

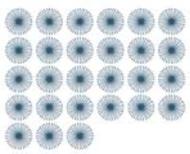
Newsletter # 3 / November 2014 – January 2015



1. Introduction

The last few months saw some important work done in a number of the SEFIRA working packages. Under the coordination of the University of Urbino, a shared theoretical and methodological frame for the Discrete Choice Analysis exercise was developed that will provide the project with insights on the role of personal behaviour in air quality policy improvement. In WP3, a team of researchers coordinated by the K.U. Leuven have been working on the assessment of current European, national and local Air Quality Policies that seeks to understand policy translation across different scales and highlight opportunities for improving them. In WP6 meanwhile, SEFIRA has been establishing a presence in the expert as well as the public debate on air quality issues. This was done primarily through the organisation of decentralized stakeholder meeting in the different partner countries. This newsletter briefly presents the stakeholder meetings organized in Poland, Italy and Sweden.

The Project Office – University of Urbino – Italy



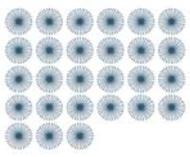
2. SEFIRA Stakeholder Meeting in Warsaw - Poland

The stakeholder meeting in Warsaw took place on 19 November 2014 at the Warsaw School of Economics and was attended by 22 people, including policy makers, representatives of local councils, scientists and various NGO's. The conveners had prepared two related presentations to facilitate the discussions. The first presentation, by Mr. Dominik Kobus from the Air Pollution Monitoring Department of the Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute, concerned a general assessment of the air quality situation in Poland based on the latest measurement results as well as an overview of the causes of air pollution and possible methods of its limitation. Mr. Kobus' presentation focused on PM10 particles, benzo[a]pyrene, ozone and nitrogen dioxide as the main pollutants in Poland and highlighted combustion for central heating in households as the primary driver of emissions. The second speaker, Mr Eng. Krzysztof Skotak, head of the Integrated Monitoring Station 'Puszcza Borecka' of the Institute of Environmental Protection - National Research Institute, presented the most recent research on the health impacts of air pollution and its related social and economic effects. Mr. Skotak gave concrete examples from metropolitan areas - particularly Warsaw, and reviewed current debates on threshold levels in Poland in relation to EU permissible values and the recommendations from the WHO. Effects on health and socioeconomic indicators in Poland were then juxtaposed with data from other European countries.

The subsequent discussions formed the central part of meeting. Participants debated the air quality situation in Poland and the specific conditions in towns and cities across the country as well as differences between air pollution sources in different Polish regions, actions undertaken to improve monitoring, achievement of standards and public information, methods of risk management, and issues of financing amongst others. Participants generally agreed at the end of the meeting that more frequent exchange of information, views and experiences between stakeholders involved in air quality issues are necessary.



1. Pictures of the stakeholder meeting in Warsaw - Poland

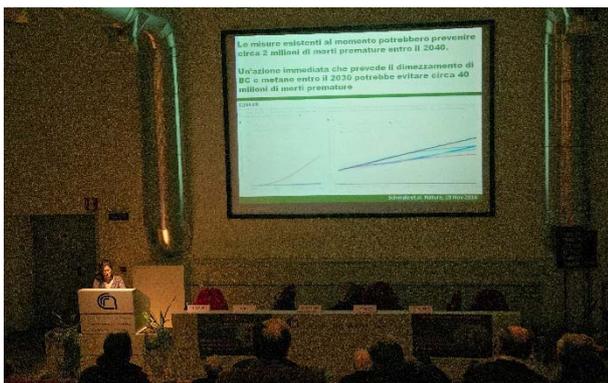


3. Stakeholder meeting Milan - Italy

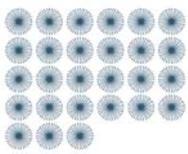
The stakeholder meeting in Milan took place on November 20th, 2014 and was hosted by the National Council of Research of Italy (CNR), partner of the SEFIRA project. The meeting focused on Milan and its region Lombardia, which have also been chosen as a case study for the project. At the meeting eleven distinguished speakers from all main academic fields involved in SEFIRA - ranging from Sociology, Epidemiology, Atmospheric Chemistry and Environmental Engineering - presented their work and participated in the debate. Other stakeholders present included civil society organizations, policy makers, experts and the general public. The meeting touched upon questions that have been a central focus in the SEFIRA project, including the role of socio-economic determinants in air quality policy success, the relationship between technical and non-technical knowledge and policy measures, and the relation between air quality policies and actions to mitigate climate change. Presentations and videos from the event are available on the SEFIRA website.



Pictures of the stakeholder meeting in Milan - Italy



Pictures of the stakeholder meeting in Milan- Italy

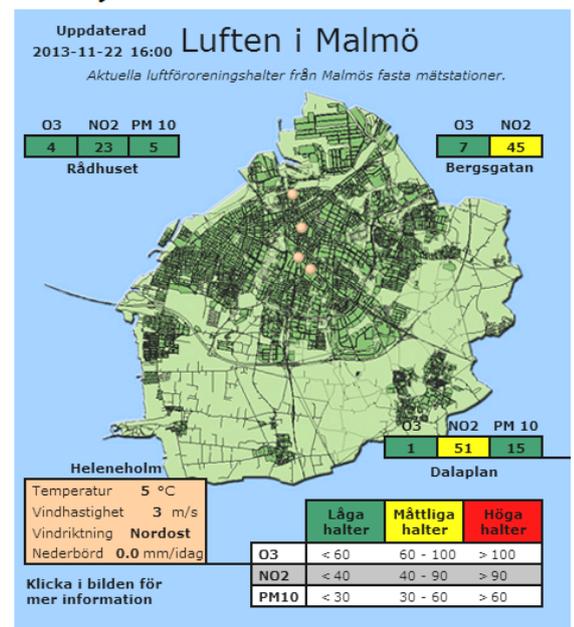


4. Stakeholder meeting in Malmö, Sweden

The Stakeholder meeting in Malmö took place on 10 December 2014 at the offices of Länsstyrelsen Skåne, the county administration that is responsible for drafting the air quality plan for the city of Malmö. The meeting was organized in cooperation between SEFIRA and the city of Malmö, which made it possible to bring together the key stakeholders involved in the drafting, implementation and follow-up of the air quality plan in Malmö. There was considerable interest from a number of other Swedish cities and county administrations as well, including Helsingborg, Göteborg and Stockholm. Other participants included representatives from the European Environment Agency, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish transport authority and Lund University researchers working on the topic of air quality. The meeting took place at a time when Malmö and other Swedish cities are required to evaluate their current air quality plans and decide on how to move forward in order to achieve Swedish air quality standards. The timing of the stakeholder meeting thus provided opportunities to make the discussions directly relevant to the different actors involved.

Discussions were organized around the topic ‘Ways forward with Malmö’s air quality policy’. While the main objective was to provide a forum for the different stakeholders to exchange experiences with respect to the challenges in making Malmö’s air quality plan more effective, the meeting also served as a forum at which strategies and opinions on air quality policy from different cities could be compared. The day’s event was organized around a number of presentations, workshops and a roundtable discussion. There was ample time for questions and comments and participants eagerly made use of this to initiate lively discussions on the desired direction, objectives as well as limitations of current air quality policies. The participation of Lund researchers and the EEA added valuable perspectives on current state of research, on the health implications of low-level exposure to pollutants, on the European policy framework and experiences from elsewhere in the EU. While the focus was mainly on NO₂ – since this is the focus in Malmö’s air quality plan – a number of presentations also elaborated on the broader context and highlighted for example the state of play with respect to emissions of particulate matter. All in all, the Malmö stakeholder meeting clearly fulfilled a need for a fuller exchange of perspectives and experiences between and across policy scales, and between policy makers and researchers.

Luften just nu i Malmö



Information on real time on air quality in Malmö
<http://www.dagensluft.se>