

## **Coordination meeting on IFI-supported lending for investments in clean air in Central Asia**

*9 November 2020, Webex*

### **AGENDA**

#### **Background**

According to the OECD, “Urban air pollution is set to become the top environmental cause of mortality worldwide by 2050, ahead of dirty water and lack of sanitation”. Poor air quality causes many health issues, such as asthma and cardiovascular problems. This in turn results in lost working days due to ill health, and higher costs for healthcare services. Health problems linked to poor air quality are particularly bad in urban areas, where air quality is generally lower.

The main source of the air pollution in cities, except industry, are transport and heating. Thus cities, providers of municipal services, businesses and citizens of the Central Asia countries need to make significant investments towards reducing the main sources of the air pollution.

The EU-funded project “European Union – Central Asia Water, Environment and Climate Change Cooperation (WECOOP)” aims to enhance environment, climate change and water policies in Central Asia through approximation to EU standards and to promote green investments in relevant sectors with the aim of contributing to measurable reductions in man-made pollution, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### **Purpose**

IFIs and EU play an important role in municipal and private investments in the Central Asia. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current and the future pipelines of environmental investment projects, analyse the main barriers to unlock more environmental investments and to find the potential catalytic role of the EU.

#### **Objective**

The major specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- review the experience with the design and implementation of relevant environmentally related IFI-supported investment projects in Central Asia, with focus on reduction of air pollution, and
- identify key lessons and potential challenges to project implementation that can help EU Delegations in the region to identify and support environmental projects that promote green lending.

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# WECOOP

EU – Central Asia Cooperation on  
Water – Environment – Climate Change

Monday, 9 November 2020	
10:00 (Brussels) 14:00 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 15:00 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Opening of the event and Welcome remarks  <i>Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</i>
10:10 (Brussels) 14:10 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 15:10 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	WECOOP project – previous experience with promoting green investments and lessons learnt  <i>Mr Valts Vilnītis, Team Leader, WECOOP</i>
10:20 (Brussels) 14:20 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 15:20 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Short presentation by each IFI on the current pipeline of projects and plans with focus on urban public transport, road traffic management, and heating sectors  <i>IFI representatives, 5 minutes each</i>
11:20 (Brussels) 15:20 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 16:20 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Reduction of air pollution in CA cities – approaches and solutions  <i>Dr Vladislav Bízek, Key Expert: EU Acquis and Environment Enforcement, WECOOP</i>
11:30 (Brussels) 15:30 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 16:30 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Types of investment projects and beneficiaries that WECOOP is ready to help developing  <i>Mr Rafal Stanek, Environmental investment expert, WECOOP</i>
11:40 (Brussels) 15:40 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 16:40 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Facilitated discussion on barriers in implementing environmental investment projects in CA and how EU may help to overcome it  <i>Mr Rafal Stanek, Environmental investment expert, WECOOP</i>
12:20 (Brussels) 16:20 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 17:20 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Steps forward  <i>Mr Valts Vilnītis, Team Leader, WECOOP</i>
12:25 (Brussels) 16:25 (Ashgabat, Dushanbe, Tashkent) 17:25 (Bishkek, Nur-Sultan)	Closing of the event  <i>Mr Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan</i>