



CAIR4HEALTH NEWS www.cair4health.eu

Editorial

The CAIR4HEALTH Project (Clean Air for Health), is funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme (Specific Support Action) . The Project was launched on the 1st of February 2007, and will be completed by February 2009.



In this first Issue of the CAIR4HEALTH Newsletter, we would like to introduce the Project, its participants, and the progress made so far, including the main outcomes of the project meetings that have taken place.

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What is CAIR4HEALTH?

In direct response to the increased need for a community-wide procedure for reciprocal exchange of information and data relating to ambient air quality, CAIR4HEALTH was envisaged by six research institutes as a comprehensive effort to *strengthen and exploit research results obtained by European and other projects related to air quality and health impact in relation to key European sustainable development action plans and strategies*. These include the environment and

Health Action Plan (E&HAP), the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) and the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (TSUE). In addition, the CAFE (Clean Air for Europe) process is at a critical juncture with the preparation of its strategy document. Discussions and preparations on the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) are also underway. CAIR4HEALTH will aid the review and horizon scanning process for key action plans including the Environment and Health Action Plan. It will examine the research and policy-related outputs from clusters, networks, projects and expert groups including those represented by CLEAR and AIRNET.

More information on the aims, structure and action plan of the project can be found in the CAIR4HEALTH web-portal:

<http://www.cair4health.eu>

The main participants of CAIR4HEALTH and their respective roles are the following:

Name of Organisation	Country	Main Role
UH – University of Hertfordshire	UK	Coordinator, interaction with CLEAR, COST728, air quality measurements and modelling, assessment of future research needs
TNO – Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research	The Netherlands	Analysis of Air Quality Policy needs
FMI – Finnish Meteorological Institute	Finland	Analysis of research needs, modelling tools
JRC – Joint Research Centre	EU	Exposure to air pollution and assessment, in door air pollution
AUTH – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece	Air quality assessment tools and Interactions with projects/groups
UU – University of Utrecht (IRAS)	The Netherlands	Health effects and impacts, coordinator of AIRNET

The project participants of course are not limited to the project partners. All important stakeholders are actively represented as the project progresses, including a panel of scientific experts on the field of Air Quality & Health, representatives of EU and local authorities, governments and regulators, related industries and, last but not least, the general public.



CAIR4HEALTH Dissemination Strategy

One of our first project needs was the development of an effective Dissemination Strategy, in order to communicate the aim and objectives of CAIR4HEALTH and its activities to all relevant stakeholders.

Dissemination of information is a key mission of the CAIR4HEALTH project. We will utilise several methods and vehicles of dissemination, both formal and informal, in order to engage our target audience. In addition to the dissemination activities included in the Timeplan Table, we recognize the importance of day-to-day collaborative work and will also seek to employ other opportunities as they arise. This dissemination strategy will be continuously reviewed by the project team, as well as through feedback from external stakeholders. Do send us your comments to help improve the newsletter and to make the dissemination actions more relevant to your needs.

The main vehicles of disseminating will be our web-portal and the six-monthly newsletter issues, as well as more direct means of communication, such as organized meetings, discussions and conferences.

You can find a recent version of the CAIR4HEALTH Dissemination Strategy on our web-portal.

Talking with Experts

A meeting with a panel of invited experts in the field of Air Quality & Health from several stakeholder groups was arranged by the CAIR4HEALTH Project Management Committee. The meeting took place in Ispra, Italy at the JRC premises, on the 25th of May 2007. As it is also stated in our Dissemination Strategy, we will have on-going co-operation with experts to receive feedback on the progress of the project and to ensure that the outcomes meet the scientific and stakeholder needs. An external panel of experts was established for this purpose and met at Ispra, consisting of the following representatives:

- Peter Rombout (**Independent**)
- Aaron Cohen (**HEI, USA**)
- Alena Bartonova (**NILU, Norway**)
- Peter Part (**JRC**)
- Andreas Skouloudis (**JRC**)
- Jan Urbanus (**CONCAWE, Belgium**)
- Martin Williams (**DEFRA, UK**)



The one-day meeting started with a welcoming speech by Ranjeet Sokhi (pictured on the left) from the University of Hertfordshire as the Project Coordinator and Denis Sarigiannis from JRC, and continued with

a few presentations from project partners in order to introduce the project tasks and plans to the experts. The afternoon session was dedicated to comments and suggestions from the experts. In general, the project received a very positive reaction from all the experts, and some very important issues came up from the discussions. These included:

- The effect of Climate Change on air quality related health problems
- The issue of increased ozone concentrations and its related health effects in Europe
- The issue of whether improvements in air quality would lead to actual health benefits.
- The impact of indoor air pollution on Health, as this issue is currently overlooked in Europe
- The need for a realistic estimation of the contribution to air quality from several pollution sources, with increasing focus on shipping emissions

By the end of the meeting the participants agreed on taking the following actions:

- Structure the project could be based on a series of key questions
 - Focus on PM, O₃, NO₂ and SO₂
 - Approach relevant scientific societies, such as the European Epidemiology Society
 - Seek the experience in the U.S. of how similar projects feed into policy making
- Establish and contact the advisory group through additional meetings and open workshops.

Progress

Within the first six months of the CAIR4HEALTH project progress has been



made particularly involving the dissemination of project information. This has been achieved through:

- (1) The development of the **CAIR4HEALTH web-portal**
- (2) The development of the **Dissemination Strategy and Action Plan**
- (3) The development of the first issue of the **CAIR4HEALTH electronic newsletter**

Important progress has been made in Workpackage 3 “**Analysis and Examination of Policy and User Needs**”, through carrying out a number of document reviews and stakeholder interviews.

We will go into more detail for each one of these four actions. More specifically, regarding the development of the web-portal we have created a comprehensive site to inform the general public on the aim, structure and outcomes of the project. The web-portal is under constant development and is continuously populated with links relevant to Air Quality & Health. The web-portal provides information on past and future project organized events, such as meetings and open workshops. A members’ area is also active to allow for fast and effective communication of project results and ideas between partners. The CAIR4HEALTH web-portal also hosts the Dissemination Strategy of CAIR4HEALTH and the electronic newsletter.

Regarding the review on policy and stakeholder needs, our purpose was to involve in a systematic manner representatives of the main stakeholder groups.

We followed the following methodology:

- (1) We reviewed a number of available position papers on each of the key European action plans and strategies to scan for suggested policy and research needs
- (2) We performed structured interviews according to a pre-defined questionnaire to representatives of important stakeholder groups for each document

Analysis of the outcomes of the reviews and interviews is in progress, and statistics will be presented in the next newsletter issue. Some needs and concerns that were repeatedly occurring in the interviews are:

- More strict limits for pollutants and better implementation of measures are required
- Research gaps in Europe exist in the field of indoor air pollution

- Research is required on the contribution of emission sources
- Integrated Risk Assessment and a holistic approach has to be undertaken to quantify the health benefits of improving air quality
- It is important to improve communication of research uncertainties to regulators
- Social research is also required to quantify social injustice in exposure to air pollutants

Moving Forward

According to our Action Plan for CAIR4HEALTH we are moving towards the next stage in the project, which involves the analysis of the current stage of urban air quality and health research.

The analysis will be structured based on key questions, including both general questions on air pollution and related health impacts as well as some pollutant-specific questions. The questions were formulated by taking into account advice from the experts and our stakeholders. Some important questions that have been highlighted during this phase of the work include:

On Air Quality

- Which emission sources are the most significant for the health of EU citizens?
- How are urban air pollution levels changing in the long term – past 10 years and future trends including expected effects of climate change?
- Are the current pollutant limit values obtainable – what is the effectiveness of reduction measures?
- What are the current capabilities of integrated assessment tools for estimating the health impacts of air pollution?
- What is known about the chemical composition and size distribution of urban PM and their health effects?

On Health

- Further specific information on which health effects are caused by air pollution?
- Which population groups are at high risk?
- Will a reduction in air pollution improve health and are there safe pollution levels?



- O₃ – what is the appropriate averaging time for a guideline?
- NO₂ – what new information is there to support the current Air Quality Guidelines for nitrogen dioxide?
- SO₂ – what new information is there to support the current Air Quality Guideline for sulphur dioxide?
- CO₂ – how will climate change affect health?
- Under what circumstances is indoor air pollution more dangerous to human health than outdoor air pollution?

This phase is still continuing and will lead to a priority list of questions to be addressed by the project. More information about the findings of this study will be reported in the next issue of the CAIR4HEALTH newsletter and through the website.

News on Air Quality and Health

News from the EEA:

Planning to tackle climate change

02 Jul 2007

'Climate change will have profound effects on our natural resources and will also change the way we go about our daily lives.' said EEA Executive Director, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, at the ESPACE initiative in London on Friday.

Read more...

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/planning-to-tackle-climate-change>

News from the EC

05 March 2007

The European Commission and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) have launched a consultation process on indoor air quality based on the relevant preliminary report that SCHER issued on 30 January 2007.

Read more...

http://www.businessupdated.com/shownews.asp?news_id=2231&cat=Consultation+process+on+indoor+air+quality

03 Jul 2007

Adapting to Climate Change Conference – **Launching a public debate on options for EU Action 3rd July 2007** - Charlemagne Building – Brussels...

Read more...

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/07/457&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

New reports:

04 Jul 2007

Environmental pressures from European consumption and production - Insights from environmental accounts

Read this report ...

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/brochure_2007_1/en

01 May 2007

Death and disease due to indoor air pollution

WHO launched the first-ever country-by-country estimates of the burden of disease due to indoor air pollution

Read this report...

http://www.who.int/indoorair/health_impacts/burden_national/en/index.html

Related Events:

19th International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference – September 5-9, 2007 Translating Environmental Epidemiology into Action: Interventions for a Healthy Future. Deadline for abstracts: 15 February 2007

More information...

<http://www.isee2007mx.org/>

14th International Symposium on Environmental Protection and its Impact on Life in the Mediterranean, - October 10-14, 2007. The largest Mediterranean conference on the environment will focus on the link between environment and health

More information...

<http://www.measep.net/>

Future Events of CAIR4HEALTH

The next **Project Management Committee meeting** is scheduled for the 4th of December 2007 and the **Advisory Group meeting** for the 5th of the same month. The venue will be in Brussels to encourage the participation of EC staff, including representatives from DG Environment.

Did you like our newsletter?

Please send your comments and questions to lia@aix.meng.auth.gr