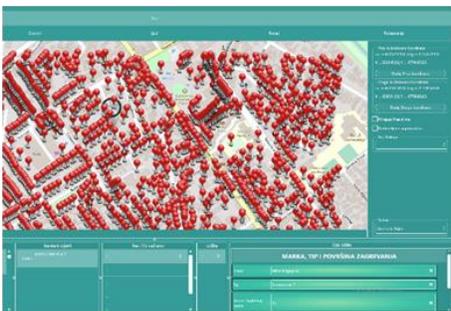


## Pirot Leads the Way: Innovative Approach to Air Quality Management



Air pollution is a global issue that is rapidly worsening due to the increasing demand for natural resources and energy. Serbia is not exempt from this negative trend and currently ranks as the fifth most polluted country in Europe. Prolonged exposure to high levels of air pollution has been scientifically proven to have major negative impacts on climate change, food security, and public health.

To address this pressing issue, Better Energy, with technical support from E3 International under its engagement for the USAID Better Energy Project, has chosen Pirot, one of Serbia's most polluted cities, to implement a cadastre of individual stoves, which is the first of its kind in Serbia and the region. The recently finalized cadastre in Pirot and its environs will be instrumental in laying the groundwork for a comprehensive, long-term strategy to combat air pollution. Better Energy has also collaborated with the Pirot City Administration to participate in the Energy Community's Clean Air Regions Initiative ("CARI"). By becoming part of this initiative, Pirot gained access to additional support and resources to promptly implement measures for a healthier living environment.

Better Energy, in collaboration with the Working Group for Cleaner Air of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the CARI, this year presented the cadaster's objectives, capabilities, and initial findings to other local authorities grappling with alarming levels of air pollution. Impressively, 12 out of the 13 local governments expressed unofficial interest in piloting the cadaster and joining the CARI.

To address the request from interested municipalities, Better Energy collaborated with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, as well as the "Sustainable and Inclusive Services at the Local Level" project, funded by the Government of Sweden, to effectively establish a similar registry of individual heating devices.

### Disclaimer

This activity was largely implemented by E3 International under its engagement on the USAID Serbia **BETTER ENERGY PROJECT** in cooperation with Chemonics International.