

Aphekom Second Plenary Meeting in Vienna

Interviews performed by Geoff Davies, external communication expert

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Patrick GOODMAN - Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland

WP6: Health Impacts of Implemented Policies in Air Pollution

Geoff: Now the team headed by Pat Goodman of the Dublin Institute of Technology is focused on evaluating the health impacts and related monetary costs of air pollution policies already implemented.

Pat, over the past years there have been various initiatives to reduce air pollution in our cities. Your work package aims to analyze them to determine if there are any savings in health or financial gains. Am I interpreting this correctly?

Pat: Yes Geoff, you are correct.

Over the last 10 to 15 years, between the EU making changes to the sulfur content in fuels which are used in road vehicles, heating systems and in industry, and also then various participant cities in this study have brought in things like congestion zones, they've had their own initiatives.

And the work package aims to look at these and to see if these initiatives either reducing the sulfur content in fuel, or what the different cities have done themselves and see: has it improved the air quality, namely reduced pollution? And then secondly, we want to see if we can identify any health benefits that are associated with these changes. And then the last part of the work package is to see if there are any benefits, is there any financial savings which have accrued to the various cities from these initiatives that were taken?

Geoff: Right Pat, thank you for your comments.

Pat: You're welcome.