

ENHANCE HEALTH - Environmental health surveillance system in urban areas near incinerators and industrial premises

Programme zone / Zone de programme:

East / Est

Type / Type

Individual Project / Projet Individuel

Topic / Thème

Other appropriate subjects / Autres sujets appropriés

Problem description / Description du problème ciblé par le projet

The operation "Enhance health: Environmental health surveillance system in urban areas near incinerators and industrial premises" is based on environmental and health concerns in relation to air pollution produced by industrial premises and waste incinerators in urban areas. The simultaneous presence of industrial and urban settlements and waste incinerators in urban areas and the related problem of the impact of such polluting settlements on the population's health is quite common in a highly industrialised Europe. However, this situation often leaves citizens in the affected areas without any certainty regarding the effects that continued exposure might have. As a consequence, many conflicts are likely to arise between different stakeholders over a given territory's use.

Overall objective / Objectif général de l'opération

The partnership wants to jointly analyse and exchange experience on the effects that pollutants from waste incineration can have on human health and on the space dispersion of these pollutants. The partners want to exchange experience and further develop know-how on how to deal with this issue. They are also planning to elaborate tools for the definition of common sustainable territorial policies taking into account environmental and health aspects. Guidelines and Good Practices will be defined on the basis of pilot projects that will have been previously carried out in the territories of three different partners (Italy, Hungary and Poland).

Expected results / Résultats attendus

The operation will define a common methodology to be used in environmental and health monitoring in the participating areas in order to verify the effects on human health of selected pollutants, monitor the level of risk perception and prepare a long-term risk communication strategy to prevent social conflicts and improve risk communication to local populations improving their knowledge about environmental and health policy in their territories. It will jointly establish an environmental-health surveillance system and create a transferable model to be used by other interested local and regional authorities in Europe.

Lead partner / Partenaire principal	Contact person / Personne à contacter	Duration / Durée
Comune di Forlì Unità Sanità, corso Diaz 21 47100 Forlì (FC) ITALY	Rossana Giacconi Tel.: 39-0543-712789 Fax: 39-0543-712782 E-Mail: gjaro@comune.forli.fo.it Web: http://hermes.westgate.gr/enhance	January 2004 - March 2007
		Total budget / Budget total: 1.354.901 €
		ERDF contribution / Contribution FEDER: 836.638 €
		Norwegian contribution / Contribution des fonds norvégiens: 0 €



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Partnership / Partenaires

Name of Institution, Town /Titre de l'institution, Ville	Country / Pays	Region / Région	Contact information / Détails de contact
ARPA Regional Agency for the Prevention and the Environmental of Emilia-Romagna, Bologna	ITALY	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	Phone: 39 0543/451401 fscarponi@fo.arpa.emr.it
AUSL Local Sanitary Service Office of Forlì, Forlì (FC)	ITALY	EMILIA-ROMAGNA	Phone: 39 0543 733542 r.bacchi@ausl.fo.it
National Institute of Hygiene, Warsaw	POLAND	MAZOWIECKIE	Phone: 48 225421354 jsw@pzh.gov.pl
Computer Technology Institute, Patras	GREECE	DYTIKI ELLADA	Phone: 30 2610461420 garofala@cti.gr
'Fodor József' National Center for Public Health, Budapest	HUNGARY	KOZEP-MAGYARORSZ AG	Phone: 36 1 476 1100 rudnai@oki.antsz.gov.hu
Lower Austrian Regional Government, St. Pölten	AUSTRIA	NIEDERÖSTERREICH	Phone: 43 2742 9005 12942 post.gs2@noel.gv.at
University of Valladolid - ITAP, Valladolid	SPAIN	CASTILLA Y LEÓN	Phone: 34 983 423246 vinvestigacion@uva.es



Activities / achievements so far

The project aims at developing an environmental health surveillance system (EHSS) implemented in the 3 study sites (Italy, Poland, Hungary) characterized by the presence of industrial and urban settlements and waste incinerators. The main objective is the processing of Guidelines and Good Practices for implementing the EHSS (characterized by a high level of transferability of the model), and of a List of Recommendations to support local administrators in defining strategies for territorial, environmental and health planning. Project collaboration has been further developed through partnership meetings organized every semester to bring all partners together discussing the achievements and activities performed, and in order to operate the necessary adjustments to time schedule, budget and outputs to be produced. The project website the Intranet have been regularly updated and used for exchanging documents and information among partners. Web Interactive Info Points have been developed and are hosted by the institutional web sites of the pilot studies' partners. Partners have developed and defined an Identification Protocol of indicators and have consequently drafted a shared List of Environmental Health Indicators to be recommended for the surveillance system. A software for the surveillance system has been developed, adjusted and tested. Further monitoring of air pollution and air quality in the study areas has been carried out, together with emissions modellization of incineration plants wastes in order to analyse the emissions impact; further descriptive and spatial analyses, and in-depth epidemiological analyses have been carried out. Risk perception analyses and the drawing of a communication plan have involved the updating of retrospective surveys, qualitative analyses, review of data, interviews and distribution of questionnaires. Communication Guidelines have been developed. Project activities and outputs were given visibility through partners' websites and the dedicated project site, participation to international, national and local events, press releases and articles in the countries involved, organization of seminars and conferences, collaboration with external bodies and institutions. Constant contacts have been kept with decision makers in the countries involved in the project in order to update them on ongoing activities. A dedicated leaflet has been developed and distributed. A final conference was held in Italy; dedicated final publications were developed and distributed for disseminating results. The documents include guidelines on risk perception analysis and communication plan to disseminate data through stakeholder participation in the process. The publications are intended to be a methodological contribution at the disposal of the European Community for EHSS in population living in areas under environmental pressure.

More information:

<http://hermes.westgate.gr/enhance>



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