

ACCENT-PLUS

AT A GLANCE

Title: Atmospheric Composition Change: the European Network-Policy Support and Science

Instrument: FP7, Coordination and support action

Total Cost: 1.372.728 €

EC Contribution: 998.352 €

Duration: 48 months

Start Date: 01/11/2010

Consortium: 9 partners from 6 countries

Project Coordinator: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto di Scienze dell'Atmosfera e del Clima (Italy)

Project Web Site: <http://www.accent-network.org/>

Key Words: science-policy, global change, climate, air quality

THE CHALLENGE

Fragmentation of research efforts, lack of a shared scientific vision and insufficient availability of research tools, shared databases, etc., is a major limitation for the understanding of atmospheric composition change over Europe under a changing climate, and the consequent inadequate transfer of prospects to the decision makers for future policies. The ACCENT-Plus project builds on the successful efforts of the NoE ACCENT which has brought together the atmospheric science community engaged in global change and air pollution studies. ACCENT-Plus aims at extending the breath of the previous ACCENT phase to reach out to the policy community, facilitating the transfer of research results into policy/decision making.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overarching question that ACCENT-Plus aims answering is: "How can Europe control the composition of its atmosphere under a changing climate?" A prerequisite to achieve this goal is to maintain the coordination and integration of the European science community in the field of atmospheric composition change and to strengthen the outreach from the science domain into the policy arena and, where possible, to wider global decision making activities, by producing integrated assessment and synthesis and connecting science and policy making by transferring to the decision makers the important links between air quality and climate change and the prospects and benefits of co-control policies. ACCENT-Plus also aims at preserving and enhancing the excellence of European global change and air quality research within the European Research Area context.



METHODOLOGY

ACCENT-Plus will continue and further improve the long-lasting co-operation and integration of European research institutions and will create links with the other international research projects in the field of atmospheric composition change and climate. The project also will foster the two-way dialog with the policy community initiated within ACCENT. The overall objective here is to provide a synthesis of scientific results in a policy perspective on issues of primary importance for both air quality and climate: particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen cycle, methane. These topics are, in fact, closely related and efforts will be made to integrate the policy-related scientific findings, in a close dialogue with the relevant stakeholders. The integration of the science community will take place in areas as: i) research programming, ii) joint development and use of data bases, iii) training and mobility of researchers, iv) joint programming and use of infrastructures.

EXPECTED RESULTS

As a result of a process involving the whole science community along the duration of the project, ACCENT-Plus will prepare four key synthesis papers presenting the latest understanding on four major topics of importance for policy: tropospheric ozone and its precursors at the regional and global scale; the global nitrogen cycle and its importance for society; the atmospheric methane budget now and through the current century; the particulate matter with emphasis on the formation and fate of particles and their role in air quality and climate. The process will involve also policy makers and stakeholders, thus realising the promised two way interaction between science and policy. Following this, ACCENT-Plus will deliver a synthesis document simple, authoritative and well articulated, appropriate for the readership, i.e. policy-makers involved in the development of environmental policy at the level of the European Union, the UNECE, national governments, environmental agencies, learned societies, city and industry managers, NGOs.

PROJECT PARTNERS	
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	IT
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	FR
GKSS - Forschungszentrum Geesthacht GMBH	DE
University of Bremen	DE
Weizmann Institute of Science	(Israel) IL
Università degli Studi di Urbino "Carlo Bo"	IT
Paul Scherrer Institut	(Switzerland) CH
Natural Environment Research Council	UK
University of Leicester	UK

