



MEDITERRANEAN HEALTH
MED HISS
INTERVIEW SURVEYS STUDIES

Mediterranean Health Interview Surveys Studies: long term exposure to air pollution and health surveillance

After LIFE Communication Plan 2016-2020

The success of our project was almost due to the strength of the collaboration with partners and to the efforts done in stakeholders involvement.

ARPA Piemonte, as project Coordinating Beneficiary, has a consolidated scientific relationship with the principal Italian environmental epidemiology departments, as well as with the main international scientific actor of air pollution and health domain.

For Italian and Spanish partners, the stakeholders involvement seemed already established before the starting of the project in the framework of consolidated and permanent relationships.

This After LIFE Communication Plan is based on four different activities and the set up of a “case study” for local stakeholders involvement:

1. Lessons learnt and recommendations
2. Maintenance of the website
3. Continue the collaboration between the partners
4. Promotion of MED HISS project results
5. Case study “The Piedmont Regional Air Quality Plan – Economic impact of Air pollution and health”

We would expect the opportunity to convey the message of the project to European Community, in order to exploit in the best way our efforts. We would like to get in a direct contact through the LIFE Communication Team NEEMO with the European Community in order to give to other countries the possibility to endeavour MED HISS strategy, as part of the After Life Communication Plan.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

The lessons learnt during the MED HISS experience in using national surveys for epidemiological purposes are very useful for other countries, to develop low-cost approaches for the measurement of health effects of air pollution over time. The communication of project results to the international community is the first step for the proposal of implementing MED HISS project at European level. This After LIFE Communication Plan is in fact the main instrument to succeed in engineering this pilot project.

MED HISS addressed the necessity to target the issue of surveillance highlighting the following key points:

- 1) surveillance systems for air pollution-related health effects are feasible in several European countries;
- 2) the cohort data could be standardized using protocols and procedures;
- 3) the available data should be compared across countries and over time;
- 4) the health effects could be estimated in each country, in relation to different health endpoints;
- 5) policy makers should be informed on the results of these systems, and supported on possible mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of air pollution;
- 6) this approach requires to overcome possible restriction due to privacy policies;
- 7) the cooperation between public health and the environment sectors improves the potential use of the results for the policies planning;

And finally:

8) *“the implementation of Health Impact Assessment depends on a network of actors, from engineers to industrials, urban planners or other sectors: the translation of health aspect into a policy framework, requires the sustained collaboration between scientists, health professionals, the complex of policy making and the public” (WHO).*

A newsletter, the third one, will be edited with the contribution of all partners and will be devoted to synthesize project recommendations and report in details the lessons learnt by the project.

Maintenance of the website

The project website contains the description of project objectives of its main results: all technical and dissemination material has been published as well as the complete list of networking activities and ongoing publications.

MED HISS website will be implemented in the next 5 years.

The Coordinating Beneficiary will update the project website and guarantee complete and useful information for the implementation of this pilot project. Some areas of the website will become self-implementable, to keep on updating the most important information without the support of a webmaster.

Continue the collaboration between the project partners

The strengthen of the cooperation between technician level and politicians has represented an important output of MED HISS project, such as the exchanges between the Coordinating Beneficiary, an environmental protection agency, and other public bodies.

ENEA partner has published on March 2017 the “Effect-based activities on air pollution: What is the state of the natural and anthropogenic Italian ecosystems? CHAPTER 10 – EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION ON HEALTH” using MED HISS project results and presented it during the Rome conference: “Inquinamento atmosferico e sostenibilità: dagli impatti a possibili soluzioni – un approccio integrato” on 16th and 17th March 2017.

NIJZ partner took part in the LIFE international networking conference entitled “Environment needs LIFE for the next 25 years”, organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in the context of the project LIFE Capacity Building Slovenia which took place 25th and 26th May 2017 in European Union House, Ljubljana, Slovenia and at Škocjanski zatok Natural Reserve, Koper, Slovenia.

ARPAP took part in the second national meeting the KTE EnvHealth Network on 23rd May 2017 held in Rome, participants have discussed on goals achieved and planned future activities. This meeting was part of the **LIFE 25 YEARS celebration** too (<http://life-25.eu/>).



NIJZ partner

Promotion of MED HISS project results

In order to reinforce the awareness with local, national and international stakeholders and to get in touch with a widest audience the Coordinating Beneficiary, after the 30 September 2016, the end date of MED HISS project, results have been presented to the 40^o Italian Congress of Epidemiology (AIE meeting in Turin, 19-21 October 2016). The Session PARALLELA 2.2 was devoted to Air pollution and Health: the Coordinating Beneficiary did three oral presentation of LIFE MED HISS results.

LIFE MED HISS joined the “LIFE KTE EnvHealth network”, Knowledge Transfer and Exchange in Environment and Health, established after the LIFE National Thematic Meeting “Participation, risk perception, knowledge transfer and exchange in environment and health” held in Florence, Italy, on 13 April 2016.

During the meeting, LIFE projects discussed about governance issues related to the environment and human health. The questions related to Knowledge Transfer and Exchange (KTE) among researchers, public administrators and other stakeholders are a priority for each of the participating LIFE. LIFE projects in fact, share the ambition and the imperative to contribute to evidence informed public decisions, taking into account scientific knowledge and demands of the whole society. The network aims at exchanging experiences and enhance the work in progress, promoting the integration of scientific competences.

During LIFE GIOCONDA networking meeting “Knowledge transfer and exchange in EnvHealth risk governance” on 14th November 2016, in Rome, the KTE LIFE EnvHealth Network, was presented to external experts. During the meeting, the working group recalled the main assumptions of the topic and deepened the role and the use of questionnaires and tools to promote participation; they took them as examples of the integration of the theoretical and practical tools created by the social sciences into projects where the natural sciences have a major role. The last part of the workshop has been dedicated to raise concrete proposals for the network’s continuation and have been carried out splitting the participants into sub-groups.

MED HISS will finalize its participation to the Knowledge Platform (Piattaforma delle conoscenze www.pdc.minambiente.it), that has been conceived as a mean of sharing the best practices related to environment and climate suitable to be replicated and transferred, as well as to network all those stakeholders who have developed the best practices in the field of Environment and Climate with potential replicators.

The Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health of the Regional Environmental Protection Agency is taking part on the agreement between Italian Health Ministry National Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CCM) and Regione Lazio for the realization of the project CCM “Ambiente e Salute nel PNP 2014-2018: rete nazionale di epidemiologia ambientale, valutazione di impatto integrato sull’ambiente e salute, formazione e comunicazione (EpiAmbNet)”.

The Coordinating Beneficiary have had the opportunity to publish MED HISS results on the Italian XII Report “Qualità ambiente urbano” of the National Environmental Italian Agency ISPRA on December 2016.

ARPAP is now partner of RER - Po regions engaged to policies of air (LIFE15 IPE/IT/000013): the PREPAIR LIFE Integrated project aims to implement actions in the territory of the Po Valley and Slovenia in order to improve air quality and comply with Dir. 2008/50/EC and the European strategy ‘Clean Air for Europe’. PREPAIR will also contribute to achieving compliance with the National Emission Ceilings Reduction Commitments.

Conferences and scientific meetings will be monitored, as well as meetings abroad. The visit of conferences and events to maintain MED HISS contacts and keep on spreading its results will be hopefully done and reported on the project website.

BOX : CASE STUDY

“The Piedmont Regional Air Quality Plan – Economic impact of Air pollution and health”

Thanks to MED HISS project, during year 2016 ARPA Piemonte has been contacted by Environmental sector of Piedmont Region to cooperate in the drawing up of the Regional Air Quality Plan – Economic impact of Air pollution and health. Two events were organized in order to support and address local and national policy-makers to set up effective policies for public health:

- Local Event LIFE12 ENV/IT/000834 MED HISS "MED HISS project and health impact of air pollution in Piedmont: preliminary findings" MED HISS in support of Piedmont Air Quality Regional Plan. Turin, 7th July 2016;
- During MED HISS final conference, on 14th September 2016, the coordinator organized an open discussion concerning the contribution to local governance of European projects, such as MED HISS. The VIAS Methodology (Metodi per la Valutazione Integrata dell’Impatto Ambientale e Sanitario dell’inquinamento atmosferico) was presented and a wide number of local actors was invited to give their contribution to this debate.

Given that, as a result of MED HISS, the Environmental Department of Piedmont Region involved The Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health of ARPA Piedmont in drafting the environment and health aspects of Air Quality Regional Plan 2017-2018.

A case study will be outlined and its results will be presented at regional and national level.

MED HISS Papers

The association of air pollution and greenness with mortality and life expectancy in Spain: A small-area study

Carmen de Keijzera, David Agis, Albert Ambrós, Gustavo Arévalo, Jose M Baldasano, Stefano Bande, Jose Barrera-Gómez, Joan Benach, Marta Cirach, Payam Dadvand, Stefania Ghigo, Èrica Martinez-Solanas, Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, Ennio Cadum, Xavier Basagaña, on behalf of the MED-HISS Study group, mailto: xavier.basagana@isglobal.org; <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412016307553> - cr0005, Environment International, Available online 18 November 2016

- To be submitted to “Air Quality, Atmosphere & Health”: **Mapping air pollutants at municipality level in Italy and Spain for human exposure assessment**

Ghigo S, Bande S, Ciancarella L, Mircea M, Piersanti A, Righini G, Baldasano J M, Basagaña X, on behalf of the MED HISS Study group

- To be submitted: **Long term effect of air pollution on non-accidental and cause specific mortality: results from the Italian Longitudinal Study within LIFE MED HISS project (LIFE12 ENV/IT/000834).**

Scarlinzi C, Gandini M, Bande S, Berti G, Carnà P, Ciancarella L, Costa G, Demaria M, Ghigo S, Piersanti A, Rowinski M, Spadea T, Stroschia M and Cadum E, on behalf of the LIFE MEDHISS collaborative Group.

- To be submitted: **Long term effects of air pollution on hospital admissions. Results from the Italian cohort in the LIFE MED HISS project (LIFE12 ENV/IT/000834).**

Gandini M. (ARPAP), Scarlinzi C. (ARPAP), Berti G. (ARPAP), Demaria M. (ARPAP), Rowinski M. (ARPAP), Carnà P. (SEPI), Spadea T. (SEPI), Ghigo S. (ARPAP), Bande S. (ARPAP), Ciancarella L. (ENEA), Costa G. (SEPI) Righini G. (ENEA) and Cadum E. (ARPAP) , on behalf of the LIFE MEDHISS collaborative Group