Umwelt Bundesamt

AAP Advisory Assistance Programme

German Environment Agency

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

PROJECT INFORMATION

Training and advisory assistance on the software BESTAL in Bulgaria

Updated: June 2026



Power station with a stack and a cooling tower

Source: Helmut Lorentz

Background

As an EU member state and a party to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, Bulgaria is obliged to improve air quality and to implement relevant EU and international requirements. A key challenge is the exceeding of air quality limit values, especially for particulate matter (PM10). The Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) therefore wants to advance the calculation of appropriate stack heights and the assessment of pollutant dispersion in Bulgaria by using the software BESTAL.

Project details

The project aims to provide expertise in BESTAL (BESMIN and BESMAX) and to support the assessment of regulatory requirements for its widespread use in Bulgaria. With an English and Bulgarian version of the software, relevant staff of MoEW, its Regional Inspectorates, the Executive Environment Agency and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) will be trained in the application of BESTAL, inter alia through a 'train-the-trainer' approach. The training will convey the opportunities and limitations of the software and establish initial technical and personnel preconditions for its implementation in Bulgaria. Because BESTAL was originally developed to operate within the regulatory and administrative framework conditions of Germany, an exchange of experiences will be conducted with relevant experts from the competent Bulgarian ministries and the NIMH. This exchange will identify similarities and differences between the legal, institutional and administrative frameworks in Germany and Bulgaria. Building on this knowledge and on the technical expertise from the BESTAL trainings, the project will explore options for advancing the methodology currently applied in Bulgaria. The aim is to further develop this methodology through a Bulgaria-specific application of BESTAL and to establish it officially.

Project country: Bulgaria
Duration: 07/2025 – 06/2028
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Environment and Water, Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water, Executive Environment Agency, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Health
Implementing organisation:
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Project number:
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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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