# Sensor networks for public (and regulatory) information

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# Air pollution: WHO (2015)

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/wha-26-may-2015/en/

#### 26 MAY 2015 CENEVA - The World Health Assembly closed

today, with Director-General Dr Margaret Chan noting that it had passed several "landmark resolutions and decisions". Three new resolutions were passed today: one on air pollution, one on epilepsy and one laying out the next steps in finalizing a framework of engagement with non-State actors.

#### **Air pollution**

Delegates at the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution to address the health impacts of **air pollution – the world's largest single environmental health risk**. Every year 4.3 million deaths occur from exposure to indoor air pollution and **3.7 million deaths are attributable to outdoor air pollution**. This was the first time the Health Assembly had debated the topic.

# Legislative efforts - air quality

#### EU

...

(Council) Directives: **80**/779/EEC AQ limits SO<sub>2</sub>

#### **96**/62/EC, **2008**/50/EC on ambient air quality Sources regulations:

- National emission ceiling directive
- Traffic emissions (EURO standard)
- Fuel quality directive
- Waste incineration directive

#### **UN ECE CLRTAP**

#### 1979 <u>Convention on Long-</u> range Transboundary Air <u>Pollution</u>

#### Protocols:

1999/2012 Acidification, Euthrophication and Ground-level Ozone
1998/2009 Persistent Organic Pollutants
1998/2012 Heavy Metals
1994 Sulphur emissions
1991 Volatile Organic Compounds
1998 Nitrogen Oxides transboundary fluxes
1985 Sulphur emissions reduction



## The resulting AQ monitoring

Based on scientific consensus achieved through a broad stakeholder involvement (research, policy, corporate/collective stakeholders) Standardization

Comparability Information systems





## 1979-2017: technologies change



Cubes are SOLD OUT!

## ..... technologies change

#### With Wearable Devices That Monitor Air Quality, Scientists Can Crowdsource Pollution Maps

Emerging technology means anyone with a smartphone can become a mobile environmental monitoring station



tion to users who may otherwise have no idea what they are breathing. (TZOA)

By Brian Handwerk SMITHSONIAN.COM





# Pigeon Air Patrol to the rescue! Birds with backpacks track air pollution

By Sheena McKenzie, CNN (1) Updated 1415 GMT (2215 HKT) March 16, 2016





The Pigeon Air Patrol measures nitrogen dioxide in London, which has a high level of air pollution.

Top stories

There's something amiss with this inauguration photo

Australia: Actor fatally shot while filming music video



P-rom: 77m<sup>2</sup>

#### CITI-SENSE 2012-2016 in 9 European cities





#### The people behind CITI-SENSE





FP7 grant no. 308524

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9 tennants associations

3 universities 7 secondary schools 17 elementary schools 54 kindergartens EUROPE

9 cities

9,4 million observations (9/2015-9/2016)

>1.200 CityAir-app-users 2036 reported perceptions, app still running!

# 324 air sensor units in network at one time

**Additional sensor clusters** 

>50 public places 327 LEOvolunteers volunteers



1530 answers to AQ questionnaire >300 evaluations of products



# Challenges

Technology: low-cost sensor systems challenges Technology: connectivity User issues: deployment User issues: value proposition



# Data quality: calibration in the laboratory and in the field





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#### An evaluation tool kit of air quality micro-sensing units

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 $A_1(t) \& A_2(t)$  in the same segment -> Match score = 1  $A_1(t) \& A_2(t)$  not in the same segment -> Match score = 0



## **Typical deployment**









#### Performance assessment of hackAIR PM sensors

- Co-locating three hackAIR PM sensor at an air quality monitoring station (Kirkeveien, Oslo).
- Dense traffic area
- Road transport is major emission source of PM
- Data registered from 24/11/2017 to now







#### Large deployments require smart calibration



### **Connectivity: simplified platform**



## Data processing infrastructure

From raw data to processed/quality assured data

- **Research questions:** 
  - Calibration routines (individual instrument CEN; network -?)
  - Sensor network properties
  - Visualisation methodologies
  - Underlying technologies and connectivity/datasharing





#### What people want to know on AQ

Notifications pollution Info current AQ AQ index poor/good AQ AQ where you are Info forecasted AQ AQ levels in own routes Info to protect your health Select cleaner routes Numeric concentrations Info past AQ **Report own perception** See others' perception



FP7 grant no. 308524



not a priority

## Real time air quality map





Source: Schneider, P., Castell, N., Vogt, M., Dauge, F. R., Lahoz, W. A., & Bartonova, A. (2017). Mapping urban air quality in near real-time using observations from low-cost sensors and model information. *Environment International*, *106*, 234-247. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2017.05.005

## Air quality on a map



# Are low cost sensors really lowcost?

#### **Public monitoring networks:**

- -High investment cost
- -Rigorous QA/QC
- -(High) operating costs
- -Benefit: comparability in time and space

#### Sensor systems:

- -Low investment costs for monitoring technology
- –Unclear QA/QC
- -High operating costs for sustained operation
- –Benefit: local and spatial resolution high

Way forward: low-cost sensor system network Sensor system unit is not a miniature reference station (low public literacy in metrology) Siting: natural variability and large gradients of air quality within an urban area

Strenght is in numbers: the network



# Way forward

Sensor systems network infrastructure

- Heterogeneous sensor system deployment
- ICT infrastructure for data harvesting
- Requires new funding mechanisms

Data processing infrastructure

- On the fly calibration and correction
- Connectivity to other systems
- Real time products
- Service provided by the municipality/EPA



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