

AIRNET Health Impact Assessment Work Group

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Introduction

The objective of this work package is to facilitate an interactive communication and review forum to gather, discuss, and interpret the outcome of air pollution risk and health impact assessments using the findings from exposure assessments, epidemiology, and toxicology. A particular focus on the elements of the HIA and the uncertainties at each level will be addressed for the various end users (i.e. policy makers).

Thereby this work package will form a bridge-building network to optimally and inter-actively link all the scientific disciplines from which the input is needed for an adequate and sound health risk and impact assessment of air pollution (see Figure 1).

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

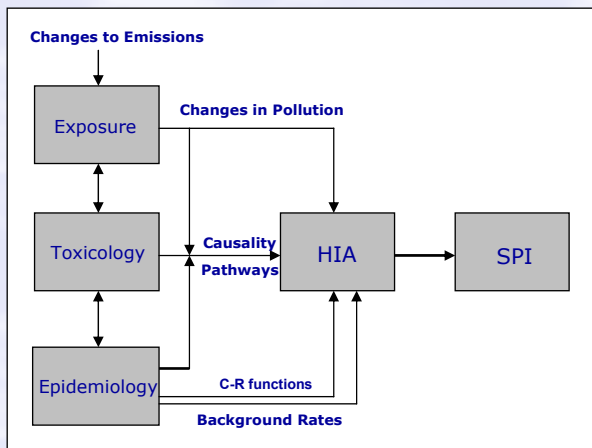


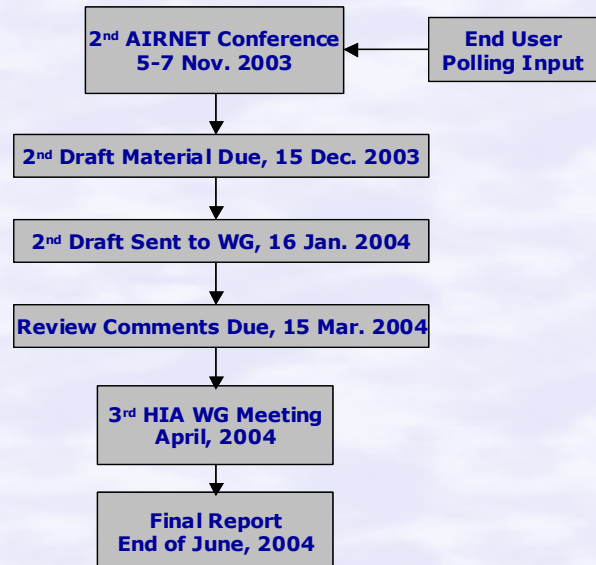
Figure 1. How other WGs link with HIA: a simplified schema.

Activities of the WG

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 Line



Report structure

1. Preface
2. Purpose of HIA [G. de Jong, C. Roythorne]
 - 2.1 Assessment of the baseline situation
 - 2.2 Impacts of changing pollution level
 - 2.3 Changes of pollution due to certain decisions and alternative actions (i.e. traffic changes, urban development, etc.)
 - 2.4 Links with further steps assisting decision making (i.e. economic analysis)
3. Results of HIA (attributable cases, attributable YLL, DALYs, QALYs, etc.) [G. Büchele, G. Weinmayr, S. Weiland, P. van Hazel]
4. Attributable and Avoidable Impacts (i.e. time scale of the impacts, reversibility of effects) [M. Krzyzanowski, B. Miller, F. Hurley]
5. Information Necessary for HIA (link with European research) [B. Miller, F. Hurley]
 - 5.1 Exposure-response function
 - 5.2 Exposure information
 - 5.3 Underlying frequency of health outcome
6. Uncertainty Analysis [G. de Jong, C. Roythorne, F. Hurley]
 - 6.1 Statistical issues
 - 6.2 Sensitivity analysis
7. Case Studies/Examples [S. Medina, A. Karakatsani, A. Le Tertre]
 - 7.1 Impacts of present situation (e.g. APHEIS2)
 - 7.2 Impacts of changing pollution level (e.g. APHEIS3 with new AirQ)
 - 7.3 Impacts of changes of pollution due to certain decisions (i.e. traffic changes, urban development, etc.) [J. Tuomisto]
8. Assessment of Key Issues and Future Research Needs (Everyone)
9. Potential Policy Implications of Health Impact Assessment Findings [M. Amann]

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