

ESCAPE Newsletter 3

June 3, 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 third ESCAPE newsletter with relevant information about our progress. We wish you all a good summer!

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

Health endpoint work packages

The different health work packages had regular (telephone) meetings. WP4 (respiratory), WP5 (cardiovascular) and WP6 (cancer and mortality) had meetings in Barcelona, and WP3 (birth cohorts) will meet in Dublin in August. The study protocols are under development and will be ready at the end of 2009. Questionnaires asking for information about the included cohorts are also under development and will be distributed in each of the work packages.

ESCAPE measurements in the first year

The first year measurements in the different groups are still ongoing and will continue until after summer. Below some pictures of snowy Oslo and spring in The Netherlands.



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Planning of ESCAPE measurements in the second year

The first preparations have started for the measurements that are planned to start at the end of this year. An exposure assessment workshop has been planned and an evaluation has been made when the groups measuring in the first year will be finished.

Because selection of good monitoring sites may be time-consuming, we suggest that groups already start with the site selection before the exposure workshop. For more information, please contact Rob Beelen (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

The groups that will conduct measurements in the second year are: Cancer Institute Denmark, University of Athens, THL Finland, ASL Rome, Imperial College London, Helmholtz Munich, INVS France, University of Kaunas, NIEH Hungary and University of Basel.

Exposure assessment workshop in Utrecht

An exposure assessment workshop will be organised at IRAS (Utrecht) on September 22-23. It will be open for participants that will start with the ESCAPE measurements after summer and is especially aimed at the people who will do the fieldwork. During the workshop there will be explanations about site selection, how to conduct PM and NO_x measurements, and all other things that are related to the monitoring campaign. Participants will be able to practice the use of the sampling equipment.

For registration and questions, please contact Rob Beelen (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

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Mid-term review and 2nd annual meeting

The mid-term review has been planned to take place 18 months after the start of the project, i.e. December 2009. We've been in contact with our EU project officer about this, and he has indicated that the mid-term review will be 'remote', i.e. without the need to combine it with a plenary project meeting. **We therefore suggest that we will NOT have a plenary meeting in December, but just before the summer of 2010.** By then, we will have more to talk about.

We do have to hand in our first progress report in the late fall. We are collecting standard formats for both the scientific and financial progress reports, and we will send out instructions to the Principal Investigators in the different participating centers shortly. Cost statements can only be completed after the first 18 months have passed, so you will all need to get that organised in the month of December. Please inform your financial departments well in advance that we will be collecting information in that time period!

ESCAPE related projects

A proposal (TRANSPHORM) has been submitted to the EU, coordinated by prof. Ranjeet Sokhi from the UK, which includes a sizable budget for speciation and source apportionment of ESCAPE samples. It is not clear yet whether that will be funded, but if so, we'll have more opportunities for advanced analyses of exposure response functions.

We have been contacted by CONCAWE, which is interested in contributing to ESCAPE by funding exposure validation studies. We have been talking to CREAL in Barcelona and KTL in Finland to conduct personal exposure studies in those areas as well as in the Netherlands. A contract will hopefully be concluded in the fall.

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ESCAPE website

New information has been added to the ESCAPE website (www.escapeproject.eu). Information that can be found at the ESCAPE website is:

- * A list of the collaborating studies

And at the 'Products'-section:

- * ESCAPE brochure (in pdf), with general information about the ESCAPE project
- * ESCAPE study manual and ESCAPE SOPs (in pdf)
- * The ESCAPE instruction video about PM sampling made by Kees Meliefste
- * And the previous newsletters (in pdf)

If you have any documents or information that you would like to have available or would like to add on the ESCAPE website, please let us know.

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