



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 the first Issue of the CAIR4HEALTH Newsletter, the project and its participants were introduced. In this second Issue of the newsletter, we will present the main outcomes of the second project meeting and our steps forward.

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provided the opportunity to project members to discuss the progress of workpackages and any deviations from the initial plan. The meeting took place on the day previous to the scheduled Experts' Meeting, so that the appropriate issues that would be raised with the experts could be decided upon.

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*. 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>

2nd Expert Panel Meeting

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 in order to discuss the progress made so far in the project. The meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium at the SDME building, on the 14th of December 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 in Brussels, consisting of the following representatives:

- Claus Bruning (EC DG Research)
- Andrej Kobe (EC DG Environment)
- Michal Krzyzanowski (WHO, Bonn)
- Robert Sausen (DLR, Coordinator of QUANTIFY)

The selection of the experts for this second External Experts meeting was based on the progress of the project towards its final aim, namely providing suggestions for future FP7 calls in the field of Air Quality and Health. As the procedure for the calls prescribes that recommendations are made initially to DG Research and are then fed into DG Environment, the presence of a representative

2nd Project Meeting

A 2nd Project Meeting was organized in Brussels, Belgium at the SDME building, on the 13th of December 2007. This meeting



from both these DG sections was required. The one-day meeting started with a welcoming speech by Ranjeet Sokhi from the University of Hertfordshire as the Project Coordinator, and continued with a few presentations from project partners in order to introduce the project tasks and plans to the experts. In this second External Experts meeting the main focus was given to the stakeholder needs resulting from the relevant questionnaire. An initial list of topics for future FP7 calls, which was compiled in agreement with the revealed stakeholder needs and with the results of the scientific review, was also presented. The afternoon session was then dedicated to comments and suggestions from the experts.



The main stakeholder needs had been collected through (1) the review of published position papers to the EU strategies and action plans and (2) the questionnaires, face-to-face and telephone interviews with selected stakeholders. The responses were collected and collated followed by an analysis and synthesis of the findings. Stakeholders had expressed in their majority a need for further work on:

- An integrated approach to research
- More information on exposure to PM and health effects
- Linkage of air quality, climate change and health
- Emissions such as shipping, aviation, primary NO₂, non-exhaust PM
- Indoor air quality
- Short and long-term epidemiological studies
- Realistic practical tools for air quality and health assessment
- Realistic evaluation of the impact of technology changes and emission changes
- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of measures and policies

The main comments on these findings by the expert panel were related to the justification and prioritisation difficulties of these stakeholder needs. It was suggested that for this purpose a justified and logical framework is required using the direct causal chain approach. The EU experts also considered that within the frame of CAIR4HEALTH there should be an indication of how to combine the issues of integrated assessment on air quality, health and the transport sector.

In general, the project received a very positive feedback from the External Experts. The meeting also provided an opportunity for interaction and exchange of information with the QUANTIFY project, which was represented by its coordinator, Robert Sausen. The panel of experts also indicated other relevant projects, such as REACH.

Progress

Within the last six months of the first year of the CAIR4HEALTH project progress has been made particularly involving Workpackage 3 “**Analysis and Examination of Policy and User Needs**”, by the completion of the research on stakeholder needs and by the production of the relevant report after the analysis and synthesis of the results. In order to promote research to respond to these needs, a list of possible future FP7 call topics has been compiled

- Air quality monitoring and modelling for health impact assessment
- Policy and regulation requirements
- Air pollution emissions
- Indoor air pollution and its impact on health
- Integrated approaches
- Properties and impacts of atmospheric particles
- Long-term studies
- Impact of technological changes
- Air quality assessment tools
- Air pollution and road traffic
- Incorporation of cost-benefit analysis in assessment strategies
- Dissemination and communications

Another important progress regarding **Workpackage 4** was the finalisation of the



research and report on key questions on air quality and health. State-of-the-art findings were reviewed, so that the current situation could be described for the main issues on air quality related health impacts. The final report included information on important questions on air quality, health and indoor health, supported by recent publications:

Air quality questions

- Which emission sources are the most significant for the health of EU citizens?
- How are Urban Air Pollutant levels changing in the long term - past 10 years and future trends, including expected effects of climate change?
- Are the current pollutant limit values attainable – the effectiveness of reduction measures?
- What are the current achievements 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?

Health questions

- Which health effects are caused by air pollution?
- Which population groups are at high risk?
- Will a reduction in air pollution improve health?
- Are there safe pollution levels?
- O₃ - what is the appropriate averaging time for a guideline?
- NO₂ - what new information is there pertaining to 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?

Indoor air questions

- Which health effects are associated with indoor air pollution?

- What are the most important indoor pollution emission sources in the EU?
- What is the importance of outdoor air quality for the determination of indoor air quality across the EU?
- Which are the priority indoor pollutants in terms of levels of exposure and severity of attributable health effect?
- Which data are needed to support risk management measures at the Community level?

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 information collected in Workpackages 3 and 4. The review of these findings will aim in identifying the key research gaps in knowledge in the field of air quality and health, in order to provide a prioritized synthesis of future research needs. This step will lead to the final phase of the project, which will be completed by providing a final list of suggestions for relevant future FP7 calls.

News on Air Quality and Health

7 February 2008

Getting an instant, sharper picture of Europe's air pollution

The EEA has concluded an agreement with a consortium led by the European Space Agency to provide improved information on air pollution.

Read more...

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/getting-an-instant-sharper-picture-of-europes-air-pollution>

21 February 2008

Sharing environmental information to improve policy

Public authorities across Europe collect a vast range of environmental data but different practices of classification and reporting make it difficult to access them and use them for cross-border analyses.

Read more...



<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/sharing-environmental-information-to-improve-policy>

New reports:

13 November 2007

Air pollution in Europe

Concentrations of ozone and particulate matter, two harmful airborne pollutants, have not improved since 1997 despite substantial cuts in emissions of air pollutants across Europe, says a new EEA report

Read this report...

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/concentrations-of-air-pollutants-constant-despite-drop-in-emissions>

23 November 2007

Annual European Community LRTAP Convention Emission Inventory report 1990–2005

Progress reducing emissions of some air pollutants

Read this report...

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2007_14/en

05 December 2007

NEC Directive status report 2006

A number of EU Member States are likely to miss legally-binding 2010 emission targets for four important air pollutants, according to the 'NEC Directive status report 2006' from the EEA. The report is based on the latest data officially reported by Member States under the EU National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive).

Read this report...

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2007_15/en

Related Events:

Biomethane for Transport Event, Greenwich, London, 3 March 2008

The event will bring together those involved in the production of biomethane and the management of transport fleets to make a strong case for both the production of biomethane from organic waste and its use in transport applications.

More information...

<http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/details/?id=1214>

Air Quality and Health Workshop: A Breath of Clean Air, Highgate House, Northampton, 3-4 April 2008

Environmental Protection UK's (formerly NSCA) two-day Spring Workshop is well established as the premier annual event for air quality professionals. The workshop provides an essential update on developments in air quality management and policy, and a unique opportunity to share experience with colleagues.

More information...

<http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/details/?id=108>

Air Pollution 2008, 22 - 24 September 2008, Skiathos, Greece

This is the 16th Annual Meeting in the successful series of International Conferences dealing with Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution.

More information...

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/air08/index.html>

Future Events of CAIR4HEALTH

The next **Project Management Committee** and **Advisory Group** meetings are scheduled for June 2008. The venue will be in Brussels in order to encourage the participation of EC staff, including representatives from DG Environment.

Who are we?

Research in CAIR4HEALTH is performed by scientists from the Universities of **Hertfordshire** (UK), **Thessaloniki** (Greece) and **Utrecht** (Netherlands). In addition, scientists from the **Finnish Meteorological Institute**, the **Netherlands Research Organisation TNO** and the **Joint Research Centre** (Italy) are involved.

Did you like our newsletter?

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