



Ministerie van Infrastructuur
en Waterstaat

Partnership Air Quality

EU Urban Agenda

Rob Maas (RIVM) with input from René
Korenromp (Ministry IenW) and Luigi LoPiporo
(Ecorys)



Aim of the Partnership

- › Cooperation of Cities, Member States, European NGOs and the European Commission
- › Combined multilevel competences, knowledge and experiences
- › To improve the design and the implementation of
 - Regulation,
 - Funding/financing of relevant measures,
 - Create and share better knowledge.



Partners

- > **Cities:** Helsinki, London (GLA), Utrecht, Milan, Constanta (RO) and Duisburg (DE - Representing the Consortium Clean Air Ruhr Area)
- > **Member States:** The Netherlands (Coordinator), Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland
- > **Stakeholders:** EUROCITIES, HEAL (Health and Environment Alliance)
- > **European Commission:** DG Regional and Urban policy, DG Environment, DG Research & Innovation, DG Agriculture, DG Growth, the Joint Research Centre (JRC)



Three years of cooperation paid off. We developed...

1. **Joint Position Paper** was submitted in response to the EU Open Stakeholder Consultation for the Fitness check of the Ambient Air Quality Directives.
2. A **code of good practice** based on good and best practices, to assist cities in developing an air quality plan.
3. An **innovative business model** for bankable projects with the support of the European Investment Bank to help cities overcome the funding/financing issue and invest more in air quality measures.
4. A simple but adequate **cost/benefit tool** to calculate environmental, health and costs benefits of measures.
5. A **catalogue** of good and best practices on how to inform and involve the general public.



Elements from the Position Paper

The Partnership confirmed the importance of compliance with EU Ambient Air Quality legislation and related target/limit values, but three key messages focused on the urgency to put health first and go beyond those values.

1. The aim of the Partnership on Air Quality is to improve air quality in European cities and to **bring the concept of the 'Healthy City' to local, national and EU agendas as part of the Urban Agenda for the EU.**
2. The Partnership recommends a **cooperative and integrated approach** to address the challenge for cities to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all EU citizens.
3. The Partnership believes that **different governance levels (local, regional, national, European) should cooperate more closely** on air quality issues, and that air quality measures should be better integrated with measures from other relevant policy sectors (mobility, energy, climate, etc).



1. Concept of the 'Healthy City'

- › Poor air quality has a serious impact on the health of EU citizens with susceptible groups at special risk.
- › Currently, the air quality regulations direct Member States and cities towards a focus on meeting air quality limit values.
- › The Partnership would like to see this approach complemented by a focus on health improvement.



2. Cooperative and integrated

- › Air pollution is the result of choices in different domains
 - Industry, agriculture, infrastructure and mobility, etc.
- › These domains are interrelated and competitive (spatial, financial, political)
- › An integrated approach is necessary to address air quality in a political acceptable and cost-effective way



3. Different government levels should work together

- › As poor air quality in our cities and member states is caused by local, national and transboundary emissions, improvement requires action at all levels.
- › Different governance levels (local, regional, national, European) should cooperate more closely on air quality issues,
- › Air quality measures should be better integrated with measures from other relevant policy sectors (mobility, energy, climate, etc).



Other observations in the Position Paper

- › The current EU legislation is lacking regulation of increasingly relevant emission sources, such as automotive brake and tyre wear and consideration of pollutants such as PAHs, ultrafine particles and black carbon (e.g. from wood burning).
- › A consideration of emissions under realistic use scenarios is essential in designing effective measures from both cost and health perspectives.
- › The impact on air quality and health should be evaluated at the early stages of any activity that may have a negative impact on either one.
- › Measures to reduce the negative impact on air quality are often more effective and less burdensome when introduced early in the process and the Partnership recommends a precautionary approach where necessary.



Suite of tools for practitioners (available on FUTURUM-website)

1. A **code of good practice** based on good and best practices, to assist cities in developing an air quality plan.
2. An **innovative business model** for bankable projects with the support of the European Investment Bank to help cities overcome the funding/financing issue and invest more in air quality measures.
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Code of Good Practice Air Quality Plans (Milan)

- › The Partnership produced a very useful Code of Good Practice for designing and implementing Air Quality Plans
- › The Code provides useful guidance to facilitate local decision-making, improve the efficiency of air quality measures selection and governance.
- › The Code also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals settled by the United Nations for the 2030 Agenda.
- › With user-friendly explanations, inspiring examples, and countless hands-on tips, the Code of Good Practice for Cities Air Quality Plans is a unique companion for guiding urban authorities through every step of the process of designing and organizing an AQP.



Financing Air Quality Plans (Milan/EIB)

General model / Different Measures analysed

- › Low Emission Zone (LEZ)
- › Electric vehicles charging stations
- › Construction of new/extension of mass rapid transit line
- › Expansion and/or replacement of bus fleets, bus stops/shelters, cycle lanes
- › District energy system
- › Energy efficient buildings
- › Energy efficiency improvements to public infrastructure
- › Urban green infrastructure
- › Schools protection from air pollution exposure

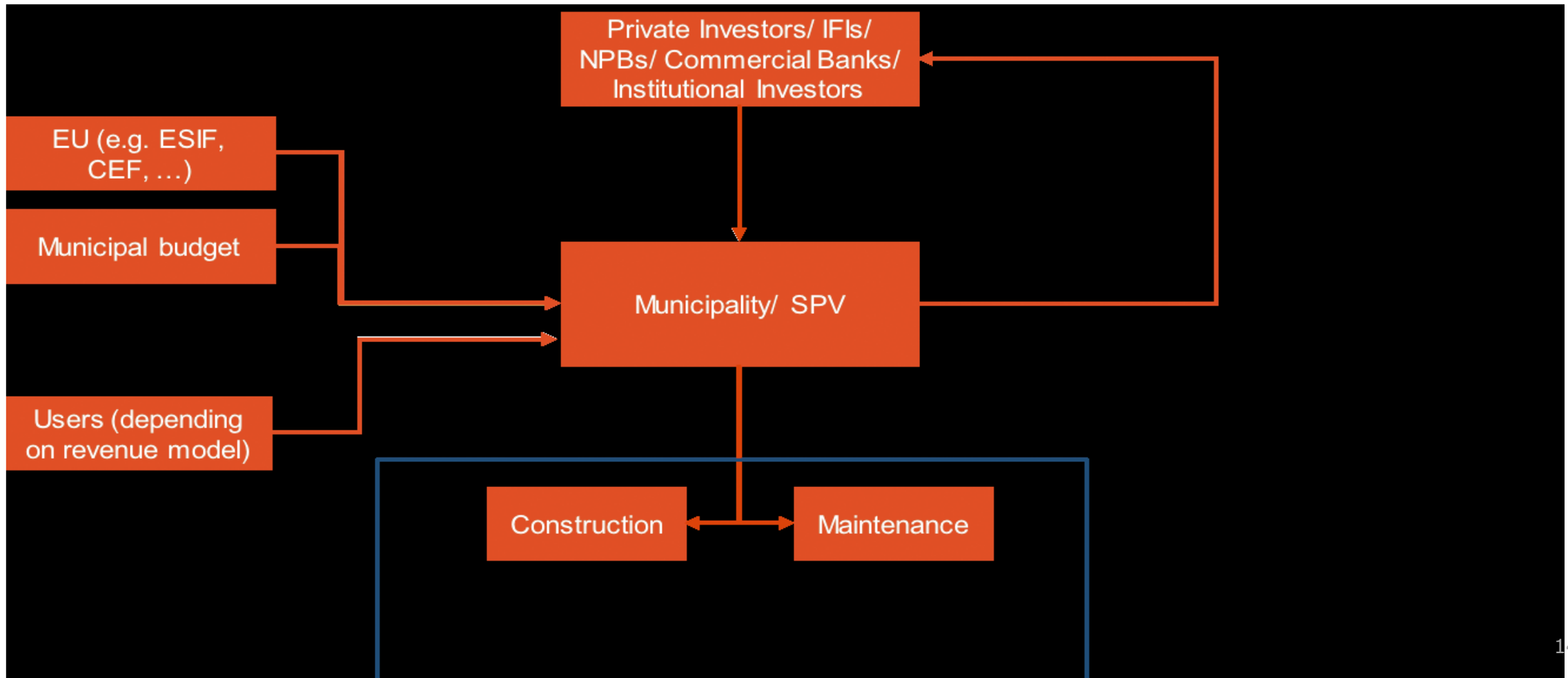


Financing: main messages

- › Local authorities should seek to establish a governance model appropriate to the area of intervention involved.
- › Small municipalities struggle to attract large capital providers mostly due to the limited size of the investment they offer, resulting in an excessive risk level.
- › Larger entities are more likely to have the capacity to access public funds.
- › The choice of the appropriate area of intervention is crucial in determining the success of the AQP.



General business model for AQ measures





Cost/Benefit PAQ2018 Tool (Utrecht)

Improves public awareness

- > Acceptance of 'inconvenient' measures (e.g. Low Emission Zone, high parking rates)
- > Tool for comparing different policy options
- > Rich model output (mortality and morbidity)
- > Simple input data: concentrations, population characteristics, baseline incidence of health indicators



Example output

UTRECHT	2016	2030	benefit
MORTALITY			
Premature deaths			
Due to PM2.5	97	81	17
Due to NO2	79	53	25
Average decline life expectancy (weeks)			
Due to PM2.5	27	23	5
Due to NO2	22	15	7
YLL			
Due to PM2.5	1031	854	177
Due to NO2	836	567	270
MORBIDITY			
YLD			
	136		24
Days with bronchitis in children	3055	2517	539
Incidence chronic bronchitis in adults	106	88	18
Incidence of asthma symptoms in children	6905	5652	1253
Hospitalizations, cardiovascular diseases	46	38	8
Hospitalizations, respiratory diseases	47	39	8
Restricted activity days	266767	220667	46100
Work days lost	83248	68857	14391
Lung cancer	12	10	2
Low birth weight	30	25	5
DALY (YLD + YLL PM2.5 & NO2)			
	2003	1533	470
Health damage (mln €)			
	146	112	34



Involvement of the general public

- › The toolkit provides hands-on examples of how communication on air quality, the health links and (policy and behavioural) changes takes place, as an inspiration particularly for urban authorities wanting to communicate on clean air.
- › No ranking or judging of the various communication activities presented.
- › It is a mere snapshot of an area which is hardly looked into by researchers, policy-makers including the European Commission, or experts working on air quality, and there are no agreed best practices on (successful) communication.



Legal requirements!

- › The minimum rules for local authorities for communicating to and informing the public on air quality and health are laid down by EU law, in the EU Directive on ambient air quality (2008/50/EC).
- › Ensuring that the public is informed on air quality is a cornerstone of this Directive (art. 26, Annex XVI).
- › EU member states also have to ensure that the public is being informed in times of high pollution concentrations, when air quality information or alert thresholds for pollutants are being exceeded (art. 19, 24, Annex XVI).
- › However, there is no information or alert threshold set for particulate matter (PM) in the law (would be good to harmonize).



Future plans

- › PAQ decided to continue in 2019
- › The future work will focus on the further dissemination of the Partnership's results and on facilitating the exploitation of their results by other cities, regions and Member States:
 - Possibly further test and develop the tools in /with other cities
 - Develop a course for national and local authorities
 - Give trainingsessions for local authorities
 - Present during the Clean Air Forum in November in Bratislava



Further information

- > The deliverables are all available on the Futurium Platform
- > (<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/air-quality>)
- > for free consultation and download