



National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

WG6 Sensors and data fusion

Sjoerd van Ratingen (RIVM) March 5, 2025

Need for sensor data fusion

Need for WG6 to look into sensors

- Increased use by citizen scientists, municipalities, lower governments.
- Often results and quality unclear (also for users)
 - What is the uncertainty of sensor networks ?
 - Can uncertainty be decreased by calibration ?
 - What is the added value of sensor networks (when e.g. used in data fusion approach.)
- These questions are being studied by WG6 (for PM2.5 sensors)
- Need for multiple calibration and fusion model approaches (benchmarking) to estimate results of different models and enhance exchange of knowledge





- Publication January 2024 on benchmark of different calibrations for PM2.5 sensors
- Decision to use calibrated sensor data as input for a new benchmark on data fusion with sensors
- Six organizations have been actively testing their fusion models using input data provided by RIVM.
- Preliminary results have been presented at technical meeting in October 2024. Demonstrated potential of data fusion to reduce uncertainty of model.
- Decision to look for data sets where effect of data fusion becomes more prominent.

sensor data fusion: Active partners



*: has data fusion model

sensor data fusion: Use case

- Input data for the Netherlands
 - Sensors
 - Reference measurements *****
 - Model results
- Experimentation with number of available reference measurement to study cases with low information density (Reference stations, bad model quality)



sensor data fusion: Idea



Comparison of fusion models



WG6 sensor data fusion: Results

How to further validate the sensor data fusion?

- Spatial representation of errors ?
- Identification of areas with more and less prominent effect of data fusion
- Discussing validation metrics and visualisations.



WG6 sensor data fusion: Results

How to further validate the sensor data fusion?

- Trying to improve on CAMS (no reanalyses) data using sensor data fusion.
- Look at normalized RMSE's
 - < 1 means that data fusion improves results.



Contribution to better modelling

- Different calibration methods can substantially increase the quality of the PM2.5 sensors although for some sensors still a large intrinsic uncertainty remains
- First results with several sensor data fusion methods show improvements of the model when combined with sensor measurements using data fusion techniques.
- Especially powerful when using larger numbers of sensors



Discussion/Outlook

- Next half year
 - Aim to submit article on data fusion benchmark before summer.
 - Use RIO and CAMS models (no reanalyses) as model input.
- Ideas for after data fusion benchmark
 - Investigate added value of sensors measuring at high time (<< 1 hour) resolution.
 - Large variance within km cells could be indicative of local phenomena.
 - Use cases outside the Netherlands would be good to test.





National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Questions?

WG6 Sensors and data fusion | Prague / FAIRMODE WG6