



LIFE4DEGAS

**SUPPORT FOR DEGASSING
OF NMVOCs IN EU INLAND
WATERWAY AND MARITIME
TRANSPORT**



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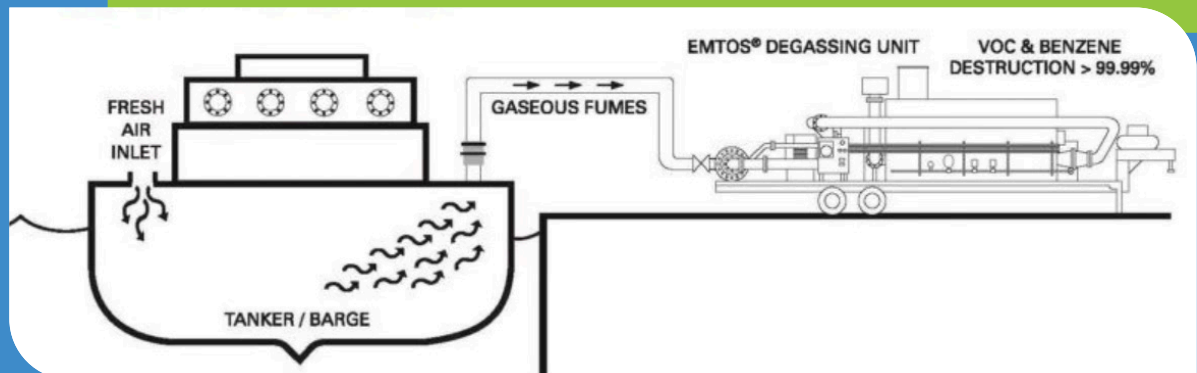


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BACKGROUND

Ship tanker degassing is the process of removing hazardous vapors from cargo tanks after unloading, to make them safe for inspection, maintenance, or reloading. This can be done through venting, inert gas purging, or specialized vapor treatment units. It is essential to prevent explosions, protect human health, and comply with environmental regulations.

In most cases; gasses are directly released to the ambient air. But gasses can be collected in controlled degassing facilities thereby avoiding air pollution.



There is still no efficient EU regulation to address the degassing challenge

PROJECT AIM

LIFE4DEGAS overall objective is to assess the current situation regarding the transport of NMVOCs in inland waterway and maritime transport and the issue of degassing, and assess emissions and health impacts, and propose efficient regulations using the best available, cost-effective technologies.

Starting point (2024):
Degassing is (tentatively) requested by International Convention for navigation on the Rhine

Main objective (2027):
Need and feasibility of extending the regulation to (a) Danube and to (b) maritime transport worldwide

Phase 1

PREPARATORY ACTIONS (STATUS QUO)

- Inventory of legislation
- Are technologies available for large ships/ports
- Inventory of obstacles (procedural, financial, ...)

Phase 2

SCENARIOS & SOLUTIONS (WHAT CAN BE DONE)

- Inland navigation
- Maritime transport
- Access to finance
- International harmonised legislation

Phase 3

FOLLOWS UP (WHAT'S NEXT?)

If controlled degassing is feasible:

- a) Cooperation structure
 - b) Regulatory pathway
 - c) Financial support to deployment
 - d) Recommendations on how to progress
- If is not (yet) feasible

Stakeholders involvement (Administrations and Competent Authorities, operators, degassing equipment manufacturers, ports...)

OBJECTIVES



OBJ1

Explore and quantify the scope and nature of degassing of NMVOCs in the EU and quantifying its impacts on health and the environment based on an inventory and analysis of existing legislation and initiatives at EU and international level, as well as guidance documents, with relevance for degassing, to explore effectiveness and synergies



OBJ2

Develop options and scenarios for implementation measures and funding, including quantifying costs and benefits



OBJ3

Investigating how, by supporting developments and/or ratification of international conventions and participation in the IMO and UNECE fora, the issue of degassing from vessels from non-EU countries can be addressed which would also benefit EU based ship owners and operators operating in EU waters, including the possibility of (regional) "NMVOC Emission Control Areas"



OBJ4

Explore the possible use of EU financial support mechanisms, taking into account the nature of the stakeholders and propose recommendations for funding (including infrastructure and research and innovation needs), implementation measures, governance, and any other issue of relevance



OBJ5

Drafting an inventory of needs, options, bottlenecks and barriers for degassing and possible alternative solutions to degassing in inland waterway and maritime transport



OBJ6

Setting up a cooperation structure at EU level for support to legislative governance, transfer of best practice, dialogue with industry (i.e. vessel owners and operators, ports, chemical industry, authorities, NGO's)



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WHAT WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE

life preparatory project

(addressing ad hoc Legislative
and Policy Priorities - PLP)

Future possible legislation

- Quantification of NMVOC emissions and related health risks from maritime degassing
- Evidence-based recommendations to reduce uncontrolled degassing in Europe
- Contribution to shaping harmonised EU/international regulations on degassing

eu

Clean air support

two complementary strands

Regulatory
developments

LEGISLATION

- Contributing to future EU/ international regulations on degassing
- Providing policy recommendations and input to competent authorities

Advisory board
Stakeholder group

IMPLEMENTATION

Permanent cooperation structures through the Advisory Board (AB) and Stakeholder Group (STG) to support the application and enforcement of future rules

PLANNED OUTPUTS

- 3 project annual fact sheets and policy briefs
- Report providing the inventory of existing legislation initiatives at EU and international level, as well as guidance documents, with relevance for degassing
- Report on the needs and barriers for reducing degassing of NMVOCs in the EU, and solutions on how best to address these
- Report related to the estimated impact of NMVOCs on human health and environment and on related air quality measurements
- Report outlining proposals for a harmonised approach for the reduction of degassing in EU inland waters and maritime waters, with a cost-benefit assessment
- Report providing the Terms of Reference (T.o.R.) and planning of the coordination structure for cooperation and enforcement
- LIFE4DEGAS Legacy Plan





PROJECT'S BUDGET
972.318,63 EUROS

LIFE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTION
875.086,77 EUROS

PROJECT DURATION
01/04/2025 – 30/09/2027



PROJECT COORDINATOR



PROJECT PARTNERS



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