

NEWSLETTER

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LIFEWATEROIL

The **LIFE20 ENV/BG/001042 LIFE WATEROIL** Project is being implemented by LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas JSC, Burgas Municipality, Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov University and Eurovix SPA, Italy. The Project is co-financed by the European Union under the LIFE program as an initiative improving the quality of the environment.



In February 2023, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) joined the LIFE Wateroil Project team. The Society is actively working for nature preservation in the area of "Mandra-Poda". In 1989, following BSPB's suggestion the government declared "Poda" a protected area and officially entrusted the BSPB to manage it. In 1997, BSPB established its Poda Centre as a place to monitor wildlife and carry out direct environmental protection activities with the participation of local communities. Nowadays over 8,000 people visit the Poda center every year. In 2006, at the proposal of the BSPB, the Mandra-Poda water complex was declared a Special Protection Area under the European Union Birds Directive.

Within the LIFE Wateroil Project, BSPB will develop and conduct a number of events and educational programs to raise the awareness of Burgas citizens about the issues of wetlands and water conservation for protection of biodiversity in the region. For example, the "Falling in Love with Wetlands" program will include a series of outdoor lectures during which BSPB experts will share with students from Burgas schools basic knowledge about aquatic ecosystems, water as the basis for their existence, and solutions for their preservation.



Burgas Municipality plays an active role in the implementation of the LIFE WATEROIL project activities. Together with the coordinating partner "LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas" AD a "Methodology for the application of best practices of olfactometry for air quality assessment and odour management in "LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas" AD" has been developed. The methodology provides guidelines for proactive



activities to prevent the spread of odours generated by the refinery's operations. It will enable the correct identification of odour sources, taking into account all technological and climatic factors influencing the spread of odours, and presents a response plan for detected exceedances of certain parameters.

Following the completion of the pipeline rehabilitation activity for the reuse of waste water from the Refinery's atmospheric-vacuum distillation units, the methodology will be tested and refined as necessary.

The final positive outcome of the activities for the development and implementation of the "Methodology for the application of the best practices of olfactometry for air quality assessment and odour management at LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas AD" can be considered in several aspects.

- On the territory of LUKOIL Neftohim Burgas AD and adjacent settlements a system based on European best practices will be established, allowing a proactive approach to effectively reduce the number of situations where unpleasant odours are generated. By eliminating the environmental risks associated with the desalination process, an improvement in air quality and a reduction in the number of complaints from citizens related to air quality are expected.

- The good practice of applying such a methodology would have a significant potential for spreading to the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and other countries of South East Europe, given that most industrial enterprises generate odour risks from their activities.

- The statistical data accumulated during the implementation could serve as a good basis for the development of a model for the predictive analysis of odour risks.



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