

AIRNET Epidemiology Work Group

Introduction

The objective of this work group is to facilitate an interactive communication and review forum to gather, discuss, and interpret the findings arising from epidemiological research on air pollution and how this will impact the risk and health assessment.

Thereby this work package, together with the package on exposure assessment and toxicology will contribute to a better understanding of health effects of air pollution and related exposure conditions important for this.

The Work Group will deliver a report "Epidemiology" containing the output of the Working Group. Short interim reports will be prepared based on the Annual Conferences, website information, and Working Group meetings.

Activities of the workgroup

1. Identifying the questions asked by end-users.
2. Identifying all European research in the field and put it into context with research from outside Europe. Provide non-specialist summarization of research findings which are most relevant to end-users.
3. Assess the potential policy implications of these findings and identify research needs and open questions.

The starting point for the report is relevant research funded by E.C. FP4 and FP5.

Time path

AIRNET covers the years 2002-2004.

- The first meeting has taken place in Utrecht in July, 2002.
- The second meeting in December 2002 in London (1st annual Conference) where a draft Work Plan was discussed
- The third meeting was in Utrecht in June 2003 when first draft text outlines of the report were discussed
- Rome meeting: discussion of draft texts
- September 1 2004 Completion of the report

Report Structure

1. Introduction (Katsouyanni)
2. Role of Epidemiological studies (Katsouyanni)
3. End-user information needs
4. Health effects of pollutants
 - 4.1.1 Introduction of particle fractions (Pekkanen)
 - 4.1.2 Particle mass (Hoek)
 - 4.1.3. Traffic and other combustion particles (Peters)
 - 4.1.4 Road dust (Forsberg)
 - 4.1.5 Wood burning (Forsberg)
 - 4.1.6 Ultrafine particles (Pekkanen)
 - 4.1.7 Secondary particles (Peters, Wichmann)
 - 4.1.8 PAH (Sram)
- 4.2 Ozone (Hoek)
- 4.3 Nitrogen dioxide (Forastiere)
- 4.4 Sulphur dioxide (Sunyer / Downs)
- 4.5 Carbon monoxide (Fletcher)
5. Assessment of key issues and future research needs (Katsouyanni)
6. Potential policy implications epidemiology findings (Katsouyanni)

