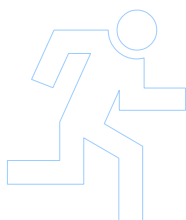


ESCAPE Newsletter 9

March, 2011



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 9th ESCAPE newsletter with information about our progress. The ESCAPE project is now rushing towards the end of its 3rd year (June 1) already. An enormous amount of work has been done, and there is still much ahead of us. On Feb 22 I met the DG Env head of the unit that will deal with the revision of the Air Quality Limit Values, and it was clear that new results from EU funded project such as ESCAPE can carry enormous weight if we manage to produce them on time... We at the coordinating center continue to be very impressed by the hard work and the loyalty of the many different ESCAPE partners, and we are optimistic that with your continued efforts, we will be able to produce important results for science & policy.

Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

Next plenary ESCAPE meeting

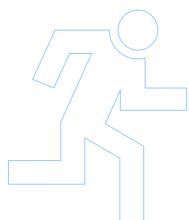
If you have not done yet, please mark September 12-13 2011 in your calendar for the next plenary ESCAPE meeting. The meeting will precede the ISEE 2011 conference in Barcelona.

We reserved meeting rooms in hotel Barcelo Sants. This hotel is located just on top of the Central Train Station in Barcelona "Sants" with direct connection to the Barcelona International Airport (only 15 minutes away by train) and 500 meters away from the Palau de Congressos de Barcelona (ISEE 2011 Venue).

Please register for the meeting by sending the registration form to Marjan Tewis (m.tewis@uu.nl). We suggest that you book as soon as possible a hotel room in this hotel, or if you want another hotel. See for other hotel suggestions the ISEE 2011 website: www.isee2011.org

More information on the agenda will follow before the summer.

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Exposure assessment

All groups in the first year are busy with developing LUR models and exposure assessment. In several areas (Ruhr area, Umea, Barcelona and Catalunya, Erfurt, Bradford, The Netherlands-Belgium and Munich-Augsburg) the models have been finalized. Others are nearly finished with a few exceptions. Overall, the models look very promising with good R^2 values (70-90% depending on the modelled pollutant).

The field work for all groups in the second year has been finished.

The second year groups had their GIS-LUR workshop in Utrecht on February 7 – February 10 2011. During the workshop the ESCAPE procedures for GIS analyses and LUR model development have been explained, and all groups developed preliminary LUR models and presented these results to the other groups. Although the air pollution data and the GIS predictors were not final yet, the first preliminary results were promising. Find below some pictures of the workshop.

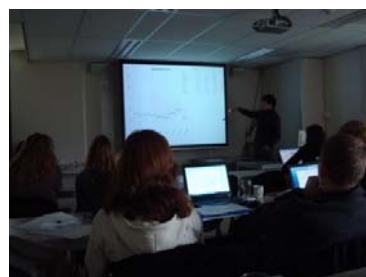
**Institute for Risk
Assessment Sciences**
PO Box 80178
Jenalaan 18d
3508 TD Utrecht
Netherlands

T 31 30 2539494

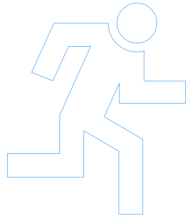
F 31 30 2539499

E-mail
r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl

www.escapeproject.eu



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Presentations at ISEE 2011 conference

One of the two proposals for ESCAPE symposia has been accepted for the ISEE 2011 conference: a symposium on the monitoring and modeling results. This symposium includes results using data from multiple study areas.

We encourage that also other abstracts for oral or poster presentations using ESCAPE data will be submitted to the ISEE conference. Following our publication policy, please send abstracts to the ESCAPE Steering Committee before submitting. Deadline for submitting abstracts is March 15 2011 (see for more information: www.isee2011.org).

36-month progress report

At the end of the 36-month period (i.e. May 31 2011) we have to submit again a progress report to the European Commission. The procedure will be similar as for the previous progress report: all partners have to submit a cost table and statement, and the WP leaders and coordinator will develop the report.

The deadline for submitting the report is 2 months after the 36-month period, i.e. June 31 2011.

Because in some countries the holiday period will already start in June, in April-May we will start communicating with all partners about the actions that you need to take.

**Institute for Risk
Assessment Sciences**
PO Box 80178
Jenalaan 18d
3508 TD Utrecht
Netherlands

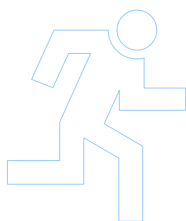
T 31 30 2539494

F 31 30 2539499

E-mail
r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl

www.escapeproject.eu

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Projects related to ESCAPE

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 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.

The next plenary TRANSPHORM meeting will (probably) be in June 2012.

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 are 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.

Institute for Risk
Assessment Sciences
PO Box 80178
Jenalaan 18d
3508 TD Utrecht
Netherlands

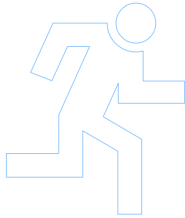
T 31 30 2539494

F 31 30 2539499

E-mail
r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl

www.escapeproject.eu

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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 workpackage 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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3508 TD Utrecht
Netherlands

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