

PAST EVENTS

Turin, 7th July 2016, **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 DIREZIONE REGIONALE “Ambiente, Governo e Tutela del territorio”.

Pisa, 15-16 Giugno 2016, **AMBIENTE e Salute, Molte dimensioni e molti attori per la prevenzione.**

Florence, 13th April 2016, **Italian national thematic meeting on environment and health**

The LIFE GIOCONDA (LIFE13 ENV/IT/000225) project organised a LIFE national thematic meeting in Florence, Italy, to discuss governance issues relating to the environment and human health. The meeting was organised with the collaboration of the Office for Participation Policies of the Tuscany Region, and support from the Italian LIFE monitoring team (NEEMO).

14th-18th March 2016, **Air Quality 2016, Milan**, ENEA and ARPAP reported into a Poster for Air Quality Conference March 2016, the findings on exposure assessment conducted within Action B1.

Utrecht, 2nd-3rd November 2015, **“Best abstract award” at ISEE-Europe Early Career Researchers Conference on Environmental Epidemiology**

MED HISS working group won the “Best abstract award” at the ISEE-Europe Early Career Researchers Conference on Environmental Epidemiology for the communication “Long-term exposure to air pollution and mortality: a nationwide small area study in Spain (LIFE MED-HISS project)” presented by Xavier Basagana of ISGLOBAL.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grugliasco (Torino), 30 September 2016 **Seminario conclusivo del progetto LIFE MED HISS: condivisioni dei risultati e riflessioni metodologiche** presso la “Struttura Complessa a Direzione Universitaria, Servizio Sovrazonale di Epidemiologia ASL TO3”, partner progettuale.

Torino, 19-21 Ottobre 2016, **40° Congresso Associazione Italiana Epidemiologia 2016** Le evidenze in epidemiologia: una storia lunga 40 anni



A **Layman’s report** (electronic version) targeted at a non-specialist audience to inform decision makers and non-technical parties of the project objectives and results is available on www.medhiss.eu, section “reports”.



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the EU Programme LIFE+ Environmental Policy & Governance

NEWSLETTER

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FINAL CONFERENCE

Turin, 13th - 14th September 2016

Xké? Il laboratorio della curiosità - Via Gaudenzio Ferrari 1

On 13th of September the LIFE MED HISS results were presented to an international scientific audience. The pilot project LIFE MED HISS demonstrated the feasibility of implementing an epidemiological low-cost surveillance system to monitor air pollution health effects over time.

The successfulness of the project was confirmed by external experts that encouraged all working groups in exploiting all efforts done to join results.

On 14th of September in Turin a synthesis of overall results was presented to local stakeholders. During this day other LIFE projects were hosted and presented their results (AIRUSE LIFE11ENV/ES/584; MAPEC LIFE12 ENV/IT/000614; GIOCONDA LIFE13 ENV/IT/000225).

The presence of partners of Turin Municipality, of the Metropolitan City of Turin and the Piedmont Region were involved in the knowledge transfer on the topic of environment and health, which is part of a broader Network construction design called LIFE KTE EnvHealth project. This Network has been designed in the context of networking activities of LIFE projects.

ISEE 2016 - OLD AND NEW RISKS: CHALLENGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

LIFE MED HISS working group had the opportunity to present seven abstracts at the 28th annual meeting of the **International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)**, held in Rome, Italy, 1st-4th September 2016, and hosted by the **Department of Epidemiology Lazio Regional Health Service, ASL Roma 1**, and the **Italian Epidemiological Association**:

- *LIFE MED HISS - LIFE12 ENV/IT/000834: An “health surveillance” pilot project on long term effects exposure to air pollution to implement an European system*
- *Pollutant data mapping at municipality level the European Project LIFE MED HISS - LIFE12 ENV/IT/000834*
- *Long term effects of air pollution on mortality. Results from the Italian cohort in the LIFE MED HISS project*
- *Long-term exposure to air pollution and mortality and hospital admissions: a nationwide small area study in Spain*
- *Long term effects of air pollution on hospital admissions. Results*

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from the Italian cohort in the LIFE MED HISS project

- *Susceptibility factors and long term effects of air pollution: mortality among 3 sub-cohorts of the Italian Longitudinal Study. Results of the LIFE MED HISS project*
- *Urban/rural differences in ecological studies linking mortality and air pollution*

The meeting was held in Rome, Italy on the 1st-4th September 2016. The main theme of the conference was “Old and new risks: challenges for environmental epidemiology”. The Conference has brought together researchers, academics, and health professionals to promote the sharing of research results, experiences and new ideas in the field of environmental epidemiology. The Conference addressed the challenges in exposure assessment, study design and data analyses in the coming decades. The format of the meeting was promote discussion and scientific communication and include plenary sessions, keynote invited addresses, oral presentations, thematic symposia, and posters.

www.isee2016roma.org

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www.medhiss.eu



Benefits of MED HISS Project for EU, national and local stakeholders www.medhiss.eu

THE IMPORTANCE OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BASIS FOR PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

Protecting public health and the environment is the primary goal of environmental policies.

However, how to achieve this goal is an ongoing dialogue between the EU and national regulators, administrators, scientists, and other stakeholders.

In cases where there is a risk affecting the entire population, risk reduction can be better achieved at a population rather than the individual level, given that in situations where there is a dose-response relationship in terms of risk and exposure, shifting the entire population distribution towards lower levels of exposure is effective.

The case of air pollution is a typical situation in which the dose-response relationships are well documented and the exposure affects the entire population.



The knowledge about health impacts of air pollutants evolves thanks to scientific studies and air quality standards require periodic scientific reviews.

Conducting researches that contribute to this review process as well as to plan regulatory actions, are relevant environmental epidemiology challenges.

The MED HISS Project has provided new findings and policy recommendations for the authorities responsible for air quality and the various stakeholders. Its findings reveal the real size of health impact of air pollution in Mediterranean countries, its geographical distribution and faces an old question about the possible less harmful effects of air pollution in rural areas.

The collaboration of the four countries (Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia) involved has provided added value to the project outcomes that have been communicated in several occasions.

LESSONS LEARNT

The lessons learnt during the MED HISS experience in using national surveys for epidemiological purposes could be very useful for other countries, to develop low-cost approaches for the measurement of health effects of air pollution over time.

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.

LIFE MED HISS joined the “LIFE KTE EnvHealth network” Knowledge Transfer and Exchange in Environment and Health

The LIFE KTE EnvHealth network was 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.

The goal is to enhance both the process of evidence-based decision-making and the policy uptake of the outcomes of EU-funded research in the field of environmental science and public health.

During the meeting held in Florence, the participants shared their experience and knowledge and discussed the best communication channels and tools to reach policy-makers, stakeholders and professionals. The knowledge of different “publics”, an analysis of their information needs and risk perception is a pre-requisite for enhancing engagement and participation to improve governance in the environment and health governance.

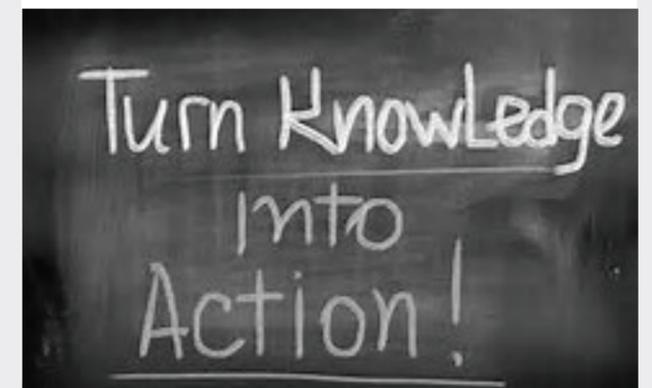
A number of proposals emerged during the thematic meeting, including the organization of a Thematic Platform Meeting on Knowledge Transfer and Exchange (KTE) for Environment and Health in 2017, as well as ideas for further analysis and studies.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE

Knowledge Transfer & Exchange (KTE) is the process of sharing timely, useful evidence-based research findings with decision-makers and others who use research. KTE also involves actively engaging external audiences in research to make studies more relevant. (IWH)

THE LIFE KTE ENVHEALTH - NETWORKING LIFE+

- GIOCONDA, I GIOvani CONtano nelle Decisioni su Ambiente e Salute
gioconda.ific.cnr.it/
- MAPEC, Monitoring air pollution effects on children for supporting Public Health Policy
www.mapec-life.eu/
- PERSUADED, Phthalates and bisphenol A biomonitoring in Italian mother-child pairs: link between exposure and juvenile diseases
www.iss.it/lifp/
- HIA21, Participatory evaluation of the health, environmental and socioeconomic impact of urban waste treatment
www.hia21.eu/
- MED HISS, Mediterranean Health Interview Surveys Studies: long term exposure to air pollution and health surveillance
www.medhiss.eu
- AIS, Aerobiological Information Systems and allergic respiratory disease management
aislife.wixsite.com/aislife
- CROME, Cross-Mediterranean Environment and Health Network
www.crome-life.eu/
- GHOST, Techniques to reduce the impacts of ghost fishing gears and to improve biodiversity in north Adriatic coastal areas
www.life-ghost.eu
- MERMAIDS, Mitigation of microplastics impact caused by textile washing processes
life-mermaids.eu/en/



Other LIFE projects are invited to join the network by writing to liliana.cori@ific.cnr.it, GIOCONDA Project Manager.