

Aphekom Second Plenary Meeting in Vienna

Interviews performed by Geoff Davies, external communication expert

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Yorghos REMVIKOS - UVSQ - St Quentin-En-Yvelines, France

WP7: Sharing knowledge and uncertainties with stakeholders

Geoff: We now turn to Yorghos Remvikos from the University of Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines, heading a team focused on sharing knowledge and uncertainties with stakeholders.

Yorghos, why does this focus form part of the project? What is it that you aim to do, and can you identify the benefits that should flow from this work?

Yorghos: Well, we are all concerned I think about science-decision interface and what we propose to do is maybe to introduce a slightly different perspective.

Public health specialists tend to view air quality in terms of higher standards, the better standards, the stricter standards that we can actually achieve to protect the citizens' health.

We could view the problem differently and try to see how we actually achieve compliance to standards even if the standards are not strict, which is the reality everywhere in the European cities. We could also analyse the other uncertainties about the efficacy of the different measures that are being applied to improve air quality, so that is part of our contribution which I think is clearly relevant to the Aphekom project.

So there are a number of questions that we would like to ask, for instance, should we extend the debate to other professionals beyond the public health, city urban planners? Should we limit the discussion on health impacts or should we also introduce social issues or impacts on economic activity that air quality management can have?

Should we introduce the debate about the form that the city of the future will take or about sustainable mobility? Are these questions relevant to the Aphekom project?

So these are some of the questions that we would like to ask and share with the stakeholders in the way we frame the problem.

We want to use local case studies dealing with air quality management because it's easier to gather the people, the actors of air quality that are involved in them and try to see if we can reveal the arbitrage between different interests that the positions of the actors actually express and whether we can reconcile multiple criteria about land use and urban planning beyond air quality because these actually influence air quality.

So what we try to do is to produce a complex representation of the problem shared with the actors of course that they can actually understand, which goes beyond a simple quantitative single axed scale because that doesn't fit the complex environmental issue that we are faced with.

Geoff: Yorghos, thank you for your comments.