

An integrated assessment methodology to plan local cost-effective air quality policies harmonised with national and European actions



Project background

Air pollution is an environmental issue of major concern in Europe, as highlighted by the EU Thematic Strategy for air quality (COM 2005 446) and Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.

Despite the legislation, some regions in Europe produce or maintain pollutant levels that threaten human health and ecosystems. This is the case in the Po Valley, Italy, where the combination of high population densities, high emission densities and poor meteorological dispersion lead to adverse impacts on the population from high levels of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and on ecosystems because of high levels of ozone and eutrophication.

Although less dramatic, air pollution problems are also encountered in Central Europe. For example, in Alsace, France, where factors – e.g. the high population density in the Upper Rhine valley, high levels of border traffic across France, Germany and Switzerland, as well as the presence of important industrial areas (the Ruhr region in the north-east and the Basel area in the south) – have led to a deterioration of air quality with measurements frequently in excess of the maximum values for particulate matter and ozone compounds.

Project objectives

The main goal of the 'OPERA' project is to develop a methodology and guidelines to support local authority planning for regional policies supporting national and European actions for compliance with air quality standards. The actions are also designed to take into account possible synergies with measures to reduce GHG emissions.

Expected results

- The development of a methodology and assessment software tool (RIAT+) to support local authorities in designing and assessing efficient air quality plans to reduce population exposure to PM₁₀, NO_x and O₃ pollution and ecosystems exposure to NO_x and O₃ for the two project regions (Emilia-Romagna and Alsace);

LIFE09 ENV/IT/000092

OPERA



Beneficiary:

Type of beneficiary

Regional authority

Name of beneficiary

Agenzia Prevenzione Ambiente Emilia-Romagna

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Duration of project:

37 months (01/09/2010 - 30/09/2013)

Total budget in euro:

2,301,010.00

EC contribution in euro with %:

1,089,544.00 (47.35 %)

Generic theme:

Air quality management and noise abatement

- A register including existing and new emission reduction measures (technical and non-technical) will be applied in the two regions;
- A standard set of quantitative indicators to monitor the effectiveness of action plans; and
- The publication and dissemination of guidelines for local administrations and environmental agencies to integrate local planning for compliance with national and European air quality policies.

Associated beneficiary:

