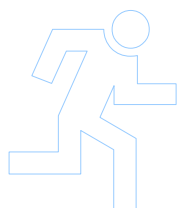


ESCAPE Newsletter 6

June, 2010



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 sixth ESCAPE newsletter with information about our progress.

Since submitting the first progress report in January, we have now received approval of the financial statements, and also two mid term review reports from outside reviewers which were generally very supportive, and appreciative of the progress made so far. This provides for an excellent start of the second phase of the study which we will discuss in detail in our imminent plenary meeting, June 14-16 (see below).

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

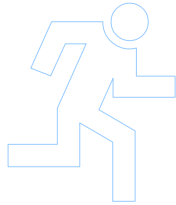
Plenary meeting

The plenary meeting will be on **JUNE 14-16 (MON-WED) 2010**. As we wish to have a full 3-day meeting, please plan on arriving Sunday June 13. A draft program has been distributed, and closer to the meeting date we will distribute a final version.

We plan to have separate WP meetings during the second day of the meeting in such way that each WP will have at least half a day for a specific WP meeting (given some overlap between the WPs).

The venue will be hotel Mitland in Utrecht (www.mitland.nl/home_e.htm). If you want to attend the meeting and have not signed up yet, please inform Marjan Tewis (m.tewis@uu.nl) as she will do the registration. Please let her know as soon as possible.

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GIS-LUR workshop

A workshop on GIS analyses and LUR modelling analyses for the groups that measured in the first year has been taken place on April 26-29 2010. This workshop will be repeated in January 2011 for the groups that measure air pollutants in the second year.

The measurement data for all groups looked very promising and have been used for Land Use Regression (LUR) model development. During the first 2 days of the workshop GIS analyses have been conducted to collect predictor variables for the model. In the last 2 days, all groups developed preliminary LUR models that were also already very promising with R^2 -values often above 50-70% up to over 90%!

We also discussed the ESCAPE exposure manual that describes the procedures for model development. Based on these discussions we made some adaptations to the manual. A final version of the manual will be ready in June 2010.

Please find below some pictures of the workshop.

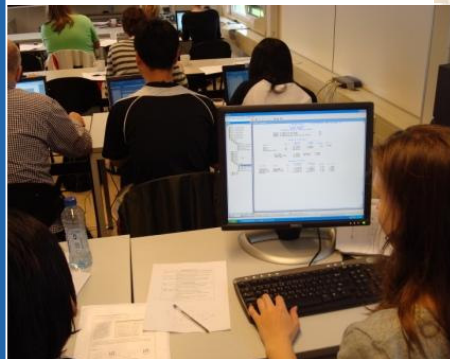
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Progress report and mid-term review

The progress report has been submitted to our project officer on January 27, 2010. As mentioned, we have received a positive response from the reviewers, and the EC financial officer informed us already that the Commission accepted the submitted Forms C and the explanation of the costs. Again, thank you for your contributions! Due to some changes (e.g. a new beneficiary and changes of the ESCAPE Work Programme) an amendment of the contract will be necessary. We will try to implement this all in one step, and will inform you when it is time again to do the necessary paperwork. We will also discuss this at the plenary meeting in June 2010. The changes have already been informally approved by our EC project officer.

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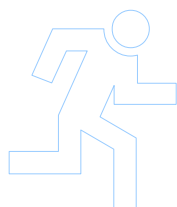
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ESCAPE related projects

TRANSPHORM

TRANSPHORM is a project on the health impacts of transport related air pollution. It officially started on **January 1, 2010**. ESCAPE WP lead institutes are integrated in this study, which will support a fair amount of additional exposure measurements and modelling for the ESCAPE cohorts. Measurements for the TRANSPHORM project have been scheduled for: Athens, Helsinki, Copenhagen, London/Oxford, Paris and Rome in addition to the extra measurements we already took in the Netherlands, Oslo, Barcelona and Munich. In early May, the TRANSPHORM kick-off meeting was held in Hatfield, UK, attended by Bert Brunekreef, Paolo Vineis and Annette Peters representing ESCAPE. Most of the deliverables for this project related to ESCAPE are not due until about 1.5 - 2 years from now.

VE³SPA

CONCAWE has decided to fund a validation study, in which we will be doing personal exposure measurements in three ESCAPE areas (Utrecht, Barcelona and Helsinki) to validate the exposure models we're building for ESCAPE. The project has been named VE³SPA (Validation of ESCAPE Exposure EstimateS using Personal exposure Assessment). More information about the project can be found on the VE³SPA website: <http://www.escapeproject.eu/vespa/> or send an e-mail to Denise Montagne (D.R.Montagne@uu.nl) who is working as a PhD student on this project. The measurements in the three different study areas have started.

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ESCAPE website

The ESCAPE website address is:

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In the "Products"-section all ESCAPE manuals, SOPs and previous newsletters can be found.

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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