Update on the Task Force on Health and WHO activities

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WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Fourth Joint session of the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to EMEP

Geneva, Switzerland, 10-14 September, 2018
Presentation outline

• Annual TFH meeting - May 2018
• Implementation of WP 2018-2019
• Relevant global activities
• Next steps
21st TFH meeting (16-17 May 2018)

52 participants from 34 Parties to the Convention

*Funding from Switzerland and Germany gratefully acknowledged
21st TFH meeting - main agenda items

• National and international policies and processes on air quality and health

• Implementation of the Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health

• Improving indoor and outdoor air quality for all
  Encourage the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and promote ratification and implementation of its relevant protocols

• Discussion of current activities and work plan for 2018-2019
Progress in research on health impacts of air pollution

- Quantification of environmental disease burden due to NO\textsubscript{2} exposure in Germany
- Update on the research of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP)
- Belgium’s experience in the improved NO\textsubscript{2} exposure assessment
- Global Exposure Mortality Model (GEMM)

Communication and public health messages for air pollution

Launch of the Russian language version of the WHO AirQ+ software
# Implementation WP 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workplan item</th>
<th>Activity description/objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1.25</td>
<td><strong>Consolidate existing evidence</strong> on the health outcomes of exposure to air pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.1.26</td>
<td><strong>Further develop methodologies</strong> for assessment and quantification of direct and indirect effects of long-range transboundary air pollution on human health</td>
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<td>1.1.1.27</td>
<td>Evaluate the current knowledge on the health risk of <a href="#">polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons</a> and identify critical gaps.</td>
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<td>1.2.3</td>
<td><strong>Capacity-building</strong> for the health impact assessment of air pollution at the regional and subregional levels</td>
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<td>1.3.6</td>
<td><strong>Review the methods</strong> used for estimating <a href="#">burden of disease</a> attributable to air pollution</td>
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<td>1.3.7</td>
<td><strong>Review communication strategies</strong> for health messages related to air pollution, including on short-term episodes and for susceptible groups</td>
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Implementation WP 2018-2019 (Consolidate evidence)

Update WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (ongoing)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Guideline Development Group meeting:** Sept 2016
- **Guideline proposal approved by Guideline Review Committee:** Jan 2017
- **Systematic reviews on long-term exposure to PM, NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>, and short-term exposure to PM, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO and selected health outcomes**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Guideline Development Group meeting:** 14-16 March 2018
- **Finalization of risk of bias assessment tool(s)**

### Table: Workplan item: 1.1.1.25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage/primary contributor</th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Planning</strong></td>
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<td>WHO Member State, WHO country office or public/private entity</td>
<td>Request guidance on a topic</td>
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<td>WHO technical unit</td>
<td>Determine if a guideline is needed; review existing WHO and external guidelines</td>
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<td>Observe approval for guideline development from the director of the relevant technical unit at WHO</td>
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<td>Discuss the process with the GRC Secretariat and with other WHO staff with experience in developing guidelines</td>
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<td>Form the WHO guideline steering group</td>
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<td>Identify sufficient resources; determine the timeline</td>
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6, 6: GRC
Implementation WP 2018-2019 (Consolidate evidence)

Update WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (next steps)

- Completion of SRs, including incorporation of the GDG comments
- Fine-tuning of the GRADE framework
- Consideration of other relevant systematic reviews
- Consideration of indoor air quality in the context of the updated guidelines
- Developing methodological approach to setting interim targets
- Drafting of the guideline document

Funding and in-kind support from the European Commission (DG Env), Switzerland, USA, Germany, and Republic of Korea gratefully acknowledged
Implementation WP 2018-2019 (Develop methodologies)

Continued work on AirQ+, a software tool to estimate the magnitude of the health effects of air pollution

Two years of use of AirQ+ (2016-2018)

- 62 countries/ 153 cities
- Mainly used by Environment (50%) and Health sector(42%)
- For the purpose of research (74%) and policy intervention (33%)

The Russian language version AirQ+ launched in May 2018

Working toward a new version
- the French language translation
- a more user-friendly tool with better graphical output and DALYs estimates

Workplan item : 1.1.1.26
Implementation WP 2018-2019 (Capacity building)

WHO Training workshop on Air Quality and Health

- Designed as a five-day long training
- Mixed training format: lectures, small group discussions, hands-on exercise with the use of AirQ+
- Intended for environmental and public health experts
- Delivered in cooperation with the UNECE CLRTAP
- Cooperation with UN Environment, Vienna International Centre
- Sub-regional training for the Western Balkans, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12-16 November 2018

Workplan item: 1.2.3
Implementation WP 2018-2019 (Health risk of PAH)

PAH Working group

TFH representatives and experts from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and Canada

Scope:
• To assess the fitness of current policies for PAHs, and the relevance of BaP as a marker for the PAHs in health risk assessment
• To discuss health-relevant PAHs other than BaP
• To discuss possible health endpoints in addition to cancer
• To discuss cellular/tissue interactions of importance for health risk assessment of PAHs

Objectives
• To identify aspects for future policy development of PAHs within CLRTAP in relation to local policies
• To assess the benefits and limitations of current health risk assessment of PAHs
• To formulate suggestions on how to improve health risk assessment of PAHs

Workplan item : 1.1.1.27
Relevant global WHO activities

An update of the WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database (May 2018)

In 2016, 91% of world population breathe an air above the WHO Air Quality Guidelines

Afr: Africa; Amr: America; Emr: Eastern Mediterranean; Eur: Europe; Sear: South-East Asia; Wpr: Western Pacific; HIC: high-income countries; LMIC: low-and middle-income countries
Relevant WHO global activities

Mortality attributable to air pollution, by region in 2016

510'000 attributable deaths to AAP in 2016 in WHO Europe
What should the global conference deliver?

- Advance science on critical health-related issues
- Create opportunities for scaling-up action in countries
- Discuss and agree ambitious target
- Consultation process
- Political motivation for the conference

Transboundary air pollution and health – the value of international cooperation: side event, 31 Oct, lunch time

- CLRTAP
- Task Force on Health
- Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment
- ….
Next steps

Establishment of working groups:

• to assess the new developments around the assessment of the health impacts of NO$_2$

• on methods of assessing the health impacts of air pollution to liaise with WHO Headquarters and other WGE groups to discuss streamlining of methodological approaches

Assessment of methods for health impact assessment of air pollution and cost benefit analysis and emerging issues

Organization of 22$^{nd}$ TFH meeting in May 2019
Thank you for your attention

http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health