

Welcome

This is the third newsletter of the INTERA Project (published 1st September 2011). INTERA aims to improve our understanding of human exposure to air pollutants in homes. The project has been running since January 2010.

Sign up now for our free Stakeholder Workshop!

INTERA is holding a free workshop in Brussels, Belgium on the 18th November 2011. The workshop will provide you with an overview of the INTERA project and an opportunity to trial the indoor exposure assessment tool developed by the project team. The workshop will also give you the opportunity to network with other key indoor environment experts.

The INTERA tool is an integrated computational platform for "full chain" indoor exposure assessment that uses exposure reconstruction algorithms to fill data gaps and support refined exposure assessment.

The platform covers all parts of the exposure chain from sources through to indoor fate modelling, exposure scenario build-up and exposure modelling.

The platform includes the following modules:

1. Emissions-concentrations, linking emission sources to indoor air concentrations.
2. Exposure, linking the temporal variation of indoor air contamination to human exposure.
3. Internal dosimetry, linking the temporal variation of exposure to internal dose dynamics.

In addition, tools for the visualization of geographical trends and mechanisms underlying exposure are provided for presentation of the results so they can be better applied within the context of research and policy development.

We will demonstrate the various modules of the computational and visualization platform and present the results of the case studies, which applied these modules. Delegates will then have the opportunity to trial the platform for various scenarios and provide their feedback to the project team.

Our free workshop will be of particular use to experts and those who give technical support to policy makers. Those involved in indoor environment research will also benefit.

The workshop will be held in Brussels, Belgium on the 18th November and will run from 8.30am – 5pm. Venue details are yet to be finalised.

Spaces are limited to 30 delegates so please register your interest in attending by no later than 30th September. For the online form and further information about the workshop, visit: <http://www.intera-home.eu/NewsEvents/Workshop.aspx>.

Case Studies

The three case studies on DMF (dimethyl fumarate, dermal route), phthalates (multi-pathway exposures), and BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes, with mixture effect) are designed to test the integrated methodology, suggest refinements to the computational and visualization tools and to identify any data gaps. The case study methodology has been developed and work on the case studies is progressing well.

A key output of the case studies will be a report on EU population exposure for the three types of pollutants.

Publications

A review paper on exposure and health risks from VOCs and carbonyls in indoor environments in Europe was published in May in *Environment International*. The paper was selected as the 17th hottest article of the journal in August 2011. A summary version will be included in the *Science for Environment Policy* newsletter of European Commission's DG Environment.

Ref: Sarigiannis, D.A., Karakitsios, S.P., Liakos, I.L., Katsoyiannis, A. Exposure to major volatile organic compounds and carbonyls in European indoor environments and associated health risk, *Environment International* (2011) 37: 743-765.

Conference Presentations

A poster and presentation on the INTERA project were presented at Indoor Air 2011, held in Austin, Texas, 5-10th June 2011. The poster, which provided an overview to the whole INTERA project, can be found at the bottom of this page: <http://www.intera-home.eu/TheProject.aspx>. A copy of the presentation on the computational platform can be found on: <http://www.intera-home.eu/TheProject/WorkPackage3.aspx>

Further information

If you would like more information on:

- the INTERA project, please contact Arja Asikainen at THL: ✉ arja.asikainen@thl.fi or ☎ +358 206 106 469.
- the INTERA tool, please contact Denis Sarigiannis at CERTH: ✉ denis@eng.auth.gr or ☎ +30 2310 994562.
- the Stakeholder workshop, please contact Emma Doust at IOM: ✉ emma.doust@iom-world.org.