

Horizon 2020

Societal Challenge: Improving the air quality and reducing the carbon footprint of European cities



ICARUS

Project: 690105 – ICARUS

Full project title:

Integrated Climate forcing and Air pollution Reduction in Urban Systems

D8.7: Report on the mid-term meeting with European policy-makers

WP8 Dissemination, communication and involvement of stakeholders

Lead beneficiary: MESAEP

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1 Executive summary

The ICARUS coordination team has participated in at least three types of high-level meetings with EU policy makers:

- (a) The regular meetings of the H2020 SC5 Programme Committee, where the project findings and methodology were used as basis for informing the design of new research calls towards sustainable and healthy cities in the period 2018-2020.
 - (b) The Eco-innovation for air quality forum, organized as an official event of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU, where policy makers and stakeholders from several European countries were informed about the co-benefits of transport policies affecting climate change at the urban scale. Such co-benefits of well-designed policies comprise both air quality improvement and positive effects on public health.
 - (c) The Clean Air Forum organized by DG Environment and the Region Ile-de-France and the City of Paris, a very high-level event with the participation of Ministers, Commissioners, the Mayor of Paris, the Deputy Mayor of London, etc., where, as result of the discussions held with the relevant stakeholders the commitment of Commissioner Moscovici towards the drafting of a Commission proposal for the establishment of an environmental taxation scheme in the EU in order to combat air pollution and climate change with fiscal measures was obtained.
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2 Events related to European policy-makers and related outcomes

2.1 Meetings with the Programme Committee for the specific programme implementing HORIZON 2020 – Societal Challenge 5 ‘Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials’

The project coordinator (Prof. D. Sarigiannis, AUTH) has actively participated in the following meetings of the Programme Committee for the specific programme implementing HORIZON 2020 – Societal Challenge 5 ‘Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials’. In many of these meetings, Prof. Sarigiannis has provided input in the work programme based on the experience derived from ICARUS. Input from ICARUS has been provided in the following meetings:

June 7, 2016

Prof. D. Sarigiannis (AUTH) has presented an overview of the ICARUS project, methods and tools at the workshop on supporting joint actions towards a sustainable green economy in Europe and beyond in Horizon 2020 societal challenge 5 "Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials" on June 6, 2016 and at 11th meeting of the programme committee for the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020, on June 7, 2016 in Bruxelles (Belgium).

November 29, 2016


Prof. D. Sarigiannis (AUTH) has participated in the 13th meeting of the Programme Committee for the specific Programme implementing HORIZON 2020 - the Framework Programme for research and innovation (2014-2020) – “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials”, on November 29, 2016 in Brussels (Belgium).

March 08, 2017

Prof. D. Sarigiannis (AUTH) has participated in the 14th meeting of the Programme Committee for the specific Programme implementing HORIZON 2020 - the Framework Programme for research and innovation (2014-2020) – “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials” on March 08, 2017 in Brussels (Belgium).

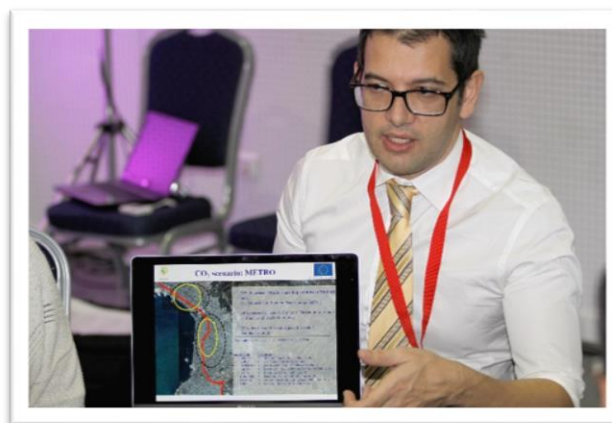
5 June 2018

Prof. D. Sarigiannis (AUTH) has participated in the 20th Meeting of the Programme Committee for the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) - Configuration ‘Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials’ on 5 June 2018 in Brussels (Belgium).

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2.2 Participation in the “Eco-innovation for air Quality” forum

Dr. Spyros Karakitsios (AUTH) participated in the 21st European Forum for Eco-innovation for air Quality, jointly organised by the European Commission and the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, under the auspices of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on 5-6 February 2018 in Sofia (Bulgaria). The forum aimed at mobilising business, the public sector and non-governmental organisations for developing and deploying new innovative solutions to improve air quality in Europe.



ICARUS was part of the Case Studies from Session 4: Transport and air quality ConverStations. This was an interactive session showcasing companies, municipalities, and public and private sector initiatives that have succeeded in developing and deploying effective new technologies, or innovative business and governance models for reducing air pollution originating from transport. ICARUS showed the assessment of public health co-benefits from traffic related emission policies in Thessaloniki and the effects of feasible traffic policies providing a presentation entitled “Assessment of public health co-benefits from traffic related emission policies in Thessaloniki”.


2.3 Participation in the Clean Air Forum

The ICARUS Coordinator Prof. D. Sarigiannis represented the project consortium at the Clean Air Forum organized in Paris in November 2017. The forum served as the platform for experts and politicians to put forth innovative ideas, solutions, to share, learn and implement the results to reduce the health risk posed by the air pollution.



Over 300 participants from government, industry, and NGOs as well as citizens shared their views at the Forum. Discussions focused on three themes: air quality in cities; air pollution from the agricultural sector; and clean air business opportunities. More than 30 high-level speakers reflected on the clean air challenge, on areas for action, the actors involved and on how policies can be crafted to deliver benefits on multiple fronts.

At the Clean Air Forum Prof. Sarigiannis had the chance to exchange views with Commissioner Moscovici on the need to instigate a European environmental taxation scheme taking into account the findings of applied research such as ICARUS in terms of refined assessment of the adverse effects of air pollution and climate change. Commissioner Moscovici committed publicly that his policy agenda included the proposal of an environmental tax scheme in the EU before the end of the current European Commission.

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3 Discussion on the outcomes

The participation in the various meetings of the Programme Committee for the specific Programme implementing HORIZON 2020 - the Framework Programme for research and innovation (2014-2020) – “Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials” resulted in the introduction of the health component in the agenda of the environmental research calls in the period 2018-2020. This is a major achievement of ICARUS, which is the only project that uses human health as a major criterion for evaluating the efficacy and the benefits (in the frame of cost-benefit analysis) of policies and measures for combating climate change and air pollution.

During the participation in the Eco-innovation for air Quality, many public authorities were interested in the methodological tools of ICARUS for assessing the efficacy of their planned or already implemented policies.

The Clean Air Forum contributed to greatly enhance the ICARUS visibility at the policy level and to lay the groundwork for a closer cooperation in air quality and climate change management and to institute a dialogue in the science-policy interface and gave us the opportunity to establish strategic connections with other European initiative.