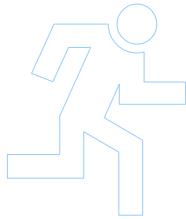


ESCAPE Newsletter 8

November, 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!

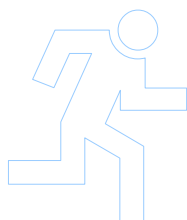
This is the 8th ESCAPE newsletter with information about our progress. We are now close to finishing the field work in the second phase, thanks to the hard work of the field teams involved. The laboratory work is closely tracking the field work, and we are optimistic that PM mass, soot and NO_x data will be available for further analyses within months after the completion of the field campaigns. Meanwhile, the epidemiology work packages are starting their first epidemiology analyses – and this is in the end, what ESCAPE is all about. So the next 18 months or so are going to be very exciting as we will be witnessing the results of all of our efforts.

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

Next plenary ESCAPE meeting

If you have not done yet, please mark September 12-13 2011 in your calendar for the next plenary ESCAPE meeting. The meeting will precede the ISEE 2011 conference in Barcelona.

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Exposure assessment

All groups in the first year are busy with developing LUR models. The LUR models for the Ruhr area in Germany have been the first models that have been finalized, and that are currently being applied to the addresses of cohort members in order to estimate air pollution exposure. Other areas have nearly finalized their models. Overall, the models look very promising with good R^2 values (70-90% depending on the modelled pollutant).

The field work for the groups in the second year is still ongoing and is on schedule. Some groups have already finished their measurements. The last measurements for the other second year groups will be finished in the winter of 2010/2011.

The second year groups have a GIS-LUR workshop in Utrecht on February 7 – February 10. All participants for the workshop have received the first information about the workshop.

Please sign up up before December 5. Also, please send information about your coordinates, local GIS data, and your statistical and GIS packages to us before December 20.

If you have any questions about the workshop please send them to Rob Beelen (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

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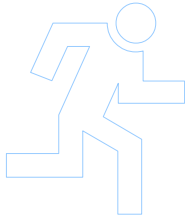
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Comments of the ESCAPE External Advisory Committee (EAC)

At the previous ESCAPE plenary meeting the members of the EAC attended all sessions, conducted a closed meeting to discuss their findings, and provided brief oral comments and summary presentation slides to the entire plenary meeting at the end of the meeting. They provided us also more detailed written comments and suggestions which are very helpful for the remainder of the project. The coordinating center (IRAS, Utrecht University) has made a first draft response to these comments, that has been distributed among all ESCAPE PIs. After we have received all comments, we will make a final response.

Contract amendments

The ESCAPE description of work and budget tables have been updated to reflect the various changes in the study and in the consortium that we discussed during the plenary meeting.

The updated description of work, GPFs and budget tables have been submitted to the European Commission for approval. The updated versions of these documents will also be sent to the ESCAPE PIs.

After approval of the European Commission a new contract round will follow that needs to be signed by all partners. We will try to make this as smooth as possible.

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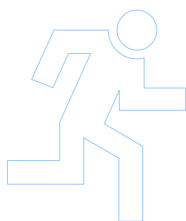
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TRANSPHORM

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 conducted 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.

Most of the deliverables for this project related to ESCAPE are not due until about 1.5 - 2 years from now. Because this also involves work from the ESCAPE partners (such as air pollution modelling for the additional components and related epidemiological analyses), a document has been prepared to outline financial support for ESCAPE centres which are not part of TRANSPHORM. After receiving comments from PIs on the first version of this document, we prepared a new version which has been sent to all PIs for approval.

The next TRANSPHORM meeting is in Amsterdam in December 2010.

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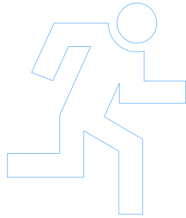
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VE³SPA

CONCAWE funds 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.

ESCAPE website

The ESCAPE website address is:

www.escapeproject.eu

In the "Member"-section all ESCAPE manuals, SOPs, meeting minutes and progress reports can be found (the "Member"-section is password-protected but the password is available upon request).

We would like to have all key documents, such as manuals, analytical protocols etc, available on the website. In that way all these documents are available for all ESCAPE participants and everybody uses the same version.

Separate sections for each work package can be made at the website to make WP-specific documents available.

So, 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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