

ESCAPE Newsletter 2

March 19, 2009



ESCAPE is a collaboration of more than 30 European cohort studies including some 900,000 subjects. It is aimed at quantifying health impacts of air pollution and at reducing uncertainty.



Greetings!

This is the second ESCAPE newsletter in which we will keep all informed.

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

ESCAPE measurements in the first year

The first year measurements in the different groups have started with in total more than 220 PM and 500 NO_x sites. Please find below some pictures of measurement sites from different groups



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GIS workshop in London

The exposure assessment working group within WP2, together with some GIS experts, had a meeting in London in December. Needed GIS data and procedures for GIS analyses were discussed. Currently a protocol for geocoding, GIS data and GIS analyses is under development, and a first draft will be ready in April.

Health endpoint work packages

Several telephone conferences have been held and health work package meetings have been scheduled in March and April. Study protocols for the different health endpoint work packages are also under development, and are expected to be ready at the end of 2009.

Mid-term review and 2nd annual meeting

The mid-term review and 2nd annual meeting has been planned to take place 18 months after the start of the project, i.e. December 2009. Exact dates and location are not planned yet, but we will send around suggestions for dates soon.

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ESCAPE related projects

* *Transport & Health*

A proposal has been submitted under the guidance of prof Ranjeet Sokhi (Un of Hertfordshire), which includes a component of additional exposure assessment, speciation and source apportionment for ESCAPE samples. If funded, this will allow us to gain more insight in the relationship between specific traffic markers and health in our cohorts. We'll be discussing this within ESCAPE further when the proposal is funded.

* *CONCAWE*

CONCAWE has shown an interest in funding a validation study for our exposure assessment against personal measurements. The plan is to do so in one northern city (Helsinki), one southern city (Barcelona) and then in the Netherlands. Contract negotiations are underway, and we'll let you know when this is finalized successfully.

* *Health Effects Institute (HEI)*

HEI is currently talking to PIs of several North American cohorts to explore possibilities for joint analyses. It would be excellent if ESCAPE could be part of this. Tentatively, a workshop is foreseen somewhere in the year 2010 to explore this further.

* If any of you are contemplating add-on projects, please let us know so we can communicate this!

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Did you know?

There is also another EU project called "ESCAPE": Electronic Sensor System for the Characterisation of Packing Emissions. Their website can be found at: <http://www.escape-project.org/>

And there is even a boat called "ESCAPE" which Bert saw on a holiday trip:



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