

PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

Air Quality in European Cities

Rome to host Conference on European Air Quality Management

Cities want to improve air quality in cities to improve the health and well-being of their citizens. Reducing air pollution requires comprehensive and easily understandable data to inform the public of the air quality situation along with tools that can help to tackle air pollution and climate change together. CITEAIR II is a European project that has developed a multilingual web based tool to communicate simple air quality information in European cities in nearly real time. The project has also developed innovative methodologies to forecast air quality; to integrate information on greenhouse gas emissions within existing air pollutant emission inventories; and to benchmark the traffic and mobility situation in cities.

As the project draws to a close, the results and use of the tools of the project will be presented at the CITEAIR II Final Conference which will take place on 24 June in Rome. The final conference is organised by Roma Servizi per la Mobilità S.r.l., a key partner in the project, and will be hosted at 'Spazio Europa', the home of the EU in Rome. The conference will be opened by Dr Marco Visconti, Councillor for the Environment of Rome.

To help cities and regions, CITEAIR II has provided the following tools which will be presented at the conference:

1. Online air quality comparison at www.airqualitynow.eu - This interactive web service provides near real-time and multilingual air quality information from more than 90 European local and regional authorities. This service provides comparable air quality data to communicate air quality information, and any European city is free to join it. At the conference an updated version of the website (including associated tools for smartphones) will be presented, and the Italian version will be launched.
2. Forecasting urban air quality - CITEAIR II has developed and implemented a methodology to forecast air quality (based on the first European index). The forecast has three levels of complexity to meet the needs and requirements of European cities with different levels of data availability and expertise. The first online forecasts of the common air quality indices will be presented at the conference as well as feedbacks from an air quality network which was not part of the project but volunteered to test the forecast.
3. New mobility indicator - CITEAIR II has defined, tested and implemented an indicator to assess the mobility situation in European cities. results for Rome and Paris to be presented
4. Integrating greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutants - CITEAIR II has developed, tested and validated an integrated urban emission inventory, which combines greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutant emissions. It allows for the integrated monitoring (and ultimately mitigation) of emissions. Tool to be used by the cities to be presented

CITEAIR II is proud to announce that the above-mentioned web service www.airqualitynow.eu will remain online after the project lifetime. The operation is secured through cooperation with the project ObsAirve that is funded in the context of GMES (*Global Monitoring for Environment and Security*). New cities who want to join the initiative are welcome.



Notes to editors

- 1) The CITEAIR II project supports the exchange of excellence on air quality management and its synergies with climate change mitigation, enhancing comparison and public information in our cities (www.citeair.eu).
- 2) CITEAIR II (Common Information to European Air) is co-funded under the European Commission INTERREG IVC programme and runs from 2008 to 2011. The project builds on the experience and users of a previous CITEAIR project (2004-2007, INTERREG IIIC) which among other things developed and implemented air quality indices on the European level and laid the foundations for the supporting website www.airqualitynow.eu.
- 3) INTERREG IVC helping regions to share solutions (www.interreg4c.eu). The Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers.
- 4) The agenda and practical information of the CITEAIR II Final Conference in Rome is available at <http://www.citeair.eu/index.php?id=63>.
- 5) The lead partner (coordinator) of CITEAIR II is Karine Léger from Airparif, French agency in charge of monitoring Air quality in Paris and the Île-de-France region- karine.leger@airparif.asso.fr - <http://www.airparif.asso.fr/>.
- 6) CITEAIR II gather 11 partners from 8 EU countries:
 - o the municipality of Maribor and REC (Regional Environmental Center, Slovenia),
 - o the ARMAAG foundation (Agency of Regional Air Quality Monitoring in the Gdańsk metropolitan area)- Poland,
 - o CHMI (Czech Hydrometeorological Institute) and the City Development authority of Prague - Czech Republic,
 - o The DCMR (Environmental protection agency Rijnmond) - The Netherlands,
 - o Egmasa (Andalusian Environment Agency) - Spain,
 - o Polis – European Cities and Regions Networking for Innovative Transport Solutions, Belgium,
 - o Rome Mobility Agency –Italy,
 - o INERIS (National Institute of Industrial Environment and risks) and Airparif (Agency in charge of monitoring air quality in Paris and its surrounding area, lead partner)- France
- 7) More information on Air quality in European cities: www.airqualitynow.eu, contact: info@citeair.eu
- 8) Pictures are available on our website:
 - o A map of Europe presenting air quality in more than 50 cities (representing 31 May 2010, 12.00 GMT) (<http://www.citeair.eu/index.php?id=45>)

For further information, please contact:

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