

# IMPROVING THE EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MONITORING SYSTEM IN GEORGIA AND ITS HARMONIZATION WITH EU DIRECTIVES

POLICY PAPER SUMMARY



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Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform is an association of local and international non-commercial legal entities registered in Georgia, aiming to promote and implement the goals set by the Joint Declarations of the Prague, Warsaw and Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summits and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement of European Neighborhood Policy and other joint events.

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## Summary

This air quality monitoring policy document discusses the current state of the environmental protection monitoring system, describes containment materials in six cities in Georgia, and exposes indicative measurement outcomes in seventeen cities. It also analyses the gaps in the existing monitoring system and sets ways to solve these issues.

The major cause of air pollution in Georgian cities, especially in the capital, is automotive transportation, for which control imposed on the pollutants from transports is recommended, and for which an independent organizational structure equipped with lab equipment should be created to control the quality of fuel.

It is recommended to:

- Widen the network and improve the material-technical base. For this purpose, short and long term action plans are needed.
- Properly select locations for monitoring stations of the network, increase the specter of air pollutants, and ensure its coherence with EU provided standards.
- Mobilize finances from international organizations' support programs and harmonize the entire air quality monitoring system with EU standards to improve the air quality monitoring material-technical base.

This document reflects the respective EU Directives in the field of environmental protection, imposed by the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. With regard to air quality, Georgia should harmonize legislative regulations with the EU Parliament 21.05.2008 Directive and the Council 2008/50/EC Directive on Atmospheric Air Quality and Cleaner Air in Europe. Also provided are the Directives for the correspondence of the standards used for environmental monitoring with EU standards and requirements.

In addition, this policy paper examines the draft law by the Georgian Parliament on improving fuel quality and proposes amendments.

In general, careful and rational approaches to the environmental and natural resources are crucial at the current stage of economic and social development. Vitally important projects in the Country should fully include the economic and social interests of the Country's population.

Therefore, any environmental measures taken should guarantee safeguarding natural ecosystems. Steps must be taken to restore forests and verdures, especially in urban settlements. Moreover, larger urban areas must accelerate and expand their green zones, planting absorbent, broad-leaved and coniferous trees, and enlarge recreational zones.

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