

Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region

List of Contents

- Purpose of policy
- Method of policy preparation

Our Priorities

- Air protection
 - Waste management
 - Water management
 - Energy sector
 - Nature and landscape protection
 - Agriculture and rural areas
 - Environmental education and awareness
 - Forest management
-
- Conclusion

PURPOSE OF POLICY

It is obvious that the condition of the environment, especially air pollution, is currently one of the key problems of the Moravian-Silesian Region. Not only due to the potential negative effects of environmental pollution on human health, but also because its condition has a direct impact on the economic and social development of the Region. In recent years, the environment in the Region has improved significantly, but a number of issues still remain and must be focused on.

The condition of the environment may also adversely affect the development of the Region by reducing the attractiveness of life in the Region for university graduates and qualified professionals from other parts of the Czech Republic and abroad. It may also cause the departure of those for whom the quality of their environment is a priority (parents with children and young professionals). This fact is especially important in the area of innovation and research activities, which cannot be developed without the involvement of both students educated at local universities and other experts from the Czech Republic and abroad.

It is therefore obvious that the implementation of a comprehensive regional approach to environmental protection can contribute not only to the actual improvement of the environment, but also to the overall economic and social development of the Region.

For the above reasons, a comprehensive document entitled Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region has been prepared. This publication primarily presents the main conclusions and recommendations of that document.

The objectives of the Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region are as follows:

- a) To create an instrument that enables better decision-making by the Region in a manner that will further reduce the negative effects of the condition of the environment. Its implementation will contribute towards the integration of environmental protection aspects into social and economic development, and towards the overall sustainability of the Region. The policy will be implemented through priority actions and specific projects that will have a major impact on improving the quality of the environment while contributing to the overall economic and social development of the Region.
- b) To create a comparative strategic platform that will enable competent estimates of the impact of development projects on the environment (currently, it is necessary to compare any project with a number of partial environmental concepts).
- c) To create a set of other measures and plans (potential projects) which can be implemented in the future (whose importance may gradually increase over time).

- d) To create a basis for determining the position of the Region in negotiations on the method and focus of support from the European Union in the 2014-2020 period.

METHOD OF POLICY PREPARATION

The Region has already prepared a number of environmental concepts – both mandatory and on its own initiative. However, their number, varying structures, scopes and reasons for preparation did not allow the determination of joint priorities for environmental protection.

Therefore, the first step in preparing a summary document to set out the Region's environmental policy until 2020 was an **analysis of the existing concepts** relating to all areas of environmental protection in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

This included the following documents:

- Concept of the Nature and Landscape Protection Strategy of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Water Supply and Sewerage Development Plan of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Waste Management Plan of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Odra River Basin Plan, Morava River Basin Plan
- Regional Integrated Programme for Improving Air Quality in the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Regional Emissions Reduction Programme of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Territorial Energy Concept of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Regional Forestry Programme for the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Concept of Environmental Education and Awareness of the Moravian-Silesian Region
- Concept of Agricultural and Rural Development in the Moravian-Silesian Region

The result of this analysis was a summary of all the findings (**SWOT analysis**) which lists all the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the opportunities and threats that characterise the environment in the Region.

The findings resulting from the prepared analysis became the basis for formulating **measures** containing **specific projects** that contribute towards improving the environment in the Region. In order to objectively determine which measures are a priority for the objectives of the Environmental Policy, the relevant measures were assessed through a **multi-criteria evaluation** conducted by independent experts, which included the following elements:

- Severity of impacts on environmental components;
- Degree of impact on the social and economic development of the Region (influence on the limits of regional development, improvement of the Region's image);
- Options for financing individual projects and plans;
- Existence of tools for the implementation of measures and the preparation of projects, especially those that are under the direct responsibility of the Region;
- Timing of the implementation (rate of visible change due to the implementation of measures and projects).

The actual measures have been further developed into **specific projects and activities that will be implemented by the Moravian-Silesian Region in the coming years**. The following pages provide an overview of the main problems in individual environmental areas, and the most important priority measures and specific activities for the implementation of these measures are presented. They are varied, and include legislative (statutory and legal regulations, limitations, prohibitions), economic (benefits, financial aid or, on the contrary, penalties), informative (obtaining, processing and transmitting information) and voluntary (for example, agreements with polluters). The Region's ability to directly implement the various measures also varies. The implementation of some of them is possible through direct decisions by the Moravian-Silesian Region, while others require rather the creation of conditions for their implementation or an active influence on other participants in the process, for example municipalities or the state. A complete list of all measures, a detailed description of priority measures, and an overview of all identified projects and plans are included in the Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region master document.

AIR PROTECTION

Despite significant improvements over previous years, the air in the Moravian-Silesian Region is among the most polluted in the Czech Republic. Considerable attention is understandably paid to remedying the current situation in the Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region. As follows from continuous measurements of pollutants, the maximum permitted levels of pollutants in the air (pollution limits) have been repeatedly exceeded in the Region, especially particulate matter which includes PM2.5 and PM10 dust particles and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons represented by benzo(a)pyrene.

The Moravian-Silesian Region is located in the Silesian Basin which can be defined as a large area with poor air quality and a high density of industry as well as local heating and transportation. Deteriorated air quality in the Region largely occurs in the winter, which is characterised by frequent inversions that result in poor dispersion of pollutants.

Significant sources of air pollution are major industrial and energy companies which, however, also play a key role in the economy of the Moravian-Silesian Region. However, these industrial sources of air pollution have accounted for the largest drop in emissions in recent years, and therefore it is necessary to also focus on addressing emissions from other sources. One of these is transport, associated with both industrial production in the Region and an increase in individual passenger transport. Other sources include so-called local heating (individual heating of households, especially family houses), with a dominant contribution to air pollution in some locations during the heating season. The last mentioned but less measurable and less demonstrable sources of pollution are sources in Silesia Province in Poland, from where emissions come to our Region because of the prevailing northeast wind direction.

A number of measures, of which the most significant ones are presented in this publication for illustration, will contribute to resolving the above problems. Each of the above measures are proposed to improve air quality, however, only a balanced set of these measures comprising the appropriate steps for all significant types of air pollution sources will lead to the determined objective.

Selected measure:

✓ **Reducing emissions from small air pollution sources**

According to figures from the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, small air pollution sources account for nearly one quarter of the production of emissions of particulate matter in the Moravian-Silesian Region, and more than three quarters of emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Since the main representative of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons is the carcinogenic and mutagenic benzo(a)pyrene, emissions from this group of sources are among the riskiest for human health. This is therefore a very important group of sources, intended mainly for individual household heating. These sources emit harmful pollutants at low temperature from chimneys with a height of up to 10 metres, and so the air quality near them may be very significantly affected because they have a direct impact in the breathing zone of the population. Unfortunately, the direct obligation to allow air protection authorities access to the source for inspection purposes in accordance with the Air Protection Act does not apply to the operators of individual household heating, even though there is an ongoing parliamentary discussion on this issue. The only way for a municipality to inspect the operation of these pollution sources is by requesting reports from inspections confirming that a solid fuel heat source is installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the above law. Therefore, it is necessary to address the operators of this group of sources (usually the owners of family houses) mainly through awareness campaigns for the public, or economic tools (subsidy programmes).

Projects implemented or prepared within this measure include, for example → subsidy programmes aimed at replacing old boilers with modern low-emissions boilers, reducing the energy consumption of households (insulation, use of solar energy for water heating, etc.) or → campaigns aimed at informing the public about the risks of burning solid and low-quality fuels or municipal waste in households.

✓ **Reducing emissions from industrial and power sources**

In July 2012, there were 159 facilities operated on the basis of integrated operation permits within the meaning of the Act on Integrated Prevention in the Moravian-Silesian Region. These mainly included large industrial sources of air pollution, power facilities, etc. This measure aims to create a uniform methodology for assessing the application of best available techniques (BATs) at the above facilities. Furthermore, it aims to create a schedule of reviews of previously issued permits, focused especially on technologies significantly polluting the

air, and to update issued integrated permits with specific conditions of operation aimed at the application of BATs according to the latest scientific knowledge.

Specific projects and activities of the measure include, for example → thorough inspections directly in the sources of pollution, → reviews of integrated permits in relation to the BATs, or → analysis of the current wording of BAT reference documents.

✓ **Reducing emissions from road transport**

Emissions from road transport are important not only in terms of exhaust gases from vehicles but also emissions from brake pads and especially the reactivation of particles previously deposited on the roads. Therefore, it is again a significant group of air pollution sources which also produce emissions at very low height, meaning in the breathing zone of the population.

To reduce emissions from road transport - according to the new Air Protection Act - a municipality, if located in specially protected areas, spa areas or if any pollution limit has been exceeded in its territory or part thereof, may establish through a decree → a zone with restricted operation of road motor vehicles (a "low emissions zone"). Other activities include → more intensive road cleaning, → modernisation of the public transport fleet, and → planting insulating greenery along selected roads.

✓ **Cross-border transfer of pollutants**

Air quality in the Moravian-Silesian Region is also affected by emissions sources located in Silesia Province in Poland, neighbouring the Moravian-Silesian Region, which is heavily industrialised with a large number of air pollution sources.

For example, information published through the EMEP European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (Co-operative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long range transmission of air pollutants in Europe) is used to compare the amount of emissions on both sides of the border. Emissions of PM_{2.5} dust particles in Silesia Province in 2010 were around 1.3 t / km², while in Ostrava around 0.5 t / km² and around 0.2 t / km² in other parts of the country. It is therefore obvious that there may be a significant transfer of pollution from Poland to the Moravian-Silesian Region, especially when the wind is blowing in a northeast direction.

Specific activities that contribute towards the fulfilment of this measure include → the exchange of data on air pollution sources, → a unified approach to imposing conditions for the operation of major industrial and energy sources of air pollution, and → establishing the same measures and tools for local heating sources and transport.

✓ **Improving the utilisation of revenue from air pollution charges**

From 2017, 65% of revenue from air pollution charges will be income for the State Environmental Fund, 25% will be income for the Region in whose territory the stationary air pollution source is located, and 10% will be income for the state budget. The Moravian-Silesian Region will promote tying the revenue from air pollution charges to measures to promote air quality improvement in the area where the emissions are produced, i.e., mainly in our Region (funding of subsidy programmes, information campaigns, etc.). This supporting measure will not have a direct link to reducing emissions but will contribute to improving the situation by its nature.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Despite the fact that overall waste production in the Czech Republic is declining, the Moravian-Silesian Region is among the most significant regional producers of waste. The priority waste management topic in the Czech Republic and even in our Region is improving the management of municipal waste, and therefore most attention is paid to this topic in the Environmental Policy.

The main objective in waste management and municipal waste management in the Moravian-Silesian Region is the greatest possible reuse of waste, both in terms of material and energy, with the effect of restricting the still predominant share of landfilling.

The proposed measures will bring about a positive change in municipal waste management in the Region and respect the waste management hierarchy, i.e., the measures prefer sorting and material utilisation with subsequent energy use of the remaining, mostly mixed, municipal waste. The most significant change these

measures will bring is reducing the landfilling of such waste. This will result in improvements in the environment, for example reducing the use of land for these purposes and protecting groundwater. The priority of current waste management is preventing waste production, increasing the level of sorting and its subsequent utilisation to the maximum extent possible. This procedure will bring about potential savings in raw materials and a reduction in the demand for their extraction, transport and processing. Despite the increasing percentage of sorted waste with potential subsequent material utilisation, there is still potential for energy utilisation in the Region, especially for mixed municipal waste after the extraction of usable components, both in the form of direct energy utilisation of waste as well as co-combustion and the use of fuels from waste.

Selected measure:

✓ ***Ensuring separation and use of biodegradable waste throughout the Region***

The aims of the Region are to ensure widespread separation of usable biodegradable waste (waste from gardens and greenery maintenance) in the Region and to promote their use.

This measure will include projects for →active support of home composting and the introduction of systems for the collection and use of biodegradable waste in rural areas and in family houses in cities.

✓ ***Increasing the separation of usable components of municipal waste (plastic, paper, glass, metals, Tetrapak) in the Region***

The aims are to constantly increase the level of separation of usable components of municipal waste throughout the Region and consistent control of waste recycling by businesses. One effect of this measure will be a reduction in the volume of mixed municipal waste that requires further processing or disposal (landfilling, incineration).

The objectives of this measure will be achieved →by further increasing the number of separation containers in the Region, →awareness and promotional events, or →control of waste recycling by businesses.

✓ ***Energy utilisation of mixed municipal waste***

This includes securing capacities for the energy utilisation of produced mixed municipal waste in the Region through the construction of adequate facilities.

WATER MANAGEMENT

The long-term monitoring of water shows that its quality continues to improve in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The quality and expansion of the sewerage network with connections to wastewater treatment plants in the Region are also beneficial. The vast majority of municipalities with over 2,000 population equivalent (PE) have a public sewer system, and all municipalities with over 10 000 PE have a sewer system that ends with a mechanical biological wastewater treatment plant. In 2014, the population connected to a sewer system with an end-point wastewater treatment plant reached 83.2% (the national average was 83.9%) of the total population of the Region. The Moravian-Silesian Region also has a strong and ever-expanding public water supply network. Today, nearly 100% of the population is supplied with drinking water from a public water supply network. Another water management task is ensuring protection from floods, which significantly affected the Moravian-Silesian Region in recent years causing loss of life and great material damage.

In terms of water management, several main sets of measures to contribute towards improving the condition of the water in the Region have been proposed with total costs of hundreds of millions of Czech crowns.

The measures are aimed at improving the condition of surface water and groundwater, primarily at further improving the system for the collection and treatment of waste water, at flood protection including increased water retention in the landscape, and at addressing the situation in supplying the population with drinking water and threats to human settlements resulting from droughts. The individual proposed measures are aimed at the long-term objective of balancing the various interests for the sustainable use of water sources as one of the fundamental components of the environment.

Selected measure:

✓ ***Improving the condition of surface and groundwater by reducing the inflow of pollution***

The implementation of the measure will result in maintaining and improving the prosperity of all biological components in the water.

The specific activities include → the construction of new sewers, the construction of new and modernisation of existing municipal wastewater treatment plants, and → connecting the sewers of some municipalities to existing treatment plants.

✓ **Repair and maintenance of infrastructure – water mains, reservoirs and water treatment plants**

The implementation of specific projects of the given measure will contribute towards maintaining a high quality water supply for the population and industry in the Region.

✓ **Addressing threats to human settlements caused by floods and drought – including the impacts of climate change on future supplies to the population and flood protection**

According to scientific research, current climate change is due to human activity. In water management, the change is manifested in alternating extremes, especially floods and droughts. More frequent long dry periods may occur, subsequently replaced by precipitation with higher frequency and intensity, causing flooding.

In the Moravian-Silesian Region, the measure will be implemented through the following activities:

→ Modification and revitalisation of watercourses, → protection of areas suitable for surface water accumulation against use that would prevent the future construction of reservoirs, and → clarification and updating of regional climate change scenarios.

ENERGY SECTOR

Although the energy sector is not a standard part of environmental policies, it significantly affects the quality of the environment. Especially in terms of air protection, natural resources and the exploitation of mineral resources. In the prepared measures, the Region puts most emphasis on the most efficient use of energy sources, energy savings, and the use of alternative and renewable energy sources.

The above topics are the main pillars of the Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region in the implementation of the energy concept of the Region. The Moravian-Silesian Region has the ambition to determine the direction of future development and demonstrate its ability to act in the implementation of specific projects.

Selected measure:

✓ **Greening of transport – use of alternative fuels in the public sector**

The Region will promote the use of compressed natural gas as an alternative fuel in transport, including the construction of CNG filling stations in larger cities of the Region and promotion of electromobility.

Projects → the construction of public CNG filling stations in municipalities with a gradual transition of company cars to alternative fuels will be implemented within the measure. Projects will also include support for vehicle purchases or conversions.

✓ **Promoting the use of the local potential of biomass in municipal boilers and local furnaces as a substitute for fossil fuels**

The aim of this measure is to create a functioning chain of services with wood biomass and its energy utilisation ranging from the controlled collection of wood mass and waste wood resulting from mining, through processing into biofuel (wood chips, pellets) and storage, to its distribution to final consumers. This requires joint discussions between the leadership of municipalities, the owners of forest land, citizens and local entrepreneurs and farmers, as well as the establishment of an appropriate support system. This will result in reducing energy dependency, promoting local energy self-sufficiency with positive impacts on air quality (the replacement of fossil fuel combustion), while the issue of employment in municipalities will be also partially addressed.

Specific activities for the fulfilment of this measure include → identifying suitable locations for the implementation of biomass utilisation projects - municipalities still without gas supplies and locations with poor

pollutant-dispersion conditions. This also includes → the preparation and subsequent implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans of selected cities and municipalities.

NATURE AND LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

Although the Moravian-Silesian Region is perceived primarily as an industrial region, it has an important position in the Czech Republic in terms of nature and landscape protection, and rightly enjoys public interest in this area. In addition to the large, specially protected Beskydy, Jeseníky and Poodří areas, there are dozens of small specially protected areas, and several natural parks and extensive areas of the European Natura 2000 - significant European sites and bird areas - system in the Region.

Although nature and landscape protection has not been neglected in recent years, it is still necessary to take specific measures and steps to maintain or further improve the current situation.

A number of specific activities have been prepared for nature and landscape protection, the implementation of which will build on successful projects implemented by the Moravian-Silesian Region in recent years.

Selected measure:

✓ Ensuring care for valuable natural sites in the Moravian-Silesian Region

This measure aims to alleviate – through active care – the negative trend of reduction in the natural diversity of species of plants, animals and their habitats in the Region.

Activities ensuring the implementation of the measure include, for example → providing care for Natura 2000 sites, → providing care for small, specially protected areas in the Region, and → mowing meadows, building ponds and maintaining trees.

✓ Eliminating the spread of invasive plant and animal species that threaten protected and valuable parts of the natural and open landscape

The aims of this measure are to reduce the spread of invasive plant and animal species to new habitats, and to promote the reoccupation of previously rehabilitated sites. Experience from a project to remove invasive plants from the Morávka river basin and the Odra river basin and a project to monitor the status of other invasive plant species addressed by the Region in previous years can be used and built upon.

Specific projects within the measure include, for example → ensuring the monitoring and removal of centres of spreading of invasive plant and animal species in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

✓ Increasing the stability of the landscape in the Moravian-Silesian Region

The aim is to improve the functionality of territorial systems of ecological stability (ÚSES) elements and other ecologically valuable landscape elements, for example by building hedgerows, tree alleys and small wetlands.

A specific project within the measure is, for example → support for the implementation of ÚSES elements and other ecologically valuable landscape elements – for example, planting and restoring tree alleys near roads.

✓ Increasing the representativeness of the network of specially protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and nature parks

The aim is to increase the presentability of the network of specially protected areas, Natura 2000 sites and nature parks in the Region through a detailed review of their condition and the implementation of necessary changes.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

Agriculture and rural development are natural parts of the environment. Agricultural buildings, land cultivation and agriculture as such contribute to the formation of the landscape and have a major impact primarily on soil, surface water and groundwater.

The proposed measures take into account the needs of agriculture and rural areas of the Moravian-Silesian Region, and in most cases are of environmental, economic and social natures. The role of the Region in this area is, however, only of a supportive nature, because the tools for agriculture, rural areas and rural development are largely in the hands of the state. Despite this fact, the Moravian-Silesian Region supports this

area through its own measures. They will contribute to protecting agricultural land, reducing the occupation of agricultural land and improving the opportunities for environmentally friendly business in the country.

Selected measure:

✓ **Revitalisation of devastated areas and brownfields and their prioritisation in development activities**

Parts of rural municipalities in the Region have devastated areas and brownfields – especially former agricultural businesses – which can be fully utilised after revitalisation.

Projects implementing the measure are, for example → the removal of the environmental burdens of an agricultural character – old dunghills and slurry tanks, or → the repair of unused agricultural buildings for both agricultural and non-agricultural use.

✓ **Increase in demand for high-quality agricultural production**

The Region is characterised by a low level of processing of local agricultural production. Many agricultural entrepreneurs only supply agricultural products for purchase – they do not process their own production, and therefore local foods often do not reach local consumers. The high administrative and sanitary requirements for agricultural product processing facilities, a dysfunctional distribution network, inadequate marketing, and the related low awareness of customers are all to blame here.

Specific projects of this measure include, for example → the establishment, promotion and presentation of the Regional Brand (associated with an environmentally-friendly product), advertising campaigns aimed at local foods meeting the environmentally-friendly criteria, → the establishment of marketing cooperatives for regional products, → the promotion of the so-called shared box system, and → the organisation of traditional farmers' markets.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The importance of environmental education and awareness (EEA) lies mainly in the fact that it is one of the few useful tools to solve some major environmental problems. This applies particularly to the issue of emissions from household heating, which cannot yet be effectively addressed otherwise than through education and awareness accompanied by economic instruments (see also the chapter on air). Similarly, EEA tools can also be used in nature and forest protection, for the disposal of municipal waste, energy savings or environmentally friendly consumption. Therefore, the crucial priority EEA measure is directed at the public with the aims of reducing air pollution from local heating and individual transportation, and achieving responsible waste management and nature and forest protection. Another important condition for the promotion of EEA is that the public authorities lead the citizens and companies by example. If the authorities themselves respect the principles of environmental friendliness, they are an inspiration for residents, entrepreneurs and visitors, which among other things has a positive influence on the effects of awareness campaigns and increases public trust. In this context, it should be emphasised that the Moravian-Silesian Region was the first region in the Czech Republic to establish an environmental management and audit system (EMAS), which lays down an environmentally-friendly approach in all areas of activities of the regional authority. The aim of one of the other priority measures is therefore also to support other public administration bodies in the Region in the implementation of an environmental management system, other methods of improving the quality of public administration, or the implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the context of the local Agenda 21.

The Moravian-Silesian Region has also joined the SMART Cities initiative with a project to build the foundations of a SMART region, which in practice means to build a pilot “smart” region in the Czech Republic with the aim of improving the quality of life and the environment in the Moravian-Silesian Region and of promoting the introduction of innovative and smart technologies in transport, energy and information technology, built on the SMART Cities principles.

In terms of target groups, in this Region EEA is aimed at the public, NGOs and businesses - especially at that part of the public more easily influenced by EEA tools, meaning mainly children and youth. In terms of adults, this mainly means the parents of small children. Most of the activities are therefore mediated primarily by schools, educational facilities and NGOs focusing on children and youth. Schools enable significant influence not only on children, but also on parents through the children. In education, the most important measures are aimed at educating EEA coordinators, who constitute the key element for environmental education in schools. The fulfilment of the measures includes not only their education but also an increase in the authority of these coordinators within schools.

Selected measure:

- ✓ **Use EEA tools to reduce the influence of local heating and transport on air pollution, to reduce the negative effects of waste management and to increase the attractiveness of nature and forest protection**

A number of improvements in environmental protection are not effectively feasible in any way other than through influencing the public, accompanied by the appropriate economic tools. Therefore, the key EEA measure is aimed at those areas of environmental protection where a positive change in public attitudes can be manifested most visibly.

Activities that can help fulfil the relevant measure include, for example → campaigns based on educating residents about the impact of public behaviour on the environment and health, including suitable ways of reducing the negative effects of daily life on the environment.

- ✓ **Professionalism of environmental education in schools**

EEA management at schools is performed by the principals and EEA coordinators, who represent the middle management of the school. For a successful coordination activity, it is necessary that teacher/coordinators have been not only informed about the new findings and news in environmental protection but they have been educated in EEA management, with the awareness that today's environmental education is heading towards the next stage of its development, i.e., towards education for sustainable development. Tools for enhancing the skills needed by environmental education coordinators are both traditional forms of education, such as seminars, expert lectures, training sessions and conferences, and the exchange of experience, presentation of examples of good practices, and the use of modern and effective approaches in education. A number of providers of specialised studies participate in increasing the professionalism of environmental education in schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

The projects include, for example → specialised studies for environmental coordinators and → programmes of further education for environmental coordinators in all types of schools.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest management is currently characterised by the three basic functions of forests - economic, environmental and social - that are meant to lead towards the sustainable development of forests in a balanced manner. However, in practice, this conceptually optimal balance is influenced both by historical development (the approach to forest management in Central Europe or the prevalence of the economic function of forests in a certain period) as well as by the currently existing conflicts of interest between nature protection and forest management. Finally, the impact of human activity is a specific problem in the industrialised territory, especially emissions and their negative impacts on forests, reflected in their degradation and reduced resistance to pests and diseases. The Moravian-Silesian Region is a highly forested region, however the forests are very unevenly distributed in the Region. In terms of damage, forests in the Moravian-Silesian Region are among the most affected by abiotic factors (especially snow and drought), biotic factors (especially bark beetle and dark honey fungus) and human activities (especially the aforementioned emissions).

The Moravian-Silesian Region promotes the principles of sustainable management in forests in order to improve the health, vitality and maintenance of forest ecosystem biodiversity, conservation and increase in forest area.

A number of forest management measures are also similar to nature protection measures (the protection of landscape and scenery, the role of forest land as a basic ÚSES element, natural habitats and refuges of endangered plant and animal species), the energy sector (use of renewable energy sources) as well as in EEA (increasing the responsibility of residents for the condition of forests) and agriculture and rural areas (local job opportunities). Therefore, part of the measures in the forest management sector has also been integrated into other measures of the aforementioned chapters in the document entitled Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region.

Selected measure:

- ✓ **Support for the appropriate change in forest composition and protection**

This measure focuses on controlled change in the composition of forests to increase their ecological stability and biodiversity, and also on activities aimed at improving the health of forests, especially at protection against

harmful biotic and abiotic factors, and the effects of human activities (pollution damage), the negative impacts of which on forests in the Moravian-Silesian Region are among the most serious in the entire Czech Republic.

CONCLUSION

This abbreviated version of the document entitled Environmental Policy of the Moravian-Silesian Region provides basic information about its content and results.