

## **9<sup>th</sup> Air Quality IPR Technical Meeting-online**

**Day 1 –Thursday, 21 October 2021 (on B-G dataflows), 9.00-12.15**

**9:30 – 10:45 Session 1: B-G Reporting**

**Updates on the EU Policy – Update on the revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (Vanda Jakir, DG ENV - European Commission)**

- An online questionnaire was launched on 23 September 2021 for a public consultation. It will be available until the 16th of December 2021: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12677-Revision-of-EU-Ambient-Air-Quality-legislation/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12677-Revision-of-EU-Ambient-Air-Quality-legislation/public-consultation_en)
- A stakeholder meeting was held on 23 September 2021 to inform on the revision process with 349 participants from all Member States. Stakeholders disagreed on the level and timing of a closer alignment with the WHO recommendations, however several stakeholders also stressed the merits of introducing additional standards.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> EU Clean Air Forum to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November in Madrid.
- SR9 expert survey results on “Strengthening of air quality monitoring, modelling and plans under the Ambient Air Quality Directives” published: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/cd69a4b9-1a68-4d6c-9c48-77c0399f225d/library/d6fb31cc-684c-4fce-914c-28f0c10afbc4/details?download=true>

### **Overview of September 2021 submissions (Luca Liberti, EEA)**

- All data flows go to “technically accepted” if no issue is flagged by QC except E1a and E1b. Both E data flows go in Final Feedback after successful release, but E1a will be automatically turn into 'Technically Accepted' on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, if reporter did not exclude it from products. E1b is sent to Technically Accepted or Correction Request.
- Countries are invited to report model data and metadata even if not used for compliance in C and G. DG ENV recommendation in Ambient Air Quality Expert Group Meeting.
- There are remaining Errors B-G, but mostly minor issues related with activity period specification (D), missing features from previous submissions (D), total area covered by zones same as country extent (B), Assessment Regimes not linked from C (G). the data flow with largest number of errors is C on threshold classification, assessment methods, consistency with preliminary and classification is too old. For the model data, missing projection file .prj for shapefile submissions is the common issue.
- E1a status on imports and aggregations is relatively good with some issues on aggregations, especially the ones that involve multi-year data.
- Issues in EEA Infrastructure (FME update) at the end of submission period caused issues on the QC runs and with the viewers.

### **Common reporting issues (Jaume Targa, ETC/ATNI; Artur Gsella, EEA)**

- Data flow B, quality of the data submitted on zone/agglomerations have been improving, but there are still issues on completeness on area/population, life cycle of zones not always clear.
- Data flow C, most issues are due to the discrepancy between C and preliminary C but this might be a consequence of changing of plans on the implementation. However zones classifications are old, some zones need to be re-qualified, since it is requested to do it every 5-years. There are also assessment regimes missing assessment methods. Dataflow D, improvement in data quality. Many elements of Dataflow D are not mandatory according to the data model specification and are not provided by countries. This can give the impression that the reporting is not complete.. Nevertheless, there are still mandatory data missing. Lack of consistency between Start/end times between network/stations/sampling points and observing capabilities; information on active equipment is still missing.
- Data flow E1a, issues mostly on the recommended unit;
- Data flow G, issues mainly on the estimation of area road length and population exposed;
- Data flow D1b, missing geometry data;
- Data flow E1b: new and revised rules to check reporting year, link to envelope and syntax, and file formats. Formats geoTIFF, ASCII, GML are now errors and ESRI shp is warning. This might change in the future. EEA recommended the Modelling Quality Indicator (MQI) to be based on FAIRMODE. Data flow E1b had issues on linking metadata and the data, e.g., correction for natural sources; missing files, missing file declarations and attribute mismatch or ambiguous, repeating attribute name, wrong projection declarations, primary observation declared instead of aggregation process;
- Next year it is expected a more thorough QC on model data

### **Dataset D quality assessment (Luca Liberti, EEA)**

D data flow between 2018 and 2020 was analysed to improve what is reported in data set D. From all the elements available, the following elements were considered in the analysis:

- Altitude: no stations with unreasonable negative altitudes, stations not missing altitude but there are negative numbers used as placeholder (e.g., -999);
- Area classification: no stations missing classification, but some stations have changed classification over time. This needs confirmation if it is genuine;
- Station position: all stations have stated coordinates, but some stations have different position over the years, changes from 10 m to hundred km;
- Activity periods: multiple operationalActivityPeriod tags are reported, this is still allowed by schema but causes ambiguity in the data interpretation;
- Activity periods can be specified in several places. It should be reported in station operational activity and SamplingPoint operationalActivity, thus observing Capabilities have to match SPO operational activity. Several are allowed but cannot overlap; gaps are allowed. Begin/end time of first/last observing capability should match the begin/end of the SPO activity;
- Samples consistency: inlet height (mandatory) and kerb and building distance (mandatory is SPO is classified as traffic). There are still negative values supplied and there are negative values supplied to SPOs that are not traffic, this might be negative numbers used as placeholder (e.g., -999) reporting or placeholders for non-traffic SPOs should be avoided.

### Open issues on data quality (Jaume Targa, ETC-ATNI)

Further improvements of QC on the remaining issues are on the pipeline. Implementation of checks on

- Zones: sum area and population;
- Data flow C, assessment regime comparing C a C preliminary;
- D: ensure continuity, comparing current delivery with previous;
- D1b projections and metadata, model indicator;
- G: new checks on the pipeline on samples, when attainment is needed.

### Questions:

F. F. (BE): Change of area classification can also happen when the former classification is wrong.

- Countries are encouraged to correct the data

G. (AL): Related to the station activity. I have one station that is not in function anymore. How to delete it and how to add the other in the other city

- D should contain the entire history of the monitoring network, if you submit D then the previous information will be overwritten. If something new, D should be resubmitted and if a new station then the old station should be closed and a new open.
- if moving station then we need to discuss.

A. F. (FR): you introduced a station in the past wrongly, you are obliged to report it every year again

- no you do not need to, but you should remove the station. Note that there will be a blocker in the next delivery and an explanation will be required.

M. J. (SE): on the automatic feedback, there is a mismatch between the viewers. Some of the viewers seem to not be updated.

- Some viewers are not updated daily but also some of the viewers such as the data monitor have a couple of issues and there are some inconsistencies.

C. P. (CY) Why reporting in C preliminary SPOs that are not measuring currently

- C preliminary makes sure you plan in advance what you measure in your zones.

## 11:00 – 11:50 Session 2: Updates on data access and products

### Products status (Artur Gsella, EEA)

On B-G viewers:

- AIDE viewers are now being fully replaced by other viewers available at the new AQ portal and at the EEA data service. The new tables have several functionalities such as downloading in formats to use SQL calls for easy linking the tables; harmonise the attribute names across products also harmonize the source of the data (currently taken from different stages of data processing). A compromise was made to make sure that all datasets are consistent: four-fixed dates for updates: following reporting time (mid-November, mid-January, mid-April, mid-July).
- Attainment viewer: Performance on the attainment viewer was improved but it still links to old AIDE tables and some small presentation issues. Link to new data sets and download functionality and zone geometries downloader will be deprecated.
- Time series downloader two different downloaders before (airbase) and after 2013 (e-reporting) are going to be converted to a single one.
- Status monitoring and feedback: the first is mostly for the EEA and ETC for checking the reporting and instant feedback for the countries but creating a viewer combining those two will improve notification system and extend capabilities on the monitoring on the different sides of reporting. ¶

- **Statistical Viewer and Data Viewer (Michel Houssiau, consultant)**

Redesigning products having in mind having a single product for experts working with the data and for reporters, and other users.

New viewers are available:

- Statistical viewer there are several capabilities: info, several filters, information for several years, including the development of concentrations since 2013, several ways to present the same data (boxplots, time series, distribution (frequency and cumulative), sampling points with potential outliers in the time series. Note that, all data reported is included, no data is excluded.
- Data viewer: daily, weekly and monthly averaged concentrations, station ranking based on daily average concentration; average concentration per station across several years.
- Correlation tool: compare different years and aggregations based on scatter plots, add regression lines.

All viewers have several filters available (e.g., pollutant, year, country, year) and info on the viewer and tips on how make use of the viewer.

### **New Air Quality Portal (Michel Houssiau, consultant)**

Old portal is too cluttered and not user-friendly. In a technical view, in not very easy to maintain. Thus, the idea of creating a new portal. The new portal mostly contains the same information as the older portal but remove deprecated information. Thus, still has information on the legal matters on the mandate of reporting air quality, what it is reported, on dataflows and respective submission deadlines, news, etc. Now it has a two specific tabs: reporters' corner and users' corner. The reporters' corner all the information for submitting data. The users' corner has all the data viewers. The website is functional at the moment, but the old portal will also be available for a while (a new url will be distributed). The timeline is not yet defined, but the information will be distributed by the formal means of communication.

### **11:50 – 12:15 Conclusions and closure of the meeting**

To remember:

- Launch of the new portal;
- Confirm your participation, for the next IPTR, if you haven't yet;
- E1a to double check your submissions;
- A questionnaire will be circulated on QC for the reporters to answer and give some feedback;
- Attainment viewers may take a year to be finished;
- When the agenda for the next TIPR is circulated, let us know if we need to add any topics.