

Auditing and Improvement of the Bulgarian Quality Management System for Reporting Greenhouse Gases



Coal power plants are sources of greenhouse gas emissions (Photo: Rike/pixelio.de)

Background

Bulgaria ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and is thus, as an Annex B country, obliged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to submit annually an inventory of these to the UNFCCC Secretariat, and, according to Decision 280/2004/EC, also to the EU Commission. This inventory is to be compiled in accordance with the valid IPCC Guidelines and the IPCC Good Practice Guidance for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, which establishes, along with the technical requirements, also requirements to the Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA).

In 2010, the Bulgarian National Inventory System (BGNIS) was reviewed by international experts on behalf of the UNFCCC Secretariat, and need for improvement was identified. Starting point of this project was the request of the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water for support, as well as a following short audit by the Quality Coordinator of the emission inventory of the German Federal Environment Agency, who identified a number of improvement potentials. These concern, among others, tools and processes, an improvement cycle,

QC/QA checklists, an inventory improvement plan, the process organisation as well as roles and responsibilities.

Project

Content of the project was to audit and to develop the quality management system of the BGNIS, with the aim to improve it and to achieve compliance with the requirements of the IPCC. Target group of the project was primarily the inventory team of the BGNIS at the Bulgarian Executive Environment Agency, but external experts (in particular data providers) were also involved. After performing an initial audit, measures towards optimisation and improvement have been discussed in five workshops, and practical support was given for future QC/QA and verification activities. The project's finalisation was shaped, first, with a workshop on Quality Assurance, in which the participants conducted internal audits and thus applied the knowledge acquired in the previous months, and, second, with a workshop on verification, which provided an outlook into possible more extensive QC/QA measures.

Essential results of the project are a new, more practicable Quality Management Manual, which contains relevant procedures and processes, as well as a revised QC/QA checklist.

- Target country: Bulgaria
- Duration: 11/2011 – 05/2013
- Beneficiary: Bulgarian Executive Environment Agency (ExEA)
- Implementing organisation: Environment Agency Austria
- Project number: FKZ 380 01 273