

AIR4EU (2004-2006) will provide recommendations on Air Quality assessment by monitoring and modelling for regulated pollutants in Europe.

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Air4EU

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Editorial of Project manager

This is the second Newsletter of the AIR4EU project. AIR4EU, supported by the EU 6th Framework Programme, will provide recommendations on air quality assessment from the local and hot-spot scale, over urban to the regional/continental scale. In AIR4EU researchers closely interact with authorities from seven major European cities (Oslo, Prague, London, Rotterdam, Paris, Rome and Athens) on the issue of appropriate AQ assessment.

This is highly relevant for support of the implementation of the AQ Directive in Europe. Evaluation of the CAFE programme underlines that especially in cities compliance with the NO₂ and PM₁₀ standards is still a major challenge. Despite encouraging progress in satellite observations, it is expected that ground-based monitoring and modelling will remain the major tool for AQ assessment in the near future. In addition to existing legislation, new standards are under development on PM_{2.5}, PAH and heavy metals. In cities with numerous emission sources and complex dispersion AQ assessment is a difficult task, which requires appropriate assessment of the background concentrations as well as the contribution of multiple local sources. Close interaction between researchers and city authorities in AIR4EU will result in recommendations leading to a cost efficient AQ assessment combining monitoring and modelling at different spatial scales, but with an emphasis of the urban environment.

This newsletter provides an overview of the progress in AIR4EU as presented in the midterm Workshop in Athens in June 2005. Also, it includes information on Case Studies starting in November and provide an overview about the next steps of AIR4EU. I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter.

Peter Bultjes
Project Manager



Mid term review in Athens (June 2005)

AIR4EU has now reached a stage at which existing methods of AQ assessment have been reviewed and development of draft recommendations is now fully underway. The results achieved so far, as well as the plans for the second half of the project, were presented at the Mid Term Review Workshop in Athens. The Workshop offered also a unique opportunity for discussion, feedback and the exchange of ideas between air quality researchers, the city end users and members of the High Level Expert Group in AIR4EU.



The Athens workshop was very well attended by 45 participants. Next to the EU-project officer Ib Troen, also three members of High Level Expert Group were present, which resulted in lively discussions about the progress and direction of the project. It is clear that the goal of the project - to develop and test practical methods to combine observations and data from modelling for Air Quality Assessment - is ambitious. The example of Berlin presented by Martin Lutz illustrated what can be achieved currently, but where further research is required.

Andre Zuber from DG Env. made a plea to give also attention to the latest developments around the Thematic Strategy and the forthcoming proposal for revised AQ directives, and to extent the current focus of AIR4EU on PM₁₀, NO₂ and O₃ to PM_{2.5} and the possibilities that gap-closure might offer.

The uncertainties associated with the positioning of monitoring stations and the spatial coverage of these stations, the issue of “representativeness”, was often mentioned. Also the uncertainties in modelling approaches, including the uncertainties with emission data were topics which have been discussed. Realizing these inherent uncertainties in AQ-assessment, a request was made to try to give guidance to the authorities, and the public, how to treat and handle uncertainties. All presentations and full report on the Workshop are available for download from the News-section on the project webpage www.air4eu.nl.

What is the opinion of the High-level Steering Group?

The progress in AIR4EU is guided by a High-level Expert Group consisting of Andre Zuber (DG ENV), Jaroslav Fiala (EEA), David Simpson (EMEP), Kees Cuvelier (JRC) and Frank de Leeuw (Topic Centre ACC). In Athens, Martin Lutz was requested to join the Expert Group in view of his experiences at DG Environment in Brussels where he was involved in preparing EU legislation as well as his current position at the Senate Department of Urban Development in Berlin. Also Axel Welge from the German Association of Cities accepted to join the Expert Group. As the leader of the “Working group on Environment” at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) he will provide his views on

the problems associated with the implementation of AQ legislation in European Cities.

The general opinion of the expert group is that AIR4EU is on the right track, that there are distinct possibilities to really arrive at innovative results, but also that there are a lot of challenges, and that the real test of the first recommendations is in the application in the City Case Studies.

Who is involved in AIR4EU?

Research in AIR4EU is performed by scientists from the Universities of Stuttgart, Thessaloniki, Hertfordshire and Aveiro. In addition, scientists from the Norwegian Institute for Air Quality Research (NILU) and the Netherlands Research Organisation (TNO) are involved. Heich Consult provides support to the management and dissemination of the results of AIR4EU. Participating cities are: Oslo, Prague, London, Rotterdam, Paris, Rome and Athens.

AIR4EU: What is next?

- The City Case studies have started in September by a first set of interviews to prepare a Workplan for each of the cities. The case studies are guided by NILU in Prague and Oslo, by the University of Hertfordshire in London, by the University of Thessaloniki in Athens and by TNO in Rotterdam, Paris and Rome.
- A project meeting is scheduled on 17-18 November at NILU in Oslo. The progress on the recommendations and the case studies will be discussed at this event.
- A consultation with the High Level Expert Group and other invited experts will be held in the middle of 2006 to discuss the preliminary final results and conclusions of AIR4EU.

Future Meetings

- A final open workshop is planned for December 2006.

AIR4EU newsletter is edited by Menno Keuken and Hermann Heich.

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