

Paris, 3 June 2009

Towards cleaner air in European cities : Launch conference of the CITEAIR II project

The CITEAIR II project has started and its launch conference will take place the 3rd of June in Paris. CITEAIR stands for "Common Information to European Air" and it aims at exchanging excellence on air quality management and its synergies with climate change mitigation, as enhancing comparisons between cities and information to the public on air quality. This 3 year project, which started in October 2008 is funded under the Interreg IVc programme. It gathers 11 partners from 8 countries

« Cities and regions all around Europe are facing exposure to high levels of air pollution and the emerging impacts of climate change which has detrimental effects on their citizens and their economy, with a significant impact from mobility problems. Designing, implementing and monitoring mitigation measures is a tremendous challenge for policy makers and authorities, as is the need to raise public awareness. In that respect, collaboration, exchange of experience, jointly formulated policies and transferable measures can support cities in improving the urban environment and reducing CO₂ emissions », says Karine Léger from Airparif (French agency in charge of monitoring Air quality in Paris and the Île-de-France region) and lead partner of the CITEAIR II project.



Building on the experience and users of the previous CITEAIR project (2004-2007, INTERREG IIIC), CITEAIR II aims to provide **up-to-date information on air quality in European cities to local and regional authorities, the public and the media and enhance the comparability of cities through the interactive website www.airqualitynow.eu and the first European common air quality indices**. In total near real time information regarding the situation in about 55 European cities is already available for the public. This is due to the work done by local air quality monitoring organisations which deliver every hour their latest air quality measurement to the web site. CITEAIR II will improve this existing website by adding new cities and regions, providing new developments such as forecasted air quality indices, translations and enhanced indices taking into account fine particles according to the new EU CAFE directive (2008/50/EC).

A wealth of knowledge and best-practices is available for cities and regions, which offers ample opportunities for collaboration. CITEAIR II aims to support local authorities by developing new tools and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge through the identification, test and transfer of those good practices. Based on this exchange of experience, three tools are to be developed within the project and made available for the authorities and policy makers :

- a **mobility indicator** to describe and eventually benchmark the traffic situation regarding emission of atmospheric pollutants and CO₂ in urban conurbations
- guidance for the **integration of greenhouse gases into existing air pollutant emission inventories for regulated air pollutants** thus enabling the identification of suitable emission reduction measures with a combined effect on reduction of urban pollutants and greenhouse gases
- **dedicated urban air quality forecasting addressing different levels of complexity** that meet the needs of cities and regions depending on their local skills, resources and level of expertise.

CITEAIR II also aims to establish an enhanced user community to assess the relevance of the good practices identified within the project. « Any interested city can join the CITEAIR community as the stronger the community the higher the benefits for all », insists Karine Léger.

CITEAIR II goals and working assumptions will be presented to the public at the **launch conference of the project in Paris on 3 June hosted by the Ile-de-France regional council**. Related topics such as the implementation of European air quality directives, current European initiatives on air quality and public information in European agglomeration such as Berlin, Rome, London and Paris, and the benefits of comparing air quality in European cities appear also on the agenda.



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Agenda of the conference

10.00	Welcome address	Jean-Felix Bernard – Former President of the National Air Committee (Conseil National de l’Air) and regional councillor – Ile-de-France regional Council
10.15	Introduction	
Session 1: Air quality policy context		
<i>Chair: Jean-Felix Bernard</i>		
10.20	Urban air quality and the CAFE-Directive: derogation option and status of applications	Eduard Dame, European Commission, DG Environment
11.00	Impacts of environmental zones on PM 2.5/10: the case	Martin Lutz, Berlin
11.20	Questions & Answers	
Session 2: The CITEAIR II project		
<i>Chair: Gary Fuller</i>		
11.40	Exchanging excellence on air quality – the CITEAIR II project	Karine Léger, Airparif
12.00	Emission inventories	Sylke Davison, DCMR
12.10	Sustainable Mobility Indicator	Fabio Nussio, ATAC
12.20	Air quality forecast	Anthony Ung, INERIS
12.30	Questions & Answers	
12.50	<i>Lunch</i>	
Session 3: Communicating on air quality: perspectives & initiatives		
<i>Chair: Martin Lutz</i>		
14.00	European Initiatives on Air Quality Information	Tim Haigh, European Environmental Agency
14.20	Air Pollution and Health: Recent findings and questions for policy making	Sylvia Medina, French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS)
14.40	The EEA’s PAQ project and the CITEAIR Air Quality Index	Bert Jansen, European Environment Agency
15.00	Sharing air quality information with citizens of London	Gary Fuller, King’s College London
15.20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.50	Air quality information for vulnerable population groups; a case study from S.E. England	Kirsty Smallbone, University of Brighton
16.10	Air quality: Towards common tools on upper Rhine valley	Emmanuel Rivière, Association pour la Surveillance et l’étude de la Pollution atmosphérique en Alsace (ASPA)
16.30	Closing address	Karine Léger, Airparif

Press contact

- Polis :**
 Oliver Jung - Policy and Communication Officer
ojung@polis-online.org
 +32 (0)2 500 56 72
 Melanie Kloth - Project Manager
mkloth@polis-online.org
 +32 (0)2 500 56 74
- Airparif :**
 karine Leger - deputy director
karine.leger@airparif.asso.fr
 +33-(0)1-44-59-41-35

More information

- on Citeair II: www.citeair.eu
- on air quality in European cities: www.airqualitynow.eu
- on the conference:
http://www.citeair.eu/fileadmin/Events/June_2009_events_in_Paris/Draft_Agenda_CITEAIR_II_Conference_final22042_009_02.pdf

Other information

CITEAIR II media partnerships

CITEAIR II has already developed a partnership with the following media:

- “Notre planète”, the French reference website on environment, sustainable development and climate change (http://www.notre-planete.info/environnement/qualite_air_europe.php);
- “Actu environnement”, a French specialised press on environment and sustainable development (http://www.actu-environnement.com/ae/qualite_air/qualite_air.php);
- “Le Journal de l’environnement”, a French daily electronic newspaper providing decision-makers (companies and local public authorities) with Health, Security and Environment news at international, European and national level (<http://www.journaldelenvironnement.net/fr/document/detail.asp?id=9726&type=SRV&ctx=12>).

All have accepted to publish the air quality indices developed within the CITEAIR I project and further partnerships are sought within CITEAIR II.

If you would like also to become a CITEAIR II media partner, please contact us!

CITEAIR II partners

