



ESCAPE

*European Study of Cohorts for
Air Pollution Effects*

The ESCAPE project is a study on the health effects of outdoor air pollution financed by the European Union. It is conducted by 24 universities and research institutes spread over Europe. The project is coordinated by Utrecht University in the Netherlands.



European Commission

Seventh Framework Programme Theme
ENV.2007.1.2.2.2. European cohort on air pollution
Project number: 211250

Why this project?

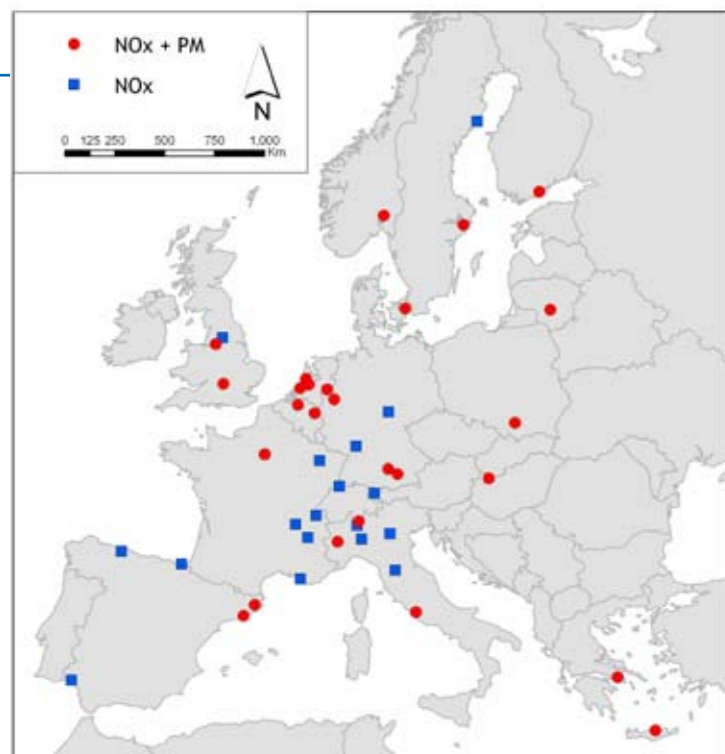
The health effects of air pollution are of great concern to European citizens. It is estimated that air pollution leads to a marked decrease in life expectancy in many areas. The health effects of long-term exposure to fine particles and nitrogen dioxide in the air are still insufficiently understood. The aims of the ESCAPE project are:

- To measure fine particles and nitrogen dioxide at different locations in 40 areas spread over Europe
- To study the relation between these pollutants and (1) low birth weight, asthma and allergy in children; (2) respiratory diseases in adults; (3) cardiovascular diseases in adults; (4) mortality and cancer in adults.

The study involves more than 30 cohorts (of children and adults) across Europe, who are being followed up over a number of years to help understand the factors that affect their health.

Air pollution exposure measurements

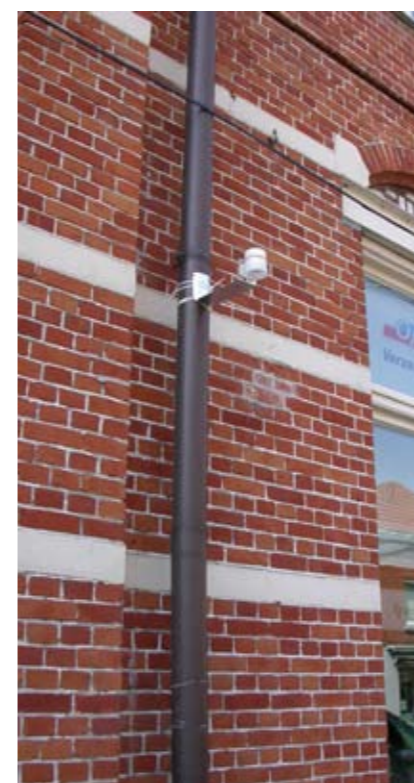
We will measure fine particles and nitrogen oxides, both of which are produced by combustion processes, especially motor vehicles. Air pollution measurements in outdoor air will be conducted at 20 locations in each study area, selected to represent the rural environment, the urban background, streets with a lot of traffic and locations influenced by other sources (e.g. industry, harbour). At each location a measurement will be conducted over 2 weeks, and this will be repeated 3 times: during winter, summer and spring or autumn.



What happens with the results of these measurements?

The results of the measurements will be used to estimate exposure to fine particles and nitrogen dioxides of people who have taken part in the cohorts in the area where you live. The results of these health studies will be linked to the data on exposure to fine particles and nitrogen oxides that we will generate. We will then perform calculations to investigate the contribution of air pollution to the health status of the population.

The project started on June 1 2008. Air pollution measurements in all study areas will be completed in the summer of 2010. The final study results will be available in the summer of 2012. The European Union wants to use the results of this study to evaluate their air quality guidelines.



Measurements of nitrogen oxides with passive samplers



Measurement of fine particles with pump and sampling head



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