

ESCAPE Newsletter 4

November, 2009



ESCAPE is a collaboration of more than 30 European cohort studies including some 900,000 subjects. It is aimed at quantifying health impacts of air pollution and at reducing uncertainty.



Greetings!

This is the fourth ESCAPE newsletter with relevant information about our progress. We're now closing in on the end of the first round of measurements campaigns. Things haven't gone completely smoothly (they never do, don't they) but overall we're very satisfied with the proceedings so far. A big thanks to all the determined field workers!

We're also getting near the first progress and financial reports; those of you who need to contribute to this have been contacted by us already, and we will do our utmost to make this process go well. First reports are always the hardest, so let's all see this as a learning experience.

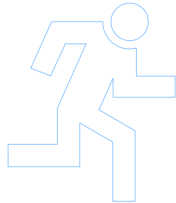
Bert Brunekreef, PhD, Coordinator

Mid-term review and progress report

We do have to hand in our first progress report including cost statements in the late fall. Instructions for how to register in FORCE for financial reporting have been sent to all PIs. Please register for this in time, because all beneficiaries should complete cost statements. Cost statements can only be completed after the first 18 months have passed, i.e. after November 30 2009, so you will all need to get that organised in the month of December. Please inform your financial departments well in advance that we will be collecting information in that time period!

A large part of the writing of the progress report will be the responsible of IRAS and the WP leaders.

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2nd annual meeting

The 2nd annual meeting will be on **JUNE 14-16 (MON-WED) 2010**. As we wish to have a full 3-day meeting, please plan on arriving Sunday June 13.

You will be informed about the venue later, please plan on the meeting being in the Netherlands.

Exposure assessment workshop in Utrecht for groups measuring in the second year

An exposure assessment workshop has been organised at IRAS (Utrecht) on September 22-23. Participants from all the groups that will start monitoring in the upcoming months received explanations about site selection, how to conduct PM and NO_x measurements, and all other things that are related to the monitoring campaign. The first groups will start measuring soon. Before monitoring can start, a site selection proposal has to be sent to IRAS. If you have any questions about this, please e-mail Rob Beelen (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

Measurements in the first year and GIS analyses

The groups that started measuring in the first year will finish measurements in the upcoming weeks. After that GIS data collection should start in order to develop LUR models. See for more information about GIS data collection and deadlines the ESCAPE exposure assessment manual.

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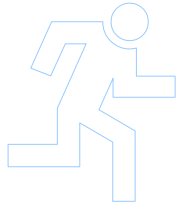
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ESCAPE exposure assessment manual

The ESCAPE exposure assessment manual has been sent to the groups who did monitoring in the first year. It can also be found on the ESCAPE website. This manual provides procedures for exposure assessment within ESCAPE that are not covered in the overall study manual. The ESCAPE exposure assessment manual explains modelling issues: GIS data, modeling procedures, validation, and extrapolation of exposure back in time.

It is important that the groups that measured in the first year start collecting GIS data as soon as possible. Collection of GIS data should be finished in February 2010. Please read this ESCAPE exposure assessment manual carefully for procedures and deadlines.

If you have any questions about the manual or about the described procedures or timelines, please e-mail Rob Beelen (r.m.j.beelen@uu.nl).

GIS analyses and LUR workshop 2010

A workshop on GIS analyses and LUR modelling analyses for the groups that measured in the first year has been planned for April 2010. Provisional dates are **26-29 April 2010**, so it will be a 4-day workshop. During the workshop there will be explanation of GIS analyses, doing own GIS analyses and LUR model development with own data.

This workshop will be repeated for the groups that measure in the second year.

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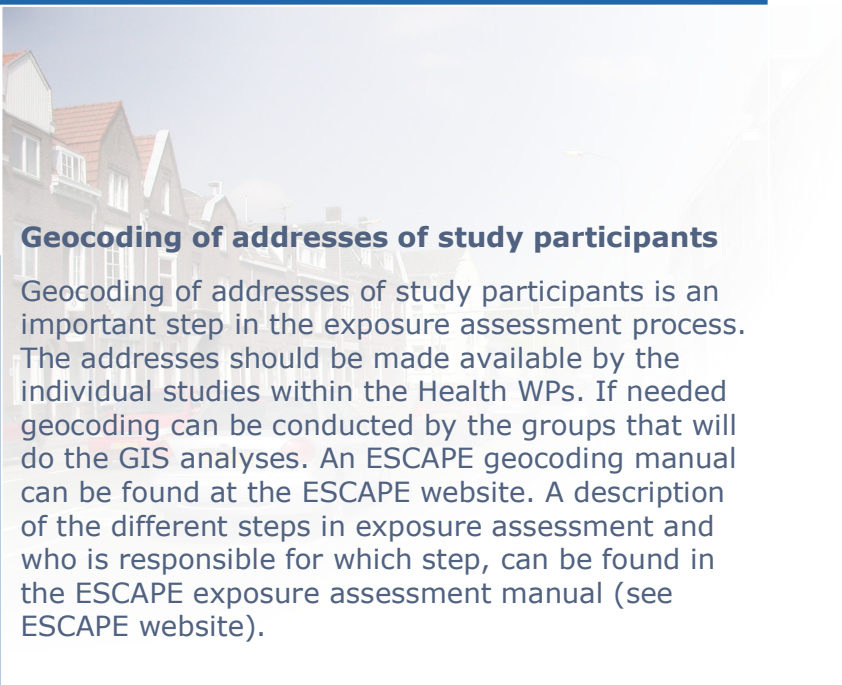
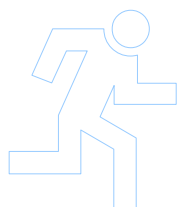
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Geocoding of addresses of study participants

Geocoding of addresses of study participants is an important step in the exposure assessment process. The addresses should be made available by the individual studies within the Health WPs. If needed geocoding can be conducted by the groups that will do the GIS analyses. An ESCAPE geocoding manual can be found at the ESCAPE website. A description of the different steps in exposure assessment and who is responsible for which step, can be found in the ESCAPE exposure assessment manual (see ESCAPE website).

ESCAPE related projects

TRANSPHORM

TRANSPHORM is a project on health impacts of transport related air pollution that is now in the negotiation phase. ESCAPE WP lead institutes are integrated in this study, which will support a fair amount of additional exposure measurements and modelling for the ESCAPE cohorts

CONCAWE

CONCAWE has decided to fund a validation study, in which we will be doing personal exposure measurements in three ESCAPE areas (Utrecht, Barcelona and Helsinki) to validate the exposure models we're building for ESCAPE.

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ESCAPE website

New information that can be found at the 'Products'-section of the ESCAPE website (www.escapeproject.eu) is:

- * ESCAPE exposure manual with information on GIS data, GIS analyses, and Land Use Regression (LUR) model development. The groups that have finished their monitoring campaign should carefully read this manual.

For the groups that measure in the upcoming months information about exposure assessment can be found:

- * ESCAPE study manual and ESCAPE SOPs (in pdf)
- * The ESCAPE instruction video about PM sampling made by Kees Meliefste
- * Also the ESCAPE geocoding manual can be found on the website

If you have any documents or information that you would like to have available or would like to add on the ESCAPE website, please let us know.

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