

Draft Minutes
2nd Plenary Meeting FAIRMODE
18th November 2009, Ispra, Italy

The second FAIRMODE Plenary Meeting was attended by more than 50 participants, including national contact points for FAIRMODE, experts in air quality modelling from different European governmental and research institutions, representatives of the European Commission (DG Environment and Joint Research Centre, JRC Ispra), of the European Environment Agency (EEA), EEA's EIONET partnership network and the European Topic Centre for Air and Climate Change (ETC/ACC). A detailed list of participants and the agenda are attached to the Minutes. All presentations given during the Plenary Meeting are uploaded on the FAIRMODE web site: <http://fairmode.ew.eea.europa.eu/>

The meeting was chaired by Panagiota Dilara (JRC) and Anke Lükewille (EEA). A welcome note was given by Alois Krasenbrink in the role of head of the Transport and Air Quality Unit of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability at JRC, Ispra. A short welcome note on behalf of EEA, Air Quality and Noise Group, was given by Aphrodite Mourelatou.

Morning Session

1) Importance to the implementation of the Air Quality Directive (AQD)

Andrej Kobe (DG_ENV) summarized the role of FAIRMODE as One-stop shop for model users and developers for advice and exchange on “anything-model” under AQD, but also as Platform for general improvement on model performance. It is expected that the forum will support the Commission on Guidance (air quality model use, natural contributions to air pollution, winter sanding and salting). Further support is expected on implementation of reporting, on modifications of AQD Annexes, on the assessment of model-based claims as well as in preparation of new provisions, embedding operational services at EU scale and in preparation of the 2013 AQD revision. Key elements in the AQD implementations are preparations on guidance and the exchange of good practices. A workshop on NO₂ will be organised by DG Environment in April 2010.

A “questions and answers” session followed, which included also the questions prepared by EEA addressing the interpretation of the AQD concerning modelling activities and requirements. The main items discussed were:

- **Funding** : DG_ENV can not provide direct funding, but is refers to different research funding channels - via the RTD programme, to some limited extent funding is available trough JRC (WG2) and EEA (WG1).

Further, it is to be noted that the AQD implementation is the responsibility of Member States and these are expected to participate actively;

- **“Traffic monitoring station”** - The station should not be put further than 10 m away from the kerbside of a road;
- **The condition to replace up to 50% of the monitoring sites** –It is up to the competent authorities in the Member States to decide how many monitoring stations are replaced;
- **Model quality objectives (MQO; Annex 1 of the AQD): Do they apply only for model-based assessments or also for other model applications (forecasting, planning)?** – The MQO are intended for assessment purposes only. However, DG_ENV needs recommendations where other types of applications would require more specific MQO.
- **Time extension** - For the current requests the Commission has external consultancy to evaluate the requests.

2) **Terms of Reference of FAIRMODE**

Were presented by Penny Dilara and accepted after small modifications (uploaded on FAIRMODE web site).

3) **Relevant European Activities**

A comprehensive overview of current ongoing European projects and inter-continental initiatives was presented by Martijn Schaap (please see respective slides on FAIRMODE web site).

4) **WG1 Guidance Document - current version and progress**

Bruce Denby presented the latest version (4.2) of the Guidance and the comments by the Reviewers received so far. He asked for contributions before the 4th December 2009 in order to update the document. During 2010 the draft document will be further developed and updated. EEA-ETC/ACC will publish the Guidance Document as an ETC/ACC Technical Paper.

The questions and discussions covered the following main points:

- More information is needed for non-experts, also on commercial models and contracting;
- To which extent do reference laboratories for AQ modelling exist? (as opposed to AQ monitoring national reference laboratories, organized under AQUILA). It appears that some countries have (or are currently setting up) national centres/groups dealing with model assessment (NL, FR, SW, UK, AU);
- Training – could be useful, perhaps an EEA task (as far as feasible; via the ETC/ACC EEA has already provided AQ modelling training, e.g. in Turkey);

- A generally understandable Executive Summary of the Guidance Document is required and will be provided with the updated draft to be presented at the next Plenary Meeting in autumn 2010;
- The interpretation of the model quality objective (MQO) as Relative Directive Error (RDE) – DG_ENV needs a commonly agreed way to interpret the MQO, having in mind the interest in having good modelling performance around the limit values;
- Relevant to application of models – It should be explained clearly that the air quality modelling systems developed so far range from global, regional to local/hot spot level. Guidance for such systems (including meteorology, emissions, interfaces etc) will be needed. For the successful application of models, modelling expertise has to be promoted strongly at the national authorities for air quality. The model users themselves will have to be skilled in running the various models and model systems, in understanding the model concept and its results and in presenting the model outcomes to the authorities and the general public.

Afternoon session

5) *Links with TFMM*

Laurence Rouil gave an overview of the ongoing activities under the Task Force on Modelling and Measurement, TFMM (TFMM meeting back-to back with the 2nd FAIRMODE Plenary). Potential collaboration with FAIRMODE is seen in current TFMM priorities like PM modelling, nitrogen issues, urban scale (City Delta follow up), inconsistencies between emissions, measurement and modelling, model evaluation, trend analysis, source-receptor matrices, and improvement of input data (emissions, black carbon, land cover etc.)

On urban scale it is planned to test new approaches and to derive some tools to estimate the rational urban scale “delta “(based on City Delta exercise), since not all countries can run high resolution models. The activity will be strongly linked to the EC4MACS LIFE project (<http://www.ec4macs.eu/home/index.html>).

6) *FAIRMODE ways of communication*

John Douros summarised the foreseen communication and dissemination activities (Web portal, an electronic forum, conferences, seminars, workshops, Plenary meetings, newsletter, documents and deliverables published in journals, scientific reviews. The web portal as it is structured is expected to function as a common platform for reporting and storing modelling information (data, recommendations,/guidance) and facilitating communication between countries, but also between modellers and policy makers.

In the discussions it was pointed out, that although a Newsletter could be a useful way for dissemination of activities in the field, there was still no offer to produce it. The JRC will take the matter into consideration for next year.

7) *WG2 on Quality Assurance – Outcome of the day before*

Leonor Tarrason presented the results of the WG2 meeting on 17th November. The main goal of WG2 is to develop a user friendly system (protocols and tools) to assess the quality of air quality models used for the implementation of the AQD. The following subgroups will go ahead with activities related to this main goal:

- Combined use of monitoring and modelling (Data Assimilation)
- Contribution of natural sources and source apportionment (Source Apportionment)
- Emission inventories and scenarios focused on the urban scale (Urban Emissions and Projections)
- Tools for benchmarking of air quality models (Model Benchmarking)

The main deliverables for 2010 include Best practice guidelines on data assimilation and on source apportionment; Design and development of a tool for benchmarking (prototype) of air quality models applied for assessment and mitigation over urban agglomeration; Background document on need for emission data and guidance in local/urban scale; Workshop on emissions with local authorities;

The following key issues emerged from the discussions:

- When developing protocols for model evaluation include a question if the user has followed the WG1 Guidance document
- Instead of “best practice” use the term “good practice”
- Collect experience on evaluation protocols in MACC, COST732 etc.;
- Activities should be based on already available datasets from other projects/exercises.

8) *Planning WP2010 , participation by countries and experts*

The updates/contributions to the WG1 Guidance Document should be send before the 4th December 2009.

Helge Olesen announced that the deadline for participating in the HARMO 13 Conference in June 2009 in Paris has been extended to 15th December 2009. A special session on the FAIRMODE will be organised with presentations from each WG2 subgroup and WG1. The JRC will fund the participation of the presenters.

Leonor Tarrason announced that the work plan for the 2010 activities in the WG2 subgroups will be ready by January 2010. The work plan will than be reviewed by the Steering Committee and will be passed on to the Member States’ participants.

9) *Next meeting*

The next Plenary Meeting is proposed for September-October 2010. The next Steering Committee meeting is foreseen for early 2010. Meetings of WG2 subgroups will be planned based on the needs.

10) Nominations

All changes/additions to the nominated experts must come with a letter/e-mail to emilia.georgieva@jrc.ec.europa.eu as requested in the original letter for nominations sent out by DG-ENV to Competent Authorities.