidences on health effects of air pollution. 23 participants attended the workshop.

06/2019 (Amsterdam): Capacity building workshop organized together with the Dutch NGO Mileudefensie in cooperation with the LIFE Project “Get Real” (LIFE15 GIC/DE/029 CLOSE THE GAP). 25 legal experts, interested citizens and NGO employees from 14 different organisations attended the workshop. New insights about the real fuel consumption and information about collective consumer protection in law were discussed in the morning; legal cases regarding air quality plans across Europe were focused on in the afternoon.

06/2019 (Madrid): Capacity building workshop organized together with the Spanish NGO Ecodes. Similar to the workshop in the Netherlands, 28 attendees from 21 different organisations participated in the cooperating workshop with the Get Real project. The workshop informed about legal action on clean air and legal aspects regarding real fuel consumptions. Particular Spanish measures to comply with the legal limit values and the effect of the low emission zone in Madrid were analysed and discussed.

10/2019 (Sofia): Capacity building workshop organized together with the Bulgarian NGO Za Zemiata in the Capital. 18 participants from 12 different NGOs and law firms attended the workshop to discuss legal actions to improve air quality. A min focus was the access to more air quality data.

Besides the workshops and webinars, the project team established contacts and cooperations with engaged NGOs and citizen initiatives across Europe, which want to take action to improve air quality in their region.

In Poland, Fundacja Frank Bold with support of DUH started two civil lawsuits. The first case was against entrepreneurs, selling illegal wood and coal boilers. Both businesses removed the illegal boilers from their stores and websites. The template notification of criminal offence was successfully used by other NGOs starting procedures against similar companies. The second case is against a company advertising the removal of exhaust gas filters from Diesel cars. Judgement is expected mid-2020.

We were contacted by a lawyer and founder of an NGO (Asociata Justite si Mediu) from Romania, with whom we had a close exchange with telephone calls, Skype conversations and finally a meeting in Berlin. With our support a lawsuit against the Bucharest AQP was filed.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Concept for the workshops	10/2016	11/2016	PR
Database of environmental + consumer protection NGOs in Europe	10/2016	10/2016	PR
Documentation of three Webinars for thematic follow up after the Capacity Building Workshops (03/2017; 03/2018; 03/2019)	03/2019	10/2019	FR
Documentation of 10 Capacity Building Workshops in Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Italy, France and Brussels	11/2019	10/2019	FR
Documentation of country specific follow up with NGOs and citizens initiatives in Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Italy and France after the Capacity Building Workshops in those countries	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Documentation of min 13 information requests/public participation initiatives based on the information provided in the workshops; at least 8 lawsuits in Germany and 7 in the other focus countries	11/2019	11/2019	FR

Documentation of policy change based on review of initiated participation, legal activities and concrete measures initiated by our project	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Documentation of 10 Capacity Building Workshops in Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Italy, France and Brussels	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Minimum 13 information requests/public participation initiatives based on the information provided in the workshops;	11/2019	11/2019	FR

6.1.7. B.6 Better use of EU funding and Green Public Procurement for improving air quality

Foreseen start date:	01/2017	Actual start date:	01/2017
Foreseen end date:	09/2019	Actual end date:	11/2019

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is an important tool to influence market constellations and the supply of products that suit ecological needs as the public sector is the far biggest customer for most types of goods and services. Therefore, we were aiming at strengthening criteria bound to air pollution within public tenders.

DUH joined the European NGO network on GPP founded by ICLEI, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and EEB. DUH attended the Introductory Session on 26 January 2017 in Szentendre, Hungary. On 20 June 2017, DUH attended the Advanced Training Session within the European Network on GPP in Brussels and presented the project activities and chances to use GPP for reducing air pollution to approximately 20 other European NGOs.

Participating in this NGO network is a good chance for DUH to evaluate the transposition of EU directives to national levels and to receive recommendations for GPP criteria addressing air pollution. DUH attended the annual network meeting on 23 May 2018 in Brussels and presented the activities on low emission buses and hand-held machinery to approximately 20 other NGOs. The work of DUH was two times spread with the ICLEI newsletter as “NGO in the spotlight”.

Within the project period, the EU Commission revised the EU Green Public Procurement criteria for Transport and for Public Space Maintenance. The Joint Research Center (JRC) organized Stakeholder discussions and webinars and developed a technical report with criteria proposals. Together with other NGOs, e.g. T&E and EEB DUH took part in this process and gave written feedbacks for both sections by end of July 2017 and January 2018. We recommend that the proposal for the transport criteria should explicitly focus on NOx and PM, as these pollutants have the most detrimental effects on air quality. The DUH was involved in the development process (partly through our umbrella organization EEB) and has provided input for a joint statement of the first draft. DUH also participated in the EU GPP webinars on the 18. June and 20. June 2018, where the second draft was further discussed. The feedback received from stakeholders has been included in the new technical report and criteria catalogue.

Battery-powered mobile garden equipment is a major point in green procurement of public space maintenance, because it doesn't emit any exhaust gases on site and the operation is significantly quieter. This promises protection for consumers and residents alike. At the same time, the new technology poses new challenges in terms of sustainability, for example in terms of service life, resource requirements, reusability or recycling. To push the change to more sustainable low emission equipment, DUH aimed to develop guidelines and introduce ambitious criteria to the green public procurement of local authorities. Therefore, DUH

organized an expert talk on the “Use of battery-powered gardening tools in professional applications - reduction potential for pollutants and noise” in 03/2018. 25 participants discussed the existing criteria of the Blue Angel label, procurement in Berlin and sustainability criteria for battery-powered garden tools.

To develop a catalogue of criteria to assess the environmental compatibility of battery-operated hand-held, existing environmental specifications were reviewed and evaluated. Additionally, the three manufacturers with the highest market share were asked for comments about the currently available technical solutions and future developments. The final catalogue was developed together with the DUH department for circular economy and is available online and should serve as a blueprint for public procurement criteria.

To promote the use of battery-powered garden tools in public space maintenance, the DUH has initiated a pilot project together with the Berlin Senate Administration. Ten public green area maintenance offices in Berlin used various battery-powered hedge trimmers, leaf blowers and brush cutters in their daily work for about five months and documented this on a regular basis. The aim was to eliminate user reservations about battery technology and to gain additional information about the practical suitability of the devices.

The results were discussed on two workshops on the 21st and 22nd May 2019. One workshop was bringing all participants of the pilot project together (green area offices, senate department, manufacturers). The second one was widening up the scope on sharing the results with participants from other cities. Representatives from Potsdam, Gelsenkirchen, Cologne also presented own practical experiences with the use and procurement of battery garden tools.

The results of the pilot and the events will be incorporated into the specifications for public procurement of the Berlin Senate. The concrete specifications are not in force yet. A follow up project of the senate department in 2020 will support the green area offices with a funding program to purchase battery equipment and build up the infrastructure for safe storage and loading of the batteries. Also ambitious procurement criteria along the DUH catalogue will be tested, so that at the end ambitious but realistic specifications can be incorporated and serve as a blue print for other cities.

The fact sheet with information about retrofitting of buses was sent to all 94 cities in Germany eligible for funding, to inform them about possible air quality requirements in green public procurement for transport services. Additionally, the information was sent to contacts from 135 municipal transport companies providing public transport in these cities. **All in all the factsheet has been distributed to 229 local and regional stakeholders.** With intensive press and public relations work as well as statements on air quality plans, the DUH pointed out that this retrofit is a fast and cost-effective way to significantly improve air quality. **38 cities used this information and committed to retrofit their existing bus fleet and to purchase new busses fulfilling the EU GPP criteria for air pollutant emissions;** retrofits of more than 2.000 busses are publicly committed so far. Many cities even go beyond the comprehensive EU GPP criteria (68% of buses meeting euro VI in 2019 and 76% in 2020) and commit themselves to operate their bus fleets in 2019 or 2020 with 100% buses of the Euro VI emission standard.

The retrofit guideline was developed together with participants of the GPP expert talk in July 2018. Manufacturers like HJS, Twintech and Baumot participated in a working group to create a new guideline on bus retrofitting for Great Britain taking into account the DUH fact sheet. It describes the technical possibilities of retrofitting buses with exhaust after-treatment and explains the necessity for air quality in city centres. The manufactures were very active in our expert talks and used the forum to debate about technical and political problems regarding new solutions, e.g. access to data, funding guidelines or approval procedures. This English fact sheet can be useful to reach municipalities in further regions, when

The implementation of GPP activities, which are associated with additional costs, has proved difficult, especially in CEE countries. Since there is no implementation obligation and no funding, sustainable procurement in our focus areas is not taking place at present. In consultation with our European partners, we came to the conclusion that a translation of the GPP fact sheets would therefore not be appropriate. In case there will be suitable funding programmes in the future, DUH and FBS will translate the fact sheet into Czech during the After LIFE period.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Fact sheet in German, English and Czech on GPP and air quality measures*	08/2018	12/2018	MTR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
100 municipalities will be informed about possible air quality requirements to include into GPP and 20 administrations will use this information in their tendering procedures	10/2019	10/2019	FR
Fact sheet in German, English and Czech on GPP and air quality measures have been distributed to 200 local and regional administrations	10/2019	10/2019	FR

*Fact sheet in German attached. No translation to other languages, as most funding is on national level

6.1.8. B.7 Capacity Building for European legal action

Foreseen start date:	10/2016	Actual start date:	09/2016
Foreseen end date:	12/2019	Actual end date:	12/2019

FBS organised a capacity building workshop in Brno on 25 September 2017 with the name “Improving air quality in municipalities” (Zlepšování kvality ovzduší v obcích). The speakers provided information on legal actions, expertise to improve air quality and tools for local citizens and NGOs. The exchange of the know-how between various stakeholders (local citizens, representatives of the municipalities, the Ministry of Environment, NGOs and a foreign expert) took place. Czech laws offer useful instruments, however, municipalities rarely use them as they might be too complicated and costly, especially for smaller municipalities.

22 participants and speakers from municipalities and NGOs attended and presented their expertise. Representatives of local citizen initiatives spoke about issues they are dealing with received feedback and additional information from other parties. Report on the workshop was sent out in FBS newsletter, documentation of the workshop and its agenda has been shared with DUH. Feedback forms were evaluated and shared with DUH. The invitation, registration form and agenda can be found [here](#); the shared slides from the workshop [here](#).

FBS started developing new air quality case following the capacity building workshop after being approached by claimants residing in Ostrava, the most polluted city in the country, who both contracted lung cancer. In May 2018 FBS helped the claimants to fill a motion to the Ministry of Environment under the liability of state for unlawful decision and wrongful procedure, claiming there is causal link between the unlawful air quality exceeding limits for carcinogenic benzo(a)pyren. A case of this nature has never been pursued in the Czech Republic before.

In 11/2018 the Ministry of Environment dismissed the claimants’ motion for damages under the liability of state for unlawful decision and wrongful procedure. In the meantime, the next steps for FBS were predominantly related to further development of the case and preparation

of the lawsuit. Extensive expert epidemiologist opinions were produced as evidence for the case at the third quarter of 2018.

In 12/2018 FBS in cooperation with the claimant brought a lawsuit against the Ministry of the Environment for liability for harm to health and death before the District court for Prague 10. The plaintiff is seeking compensation for contracting lung cancer, which was successfully treated in her case, but which her husband succumbed to. She sees the causes of the illness in the long-term above-limit concentration of air pollutants in her hometown Ostrava - Radvanice and in the fact that the Ministry has not taken effective measures that would change this state. The case is of a great social significance, as it highlights a systemic breach of the air quality legislation in the Czech Republic and a long-term inactivity of the Ministry of Environment to meet the air quality standards.

Information on the legal action via newsletter circulated among FBS' partners in 12/2018 and received high media coverage. There were at least 8 media outputs, including a report in the news of public TV ČT24 and a printed article in a leading newsmagazine. As there hasn't been any significant development in the case so far, the second press release on developments in this case will be released in the After-LIFE period. Nevertheless, the expected results on citizens informed were overachieved, as an expected result was to inform 4 000 citizens via media, and in reality, more than 50 000 citizens was reached. Additionally FBS published a press release not on the mentioned legal action, but on another air quality lawsuit that is closely connected to the case.

During the whole duration of the project, FBS provided legal support to an umbrella organisation Zelený kruh (Green circle), which connects 25 organisations working in the field of air protection. More than three of these organisations expressed their interest in taking action against lack of legal compliance on air quality aspects, for instance Hnutí DUHA (Czech Friends of the Earth), Greenpeace Czech Republic or Pražské matky (Prague Mothers) and Čisté nebe (Clean sky). Some of these organisations even published some of the press releases jointly with FBS. Furthermore, FBS provided numerous updates to these organisations via mailing-list that was created by Green circle specifically for the topic of air protection.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Concept and agenda for the Workshop	10/2016	08/2017	MTR
List of contacts to the environmental NGOs, local residents and other stakeholders in the Czech Republic	10/2016	09/2017	MTR
Documentation of the Capacity Building Workshop	03/2017	09/2017	MTR
2 press releases on submission of legal action and the developments in the case	11/2019	11/2019	FR
information on the legal action via newsletter circulated among the national partners	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
At least 3 organisation express their interest in taking action against lack of legal compliance on air quality aspects	11/2019	11/2019	FR
At least 4.000 citizens on the Czech Republic will be informed on the opportunities leading to the better implementation of air quality legislation in the Czech Republic	11/2019	11/2019	FR

6.1.9. C.1 Impact on the target group and the environmental problem

Foreseen start date:	10/2016	Actual start date:	10/2016
Foreseen end date:	09/2019	Actual end date:	09/2019

DUH prepared **feedback forms** for the evaluation of our Capacity Building Workshops. DUH and FBS distributed them on the workshops and summarised the answer in a reporting table. The answers serves as a feedback to improve the events. From 299 participants of the Capacity Building workshops, we received 103 feedback forms. The feedback is very positive: 93% of the participants received new information about the subject air quality. 100% would attend another Right to Clean Air event. 97% of the participants say that the information received was useful for their work and **90% of the participants say that the presented content can be transferred to their region**. The evaluation of the Questionnaire is attached in the Annex.

We also prepared a survey for the evaluation of the expert talks. As the majority of experts participated again and again, it was not useful to ask for feedback after every expert talk. Additionally, the majority of participants were high-level participants, who did not have time to fill out surveys. At the working level, it is more common to receive feedback through surveys than it is for managing directors of industrial companies or members of the parliament. We sent the survey to 48 people who regularly participated in our expert talks. Thereof, we received 17 feedback forms, which again are very positive: 94% of the participants received new information about the subject air quality. 100% of the participants stated that the information received was useful for their work. **100% of the participants would like to see a continuation of the expert talks in the future**. The evaluation of the Questionnaire is attached in the Annex.

In the same survey we asked the participants if the awareness of the problem air pollution and possible solutions in politics and administrations as well as among the population has increased during the last years. 100% of the participants see an increase in awareness among politicians and administrations and 94% see an increase in awareness among the population. 88% of the participants stated, that DUH has significantly contributed to this development.

In August 2017, DUH sent **letters** to 16 regional authorities responsible for air quality in 46 cities with significant limit value exceedances. In the letters, we stated that measures implemented so far are obviously not sufficient to guarantee a compliance with the existing law, so that the AQPs must be updated in order to comply with the EU air quality directive as soon as possible. DUH suggested measures that are essential to meet the NO₂ annual mean by 1 January 2018, e.g. a low emission zone, retrofitting of busses and supporting the establishment of low-emission taxis. In November 2017 the Immediate Programme for Clean Air entered into force, and therefore, in November 2017, DUH sent a second **letter** to 16 regional authorities responsible for air quality in 45 cities with significant limit value exceedances. We informed that, measures implemented so far are obviously not sufficient to guarantee a compliance with the existing law, so that the AQPs must be updated to reach compliance as soon as possible. Due to the new funding additional measures are affordable. In February 2018 the Highest German Federal Court judged, that low emission zones can be designed stricter in order to keep out high polluting diesel vehicles. Therefore, in March 2018, we sent a third **letter** to 16 regional authorities responsible for air quality planning in 42 cities, arguing that after the decision of the Federal Administrative Court low emission zones have to be introduced, if other measures are not sufficient to reach compliance with the limits in the same time period.

As a result of these letters we have received a lot of information about planned measures and their effectiveness, but this has also resulted in numerous cooperation and meetings. For example, Jürgen Resch met the mayor of Hannover on 25 October 2017, Dorothee Saar met the mayor of Osnabrück on 6 November 2017 and Jürgen Resch met the North Rhine-Westphalian Environment Minister several times and the mayor of Ludwigsburg on 17. October 2019.

All authorities answered our letters within the given period. Some cities didn't see the necessity to update their air quality plans. Against those cities, DUH or other organizations filed lawsuits. Other regional authorities answered that they currently update their AQPs or work on master plans to apply for funds from the German government. Whenever new draft AQPs were published, the project team sent a statement in the course of public participation. Some of the new air quality plans were sufficiently good, others didn't contain measures to be below the limit value in short term. For example the new AQP of Munich calculated further limit value exceedances until 2027. In the months after the letters were written, a number of suitable AQPs and a number of new lawsuits were added if there was no will to create a suitable AQP. All in all, the project team was able to obtain the publication of 25 new AQPs during the project period. An overview of the AQPs and the measures contained can be found in the Annex.

These new air quality plans contain lots of measures that we support. Enabled by the federal government's funding, they contain measures to encourage the use of bicycle and public transport, investments into their infrastructure and concepts to digitize mobility and to connect different means of transport. In cities with comparatively low limit value exceedances, these measures may be sufficient to meet the limit values. In cases of very high limit value exceedances, the foreseen measures are not appropriate to reach compliances as soon as possible as the impact will be too small and only effective in the long term.

After partially vehement criticism of the clean air lawsuits, it has now been recognized that it cannot be wrong to demand compliance with applicable law. Many authorities publicly state the lawsuits are helping to push the activities regarding traffic transition and decision for more investments in sustainable transport. Winfried Herrmann, Minister of transport Baden-Württemberg highlighted the importance of legal cases before national courts at the Clean Air Forum in Paris. He stated that the federal government is responsible for providing the legal basis for federal states and municipalities, e.g. efficient and appropriate tools, thus they can adopt adequate measures in their field of responsibility. The legal pressure of air quality cases helped to raise the awareness of the necessity of such new legal tools. Also Ursula Heinen-Esser, the environmental minister from North Rhine-Westphalia welcomes our efforts: "The years passed and nothing happened in North Rhine-Westphalia. Then, in 2015, Deutsche Umwelthilfe began suing cities in North Rhine-Westphalia for updating their air quality plans. I took office in 2018, and since then we have been working intensively on AQPs to finally meet the NO2 limits. It is unacceptable for laws to be made that will not be complied with in the foreseeable future."

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Feedback forms for participants of our events	12/2016	11/2016	PR
Final qualitative indicators for monitoring agreed on with Advisory Board	12/2016	02/2017	PR
Questionnaire for expert interviews	03/2017	07/2018	MTR
Questionnaire for municipalities, ministries and public authorities	03/2017	10/2017	MTR
Three internal monitoring reports including evaluation of surveys (30/11/2017; 30/11/2018; 30/11/2019)	11/2017	11/2017	MTR
	11/2018	12/2018	MTR
	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Milestones	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Three internal monitoring reports including evaluation of surveys (30/11/2017; 30/11/2018; 30/11/2019)	11/2017	11/2017	MTR
	11/2018	12/2018	MTR
	11/2019	11/2019	FR

6.1.10. D.1 Project Website “Clean Air litigation”, Information Board and Layman’s Report

Foreseen start date:	10/2016	Actual start date:	10/2016
Foreseen end date:	12/2019	Actual end date:	01/2020

The **Information Boards** are online and available via www.duh.de/projekte/right-to-clean-air and <http://frankbold.org/pravo-na-cisty-vzduch>. A **poster** is designed and printed and was used on certain events like the expert talks, capacity building workshops and conferences.

The **project website** www.right-to-clean-air.eu was developed by an agency, commissioned after a restricted call for tenders and launched at the end of January 2017. The website is available in German, English and Czech. The website provides specific information about the project itself, legal situation of different EU Member States and current legal actions, press releases, judgements and background material. In addition, people can find information about time extensions, notifications and infringements by the EU Commission. The website was updated and extend continuously also with regard to the main target groups of the project: citizens, environmental and consumer protections organisations local and regional administrations and municipalities, stakeholders and media.

Visitors of the website had the possibility to contact the project team directly via telephone or E-Mail to give feedback. We received more than 2.000 requests by citizens and NGOs, a significant amount via the contact form of the website and several requests directly via telephone or E-Mail. Recording to the feedback function of the website, 84 % of the website visitors found the information they were looking for. Additionally, we provide information about the project on seven different DUH website subpages, listed in the Annex. With this online information, more than 139.000 **people** have been reached. We are updating the content of the websites regularly and will keep them up to date beyond the project duration. The number of hits per months is difficult to determine, as the different subpages were accessed unevenly.

In January 2020 we developed a Layman’s report to summarize the project activities and their impact and to inform the layman about the problem of air pollution and the measures, the project was campaigning for to tackle them. It is illustrated with numerous graphics and diagrams to make the content accessible. The report was drawn up in German, English and Czech and will be disseminated via the website and within the established project network. Due to the network, approximately 400 people receive the report directly, more people will be reached through dissemination at DUH and FBS website, as well as the project website.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Concept/ Invitation to tender for website	11/2016	11/2016	PR
Information Board Online and Poster	01/2017	01/2017	PR
Project Website online	01/2017	02/2017	PR
Three annual reports with number of visitors and feedback	11/2019	11/2019	FR
Layman’s report in German, English and Czech	01/2020	02/2020	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Project Website including notice board online	01/2017	02/2017	PR
Evaluation of the questionnaires confirms that the website provides meaningful information as a valid basis for decision making	12/2018	02/2019	FR
Layman’s report in German, English and Czech	01/2020	02/2020	FR

6.1.11. D.2 Networking and Newsletter

Foreseen start date:	09/2016	Actual start date:	09/2016
Foreseen end date:	12/2019	Actual end date:	12/2019

An intensive network was developed within the project period. Due to the participation in many different events, visited by different stakeholders, the issue of air quality and compliance with the legally binding thresholds was placed in all relevant forums. As a member of several clean air related working groups, like EEB clean air working group, NGO GPP network (coordinated by ICLEI & EEB) and T&E diesel working group, DUH is in regular contact and exchange of experiences with important stakeholders regarding the air quality. EEB has 160 member organisations and T&E 60 member organisations. With our workshops we reached 211 different organisations, also representatives of legal experts.

During the reporting period, members of the project team participated in more than **110 national and international** events, including many high-quality conferences with relevant air quality stakeholders, e.g. the Air quality Conference in Busan, the 21. Environment and Traffic Congress BUVKO, the EU Green Week 2019 and the Clean Air Forum in Bratislava. Within these events, more than 7.000 experts and decision makers could be reached with our messages. The project team attended 53 times as speaker. CEO Jürgen Resch had **24 meetings** with local politicians, like mayors from several cities, with members of the German and the European Parliament and with the environmental minister of North Rhine Westphalia. Additionally, he had high-level meetings with CEOs from other organisations, like Agora Verkehrswende or dena and medical experts talking about effective air quality measures and legislative demands. An incomplete list of attendance at external events is attached in the Annex.

At several GPP Network meetings and Clean Air Working Group meetings, we presented our LIFE project to more than 170 representatives from NGOs in about 15 other Member States. DUH had meetings with representatives of local authorities, NGOs and transportation companies in several German and European cities (e.g. Bozen, Meran, Bucharest, Sofia) that are suffering from air pollution. Together with them, we discussed effective air quality measures and evaluated how they can reach compliance with the limits as soon as possible.

The project team developed seven newsletters within the reporting period. Due to privacy reasons we need an opt-in to add stakeholders to our subscriber list. We started to contact already known NGOs and legal experts working in the field of air quality. During the project period the number of registrations increased from about 30 subscribers for the 1st, to 80 for the 3rd newsletter and 128 subscribers by the end of the project. Many people were recruited through the feedback forms in our events and our website. Most of the subscribers are new contacts, hence the newsletter enabled us to expand our network in numerous European member states. We will continue to disseminate relevant information beyond the duration of the project in order to contribute to the sustainable growth of know-how.

After the important judgement of the Highest Administrative Court in Germany in **02/2018**, DUH offered the translation of the written judgement, which states the legality of diesel driving bans as a measure to comply with the legal limit values as soon as possible. The translation was made accessible in all other workshops and to our network.

The dissemination of information about the Right to Clean Air Project in presentations, discussions and the newsletter reached at least the 128 subscribers of the newsletter, the 299 participants of the capacity building workshops, 168 different participants from 93 different organisations at our expert talks, and thereby more than the promised 500 administrations, NGOs, coordinators of EU projects were included in our network activities. In at least 10 EU countries the close cooperation and dissemination of information lead to the initiation of

activities. In the Netherlands a fundraising for new legal actions was established, in Romania the organisation Asociatia Justitie si Mediu prepared a litigation against the Bucharest air quality plan and was supported by DUH. In order to build up know-how in this new organization, phone calls and video conferences were held and on 26 September 2019 the project team welcomed the founder of the NGO in Berlin to discuss technical, legal and financial issues. For the future, a joint NO2 measurement campaign was agreed upon.

After intensive consultation in the EBB Clean Air Action Group and a workshop in Budapest, the Hungarian NGO Clean Air Action Group submitted statements on the air quality plan for Budapest and filed a suit. In Poland an intense cooperation with Fundacja Frank Bold lead to two litigations against companies, which advertised the removal of pollutant filters. The project team was in detailed exchange with the Italian NGO Cittadini per l’Aria, the Bulgarian NGO Za Zemiata and the Spanish organisation Ecologistas en Acción, before they got active with legal actions. Most of the mentioned NGOs participated in our workshops. In a close cooperation with ClientEarth, active with legal action in several countries around Europe, important information about legal cases, developments of air quality and effective measures were exchanged to support each other with legal advice. Both partners contributed to legal actions in the Czech Republic and Germany.

The project team is regularly in exchange with other LIFE projects working in the issue of air quality like ASPIRE (LIFE16 ENV/IT/000004), RESPIRA (LIFE13 ENV/ES/000417) and CLEAN HEAT (LIFE14 GIE/DE/0000490).

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
List of organisations and events in Europe in the field of air quality	03/2017	11/2016	PR
Six project newsletters (starting with 31/03/2017)	03/2017	7 out of 6	FR
Documentation of participation in 10 events to present the project and results	10/2019	104 out of 10	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Evaluation of networking activities (starting with 31.01.2017)	01/2017	12/2019	FR

6.1.12. E.1 Project Management

The **partnership agreement** between DUH and FBS was signed on 23 August 2016. DUH as coordinating beneficiary attended the **LIFE15 kick-off meeting** in Brussels on 16 October 2016 and presented the Life Legal Actions project. Additionally, the project team could establish valuable contacts to expand the network and received helpful information about the LIFE program from other beneficiaries.

The project team had several **team meetings** that took place in Berlin on 21 November 2016, 23 February 2017, 16 January 2018, and 5 December 2018. The last team meeting took place after the monitoring meeting in September 2019 to plan the final reporting. These meetings were useful to discuss current project activities, changes and challenges. In addition, a very intensive communication via E-mail, telephone or video conference between the project partners developed during the project period, that’s why five team meetings were sufficient. Minutes of all project team meetings have been written and shared between the partners.

On 13 March 2017, 22 January 2018, 10 December 2018 and 20 September 2019 DUH invited Ms Pfirrmann from the external **monitoring team**. She provided very helpful feedback on the due dates of several deliverables, the timetable and the project specific indicators. At the last

meeting, Ms Pffirman was accompanied by Ms Oancea from EASME. Both gave us very important input to finalize the project successfully.

At the end of the project we developed an After-LIFE plan including overall objectives for the after project period. All actions, that will be continued or established, and who will be responsible are mentioned. Further action will target the general public, NGOs, political decision makers and responsible authorities. Lessons learned, channels to further disseminate the project results in Europe and financial resources to continue with the work are described.

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
Signed partnership agreement with associated beneficiary FBS	08/2016	08/2016	PR
Minutes of six project team meetings (09/2016; 03/2017; 09/2017; 04/2018; 11/2018; 04/2019)	04/2019	09/2019	FR
First progress report	06/2017	06/2017	PR
Midterm report	11/2018	12/2018	MTR
After Life-Plan for our activities on legal actions for clean air	01/2020	01/2020	FR
Final report	02/2020	02/2020	FR
Milestone	Deadline	Delivery	Report
First progress report	06/2017	06/2017	PR
Midterm report with positive evaluation of the European Commission	11/2018	12/2018	MTR
Final report submitted to the European Commission	02/2020	02/2020	FR

6.1.13. E.2 Advisory Board

Foreseen start date:	10/2016	Actual start date:	10/2016
Foreseen end date:	12/2019	Actual end date:	01/2020

Six members from different professions in the field of air pollution and all countries that are represented by the project partners compose the board. FBS invited two experts from the Czech Republic (Mr Radim Šrám a Mrs Eva Rychlíková) to take part and set up a communication with them on the project and the meetings. By the end of December 2017, Alan Andrews left ClientEarth. Therefore, Ugo Taddei replaced him in the Advisory Board. He works as lawyer at ClientEarths' Strategic Litigation programme, focuses on clean air, and is up to date with the clean air litigation across Europe

In the first meeting, the advisory board identified the indicators to evaluate the project and agreed on a monitoring process. All meetings intended to discuss difficulties and challenges. A special emphasis was given to the questions of awareness raising, changing mobility patterns and media work to address the different target groups. At the second advisory board meeting in January 2018 in Berlin, the board members advised us with contacting target groups and suggested collecting more knowledge on health impacts.

The third board meeting in November 2018 was conducted in Prague, to ensure an easy participation for the Czech board members. Hence, the meeting had a more specialized focus on the on possibilities to raise awareness on air pollution in CEE and Czech Republic in special.

The last meeting took place in Berlin and was mainly scheduled to develop and discuss the evaluation report. Therefore the project team prepared the necessary input and a framework for

the report. The Board gave substantial input and developed a report finalized in February 2020. Since the majority of discussions was included in the evaluation report, we agreed not to produce minutes of the meeting.

Name	Function	Organisation/ Institution
Ugo Taddei	Lawyer	ClientEarth
Joachim Meifort	Medical advisor	retired
Radim Šrám	Medical expert	Institute of Experimental Medicine (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
Eva Rychlíková	Medical expert	Zdravotní ústav (Health Institute)
Dagmar Dehmer	Journalist	Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung (BGE)
Volker Diegmann	Managing Director	IVU Umwelt GmbH

Deliverable	Deadline	Delivery	Report
List of members of the Advisory Board	10/2016	11/2016	PR
Minutes of four Advisory Board Meetings (30/11/2016; 30/11/2017; 30/11/2018; 30/11/2019)	11/2016	11/2016	FR
	11/2017	11/2017	
	11/2018	12/2018	
	11/2019	12/2019	
Advisory Board evaluation for final report	12/2019	01/2020	FR
Milestones	Deadline	Delivery	
Creation of Advisory Board	10/2016	12/2016	PR
Advisory Board evaluation for final report	12/2019	01/2020	FR

6.1.14. Outside LIFE

Beside the LIFE project DUH is very active in the topic Dieselgate. We try to get more information about the real driving emissions of vehicles and technical options to improve emissions. Within the Emissions Control Institute (EKI) DUH performed complex on-road measurements on more than 130 cars and published the results. Nearly all cars that we tested exceeded the limit values on the road significantly but some also complied with the NOx limit value, which shows feasibility of effective exhaust gas cleaning. We also detected some formerly unknown defeat devices that are part of legal cases against responsible authorities. DUH started lawsuits against the German Vehicle Certification Agency for the revocation of type approval. This work has led to numerous official recalls, obliging car manufacturers to remove switch-off devices from the software and developing hardware retrofit systems.

A part of our media work covers both the legal activities and diesel gate, as high polluting diesel cars are the main reason, why the limit values are exceeded. During the project period, the public attention on this topic exploded. It became a major issue in election campaigns. Meanwhile the German national government organized three top summits (Dieselgipfel) to put in place measures to avoid a ban of diesel cars. Around these summits, the project team used the broad media attention to place both our political claims and our expert knowledge in newspapers, TV and radio nationwide. Our project team, especially our CEO and the external advisors Prof. Dr Klinger and Dr Friedrich conducted uncountable numbers of interviews and background talks with journalists and politicians. Our strong position and offensive work in both, Dieselgate and clean air litigations, opens opportunities to place our claims during all political developments and public debates regarding these topics. This is important to bring at a later step administrations to purchase cleaner vehicles.

DUH initiated a campaign to find the most polluted places in Germany, besides the official monitoring stations. We therefore asked the public to send us places that are suffering from air pollution. As citizen science the people measured the air pollution with diffusion samplers. A Swiss lab analyses the measurements. After two large campaigns across Germany we together with local partners expanded the project to other European member states like Czech Republic, Slovenia, Serbia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. In many countries nitrogen dioxide is still an underestimated problem, as the main focus is on particles. The results show that air quality is a widespread problem even apart from the official measuring stations and that there are often pollution levels that are significantly higher than the official measured values. The results of these measurements are used to ask the cities and municipalities to install own air quality monitoring facilities. We published a nitrogen dioxide report and share the results with the ECJ. The results are summarized and published on our website <https://www.duh.de/abgasalarm/>.

In the meantime, retrofit systems exist for almost all vehicles concerned, which would limit the effects of a diesel driving ban to a one-hour garage visit. The majority of the costs are either borne by the manufacturers (VW and Daimler) or subsidised by government funds. A new law stipulates that vehicles that have received a hardware retrofit are exempt from driving bans. In addition to the diesel driving bans, which are omnipresent in the media, there is also the possibility of reducing motorised private transport as a whole through an ambitious traffic transition, which is also desirable from a climate perspective. In the meantime, 10 proceedings have been concluded by means of settlements, of which only one settlement also includes diesel driving bans. In all other cities, short-term measures are intended to significantly reduce the total volume of traffic and promote a transition by promoting public transport and non-motorised traffic.

FBS leveraged the legal actions and judgements on air quality plans for four zones and agglomerations to bring the air quality topic and message across to the media. The judgements from the Supreme Administrative Court were delivered between December 2017 and May 2018. The decisions were groundbreaking in the Czech context, leaning heavily on the EU legislation and case law from other Member States. The judgements are firsts of their kind and following their delivery, legislative changes begun to improve air quality protection and enforcement of air quality plans in the Czech Republic.

6.2. Main deviations, problems and corrective actions implemented

All difficulties and challenges that occurred during the project were solved by the end of the project. In the meantime there has been a discussion about the harmfulness to health of air pollutants in general and nitrogen dioxide in particular. There was a danger that a few publicists, similar to climate change deniers, would gain the upper hand in the discussion. Therefore, many capacities had to be invested in the evaluation of health studies and public relations work on scientific facts. We published many statements from scientific and medical professionals, to convince the public of the damages, air pollutants can cause. The discussion has now calmed down.

Some parts of the project were of outstanding success, therefore we used the opportunity and intensified work on these actions. The media outcome was surprisingly high and we reached significant amount of citizens as well as decision makers through our press work. That's why we intensified our press work and published a multiple of the press releases expected. As a result, also the requests from journalists increased, and to provide them up to date information, we had to frequently update our background information.

This effort was partly at the expense of other project areas, resulting in delays in the implementation of individual actions such as the flyer. In both project teams severe staff

changes occurred, which were not helpful to stay within the planned time frame. The organisation of capacity building workshops also came to a partial delay. After one workshop in 2016 and two workshops in 2017 and 2018 each, the project team organized four workshops during 2019. As a result, in many countries there was not yet the possibility of a comprehensive follow-ups. Initiatives launched at the workshops need time to show results. An example is a lawsuit in the Netherlands, for which crowdfunding has been started. The initiatives will be accompanied during the After-LIFE period.

Long-term cooperation with partner NGOs was a problem especially where the financial resources of NGOs were poor. In the project, financial resources were only available for individual actions, which made long-term cooperation over several years difficult. In future projects, more NGOs from different countries should be part of the permanent project team. Many activities were planned with focus to other European countries such as the flyer, information input for the background paper and website, capacity building workshops, GPP activities. Without consistent long-term cooperation, changing partners had to be chosen, which also involved changing countries. Therefore, the individual activities had different target countries, which allowed us to be present in more countries than planned, but with a lower intensity than expected.

Czech Republic: Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs, detailed background information, as there are strong and professional activities in the field of air quality, which have the potential to increase the focus on nitrogen dioxide and the legal proceedings. The flyer (videoclip) with focus on Czechia tries to raise awareness on these issues.

Romania: Flyer (videoclip) with focus on Romania as public awareness on air quality is low. Intense cooperation with one NGO resulted in a lawsuit, consideration of a workshop in the After-LIFE period.

Italy: Country with intense cooperation. Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs resulting in a lawsuit against the Lombardy air quality plan. Flyer (videoclip) with focus on Italy and joint air quality monitoring campaign (Outside LIFE) to raise public awareness, as air quality is very bad.

Bulgaria: Flyer (videoclip) with focus on Bulgaria and joint air quality monitoring campaign (Outside LIFE) as public awareness on air quality is low. Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs.

Slovakia: Joint workshop and follow-up webinar, but no capacities in local NGOs for further collaboration.

Poland: Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs, detailed background information, as there are strong and professional activities in the field of air quality, which have the potential to increase the focus on nitrogen dioxide and the legal proceedings. The flyer (videoclip) with focus on Poland tries to raise awareness on these issues.

Spain: Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs and detailed background information in Spanish. Further collaboration with NGOs to avoid the abolition of the Madrid low emission zone.

France: The population in France is informed about air quality. Detailed cooperation has failed due to capacity problems of the partner organisations. In order to support interested NGOs, lawyers and citizens' initiatives, we have nevertheless prepared a French version of our background information.

Netherlands: Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs. No necessity for awareness raising. Good access to the English and German language, so no materials in Dutch were necessary.

Belgium: Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs, focus on European instead of national level. No necessity for awareness raising.

Hungary: Country with intense cooperation. Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs resulting in a lawsuit against the Budapest air quality plan. Flyer (videoclip) with focus on Hungary as public awareness on air quality is low.

Italy: Country with intense cooperation. Joint workshop to build-up capacities in NGOs resulting in a lawsuit against the Budapest air quality plan. Flyer (videoclip) with focus on Italy to raise public awareness, as air quality is very bad.

As a result the focus countries of the project were Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Hungary. In retrospect, Slovakia and France cannot be described as focus countries, but the activities were divided among 5 further countries to have an impact in large parts of Europe.

6.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

A specific comparison against the objectives and expected results foreseen in the proposal is given in the sections for each action. For most of the actions, the methodology used has proven to be appropriate. Besides, cost-effectiveness of the activities implemented is satisfactory in general. In the following areas, the project team decided to change the original plans in order to assure a higher cost-effectiveness and successful implementation:

Media work: The project's media work outperformed the initial expectations and we reached minimum 250% more people than planned. In particular direct talks to individual journalist proved to be successful and lead to comprehensive reports. Press conferences have become less important in the recent years. In our opinion the impact of air pollution on health isn't well communicated, so we were putting efforts to elaborate the results of scientific studies and results in a more comprehensively way. Due to the huge number of articles and TV and radio reports about our work, it would have been a big effort to follow up on all articles. Therefore we stopped to monitor articles in print newspapers to reduce the workload. Also the effort to use the social media has increased during the project, as more platforms have been added.

Background information: Printed materials are less and less demanded and most people prefer the digital dissemination of information. Future projects should have a stronger focus on the digital dissemination of publications. In the end the flyer was replaced by a video clip, which in retrospect is even better suited to reach citizens and educate them about air quality and their right to clean air. Within a very short time, more than 70,000 people in 6 countries were reached. This would be difficult to imagine with a printed flyer. Important multipliers like DG Environment, ICLEI and the EEB link to our detailed background information.

Cooperation with NGOs in other Member States: Up to now, it proved to be successful to include NGOs in other Member States as 'external assistance' and not as beneficiaries. By this, we are able to replicate and transfer project activities in other Member States with less coordination efforts and taking into account that many NGOs cannot secure easily the co-financing. In the project, more financial resources have to be allocated to cooperation partners and co-financing of activities was in the responsibility of DUH and FBS alone. Nevertheless, the downside is, that long-term cooperation is more difficult, as the partners can weigh up from activity to activity whether they are willing and able to participate.

Capacity Building Workshops: Germany is a pioneer within the EU when it comes to improving air quality. After years of work by NGOs such as Deutsche Umwelthilfe (German Environmental Aid), the latest figures show that less than half as many cities are affected by limit value exceedances as at the start of the project. Such positive developments have been supported in other countries. Many workshops and activities could be initiated only in the

second half of the project, this is why the effects on air quality will become apparent in the after-LIFE period.

The methodology to follow-up with the participants of the Capacity Building workshops was changed among the project duration. Webinars with participants from different workshops in different countries are complicated to organize, and the participation is reluctant. One on one follow-up with phone calls, video chats and meetings in person were more constructive and productive.

Added value is given by the project's contribution to the implementation and further development of EU legislation like the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), EU GPP criteria or the Aarhus convention. In its publications on the AAQD fitness check, DG Environment links and refers to project publications. In addition, we succeeded to raise awareness in other Member States which underlines the transnational approach of our project. Due to our focus on air pollution caused by transport and traffic, many discussions about the future of mobility started in Germany and other countries. Awareness about the need to change mobility patterns can lead to reduced CO₂ emissions. The project triggered the creation of the 'Immediate Programm for Clean air' providing € 2 billion for clean air measures. The project lead to an improvement of the monitoring network and more comparable monitoring e.g. by the broad use of passive samplers for NO₂ monitoring.

A quantitative comparison of the expected project results based on indicators defined by the advisory board and the actual results is attached in the Annex (Supplementary Documents/3).

6.4. Analysis of benefits

As a project focussing on information and governance, it is not possible to measure the direct quantitative environmental benefits of our activities. However, the project activities proof to have an influence on the target groups and on the key stakeholders which is leading to a reduction of air pollution in Germany, the Czech Republic and other Member States. This project had a great impact on the public awareness of health problems caused by air pollution, on the public debate and on concrete policies.

Mayors of German cities but also in other EU Member States may have been encouraged to implement stricter measures like low emission zones to improve the air quality. This pressure enhances on the one hand a faster development of technical solutions and of course the fundamental discussion on sustainable mobility.

To avoid diesel bans, the German government established funding programmes with a total volume of € 2 billion to finance measures with a positive impact on air quality, e.g. retrofitting of public busses, promoting digitalization of transport systems and electric vehicles. DUH was very active in pushing this program, especially the retrofitting activities. As busses are an important issue to develop sustainable mobility, they have to be clean.

The general perception of the problem air pollution has increased significantly. When taking the media-attention and the published articles as criteria, the rise of a general awareness of the harmful effects of air pollution becomes quite visible. Also the evaluation of feedback forms from participants of our expert talks (B4) shows that awareness increased. 65% of the participants stated that awareness of the problem of air pollution and possible solutions increased in politics and administrations has increased clearly over the last few years and 35% stated that it increased slightly. 94% of the participants also see an increase in awareness of the population. 88% say that DUH has clearly contributed to this development.

We also see more and more events and conferences about the topic on national and European level, another indicator for the growing popularity of these topics among politicians. The green

party of the German parliament organized several summits regarding the air quality- and diesel-topics. Representatives of local and regional authorities all over Germany are confronted with the questions on how and when to take responsibility for the Air Quality Problem, especially those sued by DUH. Also the EU Green Week 2019 put implementation of environmental legislation into the spotlight.

The final decision by the federal administrative court in Leipzig is not only ground-breaking for Germany, but also for other European countries. It states, that a national law that is conflicting with European legislation like the ambient air quality directive, is not applicable. This means that courts throughout Europe can refer to this ruling to demand effective actions for clean air and fast implementation. We ordered an English translation of the verdict and spread it among our network.

Also a case in front of the ECJU is based on the activities of DUH and deals with the question which coercive measures can be imposed on authorities and politicians who refuse to implement legally binding court decisions. This clarifies very basic principles of the rule of law, which go far beyond the issue of clean air. Therefore, actions of our project have a very high replicability allowing other NGOs to file lawsuits for clean air, too.

Benefits with regard to information and behaviour of citizens and the benefits with regard to knowledge of policy makers/framework conditions are explained in the Annex (Supplementary Documents/3_Quantitative results of the project).

Economic and social benefits

- Reduction of socio-economic costs related to mortality and morbidity due to air pollution: 436.000 premature deaths in EU-28 were attributed to PM_{2,5} pollution in 2013, according to the European Environmental Agency (EEA). Although the number of premature deaths slightly decreased to 374.000 in 2016 (latest figures issued by EEA in 10/2019), further action is crucial
- The strong discussion on air quality problems helped to find and implement technical solutions.
- Retrofitting of diesel vehicles like buses with exhaust gas aftertreatment systems, will reduce the fleet emissions significantly, with positive effects on the air quality in cities. In the medium term, this also leads to better air quality in CEE countries, as discarded vehicles are often exported to these countries and will be used for many years more.

Transferability and replicability of the project's activities

- Intense exchange and collaboration with NGOs in other member states and with European NGOs shows the interest of the organizations in the project objectives. As the industry coordinates their interests on a European level, joint NGO efforts on European level to defend air quality are essential.
- A coordinated exchange of knowledge on legal activities and summary of important decisions improves the development of legal strategies and the success with legal cases.

7. Key Project-level Indicators

We included the data into the KPI database webtool. There are no significant deviations from the targets set initially.

8. Comments on the financial report

External assistance:

DUH Umweltschutz-Service GmbH is a legally independent company with its own legal entity and commercial registry entry. It is not an affiliate of Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. The DUH Umweltschutz-Service GmbH offers their services at prices often below market average. Essential overheads and appropriate personal costs are included in all invoices to ensure that the DUH Umweltschutz-Service GmbH is working on a cost-effective basis. In past LIFE projects (e.g. PRO KLIMA, Cities of Biodiversity, Clean Heat) DUH e.V. has commissioned the DUH Umweltschutz-Service GmbH and all services invoiced were accepted as eligible costs by the European Commission. Also in the current project we continued to include the company in the usual tendering process – mainly for services such as rental of rooms for events and possibly for graphic design. Call for tenders with the usual request of 3 offers for specific services and regular comparison of prices ensure that Umweltschutz-Service GmbH is only commissioned if it has the best price-performance ratio. In order to simplify tendering processes for the rental of rooms, room costs for the usual size of events/expert talks planned in Berlin are compared on a regular basis and not for every single meeting/event.

The cost category external assistance shows the largest upward deviations, which can be explained by the greater need for external expertise. The workload for both the technical and scientific expert and the legal expert was about 40% higher than expected, as there have been significantly more requests by citizens, NGOs as well as journalists and media. Additionally, the background materials were updated frequently and a larger amount of statements in the context of public participation were published. EASME asked for further explanations on the awarding of contracts to the external experts. A detailed explanation is provided in the Annex (Supplementary Documents/2)

Personnel costs:

The personnel costs of DUH were moderately higher than planned, which has several reasons:

- [REDACTED]
- Significant higher workload for the press officer. The workload of the press Officer was estimated at 67 working days. However, during the course of the project, a workload of 81 days accrued. As the daily rate of the press officer (320 €) was lower than expected (362 €), the increase of personnel costs was moderately.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

FBS: The number of person-days reported for the roles “Communication officer” and “Lawyer” has exceeded the foreseen values. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The higher involvement of the communication officer was caused by the fact that more opportunities and reasons to communicate about the right to clean air have occurred in the Czechia than expected during the planning phase of the project. Therefore there was a need to use the capacity of the communication officer to the greater extent and the expenses had to be increased properly to pay for her additional work. [REDACTED]

Thanks to a great effort that the lawyers brought into the case, the civil lawsuit has no precedent in the Czech legal history and the additional costs invested into its preparations have significantly enhanced the Right to Clean Air project in Czechia.

Travel costs:

[REDACTED]

8.1. Summary of Costs Incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement in €	Costs incurred within the reporting period in €	%
1. Personnel	548.005,00	583.492,89	106,48%
2. Travel and subsistence	30.950,00	31.509,97	101,81%
3. External assistance	153.190,00	165.845,97	108,26%
4. Durables goods: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost	-		
- <i>Infrastructure sub-tot.</i>	-		
- <i>Equipment sub-tot.</i>	-		
- <i>Prototype sub-tot.</i>	-		
5. Consumables	-		
6. Other costs	80.955,00	54.686,46	67,55%
7. Overheads	56.836,00	56.702,76	99,77%
TOTAL	869.936,00	892.238,06	102,56 %

Comments on the individual budget posts

- With a deviation of less than 3%, the project total expenditure corresponds well to the budget according to the grant agreement.
- Shifts between the budget categories are significantly below the permitted 20% of the total budget.
- Other costs are lower than expected, as the travel costs for speakers, NGO representatives and members of the advisory board were significantly lower.
- Travel costs are slightly higher than expected, as project team members participated in 10 times more external events than expected. As the travel costs per trip were minimized, the total amount is only slightly increased.

8.2.Accounting system

DUH and FBS have a double-entry accounting system. Both partners created a cost centre for the legal actions project. All invoices are marked with the LIFE reference number or at least with a unique project reference (specific cost centre/legal actions). All incoming invoices were approved by the project coordinators/project managers of the beneficiaries in order to include the correct services rendered and related costs. Then, the supervisor approves the payment for the accountancy that will authorise the payment. Every three months, the coordinating beneficiary checked the cost centre statement/overview and makes sure that cost incurred conform to the regulations for eligibility.

DUH uses its own electronic time recording system as basis for the model timesheets provided by the European Commission. The supervisors review the timesheets within two weeks after each month. Only in cases of holidays or sick leave, this period has been longer.

8.3.Partnership arrangements

After receiving the first and second payment, the coordinating beneficiary immediately transferred the corresponding first and second payment to the associated beneficiary. Financial reporting is organized by each partner and updated every quarter of the year. FBS provided the financial report on its costs for the Final Report. The coordinating beneficiary did the consolidated cost statement in close consultation with the LIFE monitoring team.

8.4.Certificate on the financial statement

Due to the revised general conditions of LIFE funding (see amendment to General Agreement), an external audit of the project partner's budget is not required anymore.