



ÁLLAMI
SZÁMVEVŐSZÉK

FOLLOW-UP AUDIT ON MEASURES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

Summary for the press
of the follow-up audit on the impact of the measures to combat air pollution and
in the area of climate policy (15069)

The State Audit Office of Hungary (SAO) has finished the follow-up audit on the impact of the measures to combat air pollution. In 2011 the SAO assessed the fulfilment of international commitments concerning the reduction of air pollution and climate protection. Related to the deficiencies revealed during the 2011 audit, it formulated recommendations for the Ministers for National Development and Rural Development. The current follow-up audit aimed at evaluating the implementation of the action plans prepared to utilise recommendations. According to the findings of the follow-up audit, all tasks but two stipulated in the action plans were fully completed by the audited organisations which were provided in their action plans and became topical.

In 2011, the SAO audited the impact of the measures to combat air pollution and in the area of climate policy for the years 2004-2010, within this framework the implementation of the objectives related to the reduction of air pollution and climate protection were evaluated with the system auditing method.

To rectify the identified deficiencies, the SAO made recommendations for the Ministers for National Development and Rural Development, and for their utilisation the Act on SAO stipulates the obligation to elaborate an action plan. In order to fulfil their legal obligation, the organisations concerned prepared their action plans, which were adopted by the SAO.

The follow-up audit aimed at evaluating the implementation of the tasks stipulated in the action plan. The period of the audit covered the period between the adoption of the action plans and the day of the beginning of the follow-up audit (until 1st December 2014). The audit revealed that the audited organisations completed five of seven topical tasks provided in their action plans, one was only partly implemented (the fulfilment is still in process), and one task was not managed by the audited organisation indicated as responsible.

One of the tasks specified by the Minister for National Development, namely the implementation of the measure related to the preparation of the framework act of climate protection was not timely because of the international discussions in under way. The additional tasks were performed. The regulation of the tasks of decision-making and documentation of the sale of the emission allowances was prepared. For the support programmes started in 2012 and being planned, the measures for the purpose of ensuring the measuring of the reduction of emission and the project "Improving transport connections for the intermodal centre National Public Port Győr-Gönyű" were implemented.

Two of the four recommendations addressed to the Minister for Rural Development fully found practical use. In the programmes aimed at the reduction of air pollution, the indicators for assessing the impact were developed, their application was followed up. There were arrangements to assess and develop the need for staff and equipment for the task performance in the exercise of official authority. The task specified for the revision of regulation of air protection was only partly implemented, the comprehensive professional review is currently ongoing. The Ministry did not initiate the modification of the legal provisions to draw up municipal environmental programme and the local rules for the protection of the environment, but the task was managed by the entry into force of the new act on local governments.

The State Audit Office of Hungary as the financial and economic audit organisation of the National Assembly, is one of the key basic institutions of the democratic state organisation. Its mission is to promote the transparency of public finances with its value creating audits performed on a solid professional basis, thus contributing to 'good governance'. With its recommendations, the SAO facilitates the regular, economical, efficient and effective utilisation and use of public funds.