



Milestone M32 (M5.4)
**First workshop with air quality monitoring
networks, AQUILA and EMEP**



RI-URBANS

**Research Infrastructures Services Reinforcing Air
Quality Monitoring Capacities in European Urban &
Industrial Areas (GA n. 101036245)**

**By
CSIC**



21 May 2024

Milestone M32 (M5.4): First workshop with air quality monitoring networks and AQUILA

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Work package (WP)	WP5, Strategic guidance for upscaling RI-URBANS STs (and WP6)
Milestone	M32 (M5.4)
Lead beneficiary	CSIC
Means of verification	Events held
Estimated delivery deadline	M32 (31/05/2024)
Actual delivery deadline	21/05/2024 (see justification of the earlier submission in the report)
Version	Final
Reviewed by	WP5 and WP6 leaders
Accepted by	RI-URBANS Project Coordination Team
Comments	This document provides a short description of the scope, agenda, contents, participants and format of four stakeholder meetings held with air quality monitoring networks, the Network of EU Air Quality National Reference Laboratories (AQUILA), the co-operative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (unofficially 'European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme' = EMEP) and SMEs.

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1. About this document

This document summarises the scope, agenda, contents, participants and format of four stakeholder meetings held with air quality (AQ) monitoring networks (AQMNs), the Network of EU AQ National Reference Laboratories (AQUILA), the co-operative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (unofficially 'European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme' = EMEP) and SMEs.

In WP5, T5.2 focuses on RI-URBANS, ACTRIS, EMEP and AQUILA shared expert judgement on applicability of non-standard measurement methods and knowledge transfer towards AQMNs. This process is built up to facilitate the co-design with stakeholders (M36, M5.8) of the final Guidance Document for Service Tools (STs) for Advanced AQ parameters (D5.4).

This is a public document, available at the RI-URBANS website, <https://riurbans.eu/work-package-5/#milestones-wp5>, and distributed to all RI-URBANS partners for their use as well as submitted to the European Commission as an RI-URBANS Milestone 32 (M5.4).

This M32 (M5.4) was planned originally with the deadline of M42 (31/03/2025). However, we decided to move it to M32 (31/05/2024) because the reasons described below.

First, we elaborated the proposal in late 2020 and early 2021 and we were not aware of the timing of the new AQ Directive (NAQD). In late 2021 and early 2022 we send the RI-URBANS's Grant Agreement with all technical details on the proposed advanced AQ parameters to Dr Christian Nagl (leading the base documents for the NAQD).

EC-DG-EC issued of a draft for a NAQ Directive ([NAQD, in 20/10/2022](#)) that contained in Art 10 the same AQ advanced parameters that we selected in RI-URBANS (see below). Subsequently a [version from the discussion and approval by the Council of the European Union \(CEU\) \(in 09/11/2023\)](#) was proposed. And Finally, a [subsequent version one from the provisional agreement between the CEU and the European Parliament \(EP\) \(in 08/03/2024\)](#) was released, still keeping these advanced AQ parameters in Art 10 and Annex VII.

The above timing drove us to advance this milestone, in such a way that the results of RI-URBANS are applicable for the elaboration of the AQD, but also in official guidance documents that are being prepared by a consortium driven by RICARDO to supply these to EC-DG-ENV. Thus, we supplied the RI-URBANS's guidance information during the discussions for a NAQD and elaboration of official guidance documents. If we would had wait until M42 (as originally planned, without knowing the timing of the elaboration and implementation of the NAQD) the effectiveness of RI-URBANS's guidance on STs would have been much lower.

2. Scope

The scope of this M32 (M5.4) is actions favouring transfer of STs for advanced AQ parameters and their co-design with stakeholders. In this context, RI-URBANS' M38 (M6.2) of WP6 shows how intense has been (and it is) the contact with EU and national and international agencies, and SMEs on AQ and AQ-health. To reach and adequate interaction with stakeholders, including AQUILA, EMEP, ACTRIS, IAGOS, EC-DG ENV, WHO and WMO, as well as the AQMNs, a number of actions and meetings were organized in two stages, before and after the elaboration by DG ENV and Council of Europe of the draft for a NAQD.

Here we describe how these actions took place and the meetings held to favour the transfer of STs.

3. Actions and meetings to involve air quality stakeholders

3.1. Actions prior to the elaboration of the proposal for a new EU Air Quality Directive

On 26/10/2022 EC-DG ENV issued a [proposal for a NAQD](#). Nearly one year before this date, replying their request, we sent the RI-URBANS' Grant Agreement to the consortium that elaborated the base documents for the proposal for a new EU AQD (Framework Contract No ENV.C.3/FRA/2017/0012). The proposal for the NAQD includes the requirement and recommendation to measure in supersites the advanced AQ parameters from RI-URBANS, including ultrafine particles (UFPs), particle size distribution (PNSD), black carbon (BC), oxidative potential (OP) of PM, NH₃, PM speciation and VOCs, among others.

Furthermore, on 30/05/2022 the 1st stakeholder meeting (online) to establish the first contacts with stakeholders. Details and minutes of the meeting and the summary of the attendees can be found in the [specific section for this event in the RI-URBANS' website](#). A total of 57 participants attended the meeting. Among the stakeholders, representatives of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), together with delegates from several European Commission institutions (EC-DG-ENV, JRC, or AQUILA) provided valuable feedback on RI-URBAN'S progress during its first year.

3.2. Actions during the discussions of the proposal for a new EU Air Quality Directive

Once the proposal for a NAQD was issued we had several meetings with RI-URBANS, ACTRIS, EMEP and AQUILA experts to elaborate and discuss a document with recommendations from RI-URBANS and ACTRIS for the discussion of the AQD proposed by DG ENV in the Council of Europe. Finally, 2 documents with recommendations were sent to DG ENV to this end, one on [07/02/2023](#) and a final one on [06/03/2023](#).

Following these actions we interacted with the Spanish Presidency during the discussions of the proposal of the AQD in the Council Europe until the approval of the [proposal document for negotiations with the European Parliament](#).

In parallel with the above actions, the meetings described below were held, with both international and national stakeholders and SMEs, to i) present the recommendations sent to DG ENV on the proposal for a NAQD, and ii) to show results on the added value of implementing measurements of the advanced AQ parameters, and the progress of the guidance documents of the specific STs.

On 23/02/2023 a 2nd stakeholder meeting was held (hybrid, face to face and online) in Warsaw to support upscaling the RI-URBANS/ACTRIS strategy for advanced AQ parameters in Poland. The minutes of the meeting and the

summary of the attendees can be found in the [report of milestone M35](#). In this meeting, 31 Polish AQ stakeholders attended together with 6 RI-URBANS and ACTRIS representatives. Subsequently a document was elaborated with recommendations for upgrading 3 research supersites to meet the requirements of the NAQD on the advanced AQ parameters.

On 19/06/2023 a **3rd stakeholder (online) meeting of RI-URBANS was organized in collaboration with ACTRIS, AQUILA and EMEP to discuss with AQUILA and national AQMNs experts** the recommendations sent. The minutes of the meeting and the summary of the attendees can be found in the [report of milestone M42](#). We had 152 attendees from 69 institutions. These included DG ENV, WHO, WMO, ACTRIS, EMEP, AQUILA, RI-URBANS, and AQ national experts from numerous countries, regions and cities, RI-URBANS Associated Collaborators, National Research centers and SMEs.

On 04/12/2023 **we co-organised with the Green Deal (GD) Support Office (GD-SO) the Webinar Clearing the Air: Research Findings on New Additions to the EU AQD. The webinar can be reproduced online in the GD-SO website** at: <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/environment-and-climate/european-green-deal/green-deal-projects-support/green-deal-resources/clearing-air-research-findings-new-additions-eu-air-quality-directive-proposal>. The webinar was addresses to show the phenomenology of new pollutants in Europe, and how the GD projects contribute to the elaboration of the AQD. More than 450 attendees were registered and 250 attended, due in part to a GD-SO' error in the link of the webinar.

In late 2024 the guidance for STs of the NAQ will be presented in a AQ stakeholder webinar in organised by ATMO-ACCESS, where guidance on implementing the STs from RI-URBANS/ACTRIS will be presented. Furthermore, stakeholders will be invited to the final RI-URBANS meeting.

3.3. Other actions on the transfer of service tools, for advanced air quality parameters to stakeholders

On the international field, DG-ENV-EC, EEA, WHO and WMO have been approached several times, and delegates from these bodies have attended, and in many cases give talks, to/in our stakeholder meetings (presented below) and in [the 1st](#) and [2nd scientific](#) meetings. We have now direct contacts with these bodies. They will be invited to the 3rd and Final scientific meetings. Furthermore, we have presented RI-URBANS' results in specific talks for WHO in the headquarters in Bonn, Germany. Another specific remote meeting was held to present RI-URBANS' results to DG-ENV-EC, EEA, and EMEP.

Very importantly, we have contacted with the RICARDO-coordinated consortium that is elaborating guidance for measurements under the NAQD for DG ENV, and we are sending our preliminary guidance documents to this team to favour co-design. Furthermore, one of the co-authors of our RI-URBANS guidance from FMI is also contributing to the DG-ENV document.

The coordination office maintains also the extended stakeholder list that is used for reaching out to wider community of the stakeholders. This list extensive, covering the wide range of stakeholders, with almost 647 contacts (by March 2024) from 286 administration bodies and research centres. Furthermore, 107 contacts from 70 companies are added to the list to sum 756 contacts. The summary of the list is reported in [M38 \(M6.2\)](#), where stakeholder representatives from EU-27 Member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), together with those from Andorra, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Stakeholders from the EC, EEA, EEB, WHO and WMO, Australia, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Korea and Peru attended to one of our meetings and

are included in the list. Finally, we also have 102 contact persons from 70 private companies dealing with measurements, modelling, and consultancy of advanced AQ parameters.

4. Further stakeholders' interactions

As planned in the proposal, in the end of 2024 and in 2025, once the RI-URBANS/ACTRIS guidebook for upscaling the STs for advanced AQ parameters will be available, national meetings will be held to present this to the national stakeholders. The guidance document will be sent to the updated list of stakeholders reported above. We are in contact with the AXA FOUNDATION to apply to them for financial support for editing and publishing the guidance book for a massive distribution. Furthermore, this will be presented in in situ meetings for stakeholders in 2025.