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# Assessment of PAH pollution levels in the EMEP region: longterm trends, key sources, and exceedances of air quality guidelines

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### Assessment of PAH pollution and population exposure

Contribution to analysis of POP Protocol effectiveness, co-operation with TF TEI, TF Health (EMEP workplan 1.1.1.1)

### Long-Term Strategy for the Convention (2020-2030):

"unintentional releases of PAHs are still a concern"

"continue scientific research on POP transport and trends with a focus on PAHs"

### Motivation of these activities:

- Residential combustion sector significantly contributes to the emissions of PAHs in the EMEP countries
- Emissions from Residential combustion did not changed significantly during two recent decades
- Contribute to the analysis of population exposure to PM and its toxic constituents



MSC-E Technical Report on PAHs (2021)

## Long-term changes of PAH pollution in EMEP countries

#### Model estimates of B(a)P pollution trends (1990-2019):

- Significant decrease in Western Europe (65%)
- Small decrease/lack of changes in Central, Southern Europe after 2000
- Increase in Caucasus and Central Asia







Long-term changes of B(a)P concentrations (absolute values)

### Modelled and observed B(a)P pollution trends

Evaluation of modelled B(a)P trends vs. long-term measurements (1990-2018):









EMEP monitoring stations (n = 40)



Observed B(a)P concentrations
Modelled B(a)P concentrations

## PAH pollution and population exposure

### Observed and modelled B(a)P levels vs EU and WHO limits (2019):

- Exceedances of air quality guidelines still exist in some of EMEP countries (e.g. Central Europe)
- Most of exceedances of EU/WHO limits took place in urban areas
- In 2020, EC announced revision of EU air quality standards, including B(a)P, towards stricter guidelines recommended by WHO



Observed B(a)P concentrations vs EU target level

Population in areas with exceeded B(a)P limits



### Key source-categories of PAH pollution in EMEP countries

#### Model estimates of key sectors contributions and their long-term changes:

- Residential combustion sector is dominating in all the sub-regions
- Decline of Industry sector contribution in 1990s (e.g. Western Europe)
- Considerable contribution of Agriculture sector in Southern Europe



### Case studies on B(a)P/PAH pollution: Poland

Joint research for Spain, France, and Poland to improve PAH pollution assessment (TFMM)

#### Program of the study (2020-2021):

- Model assessment of PAH in Poland involving detailed national emission and monitoring data
- Model simulations with the previous and updated national PAH emissions inventory
- Experimental model simulations using scenario of B(a)P emissions
- Estimation of exceedances of B(a)P air quality guidelines
- Inter-comparison of GLEMOS and GEM-AQ model results for B(a)P

B(a)P emissions in PL (t y<sup>-1</sup>)



#### B(a)P emission in 2018 (t $\gamma^1$ )



## Modelled vs observed B(a)P pollution levels in Poland

#### **Comparison with data of Background Rural + Suburban stations:**

- Decrease of model bias from -64% to -28%
- Increase of correlation from 0.42 to 0.82
- Increase of Factor of 2 parameter from 30% to 70%



#### Correlation

56 stations of EMEP and EEA networks (2018)



## Modelled vs observed B(a)P pollution levels in Poland

#### Comparison with data of **EMEP** stations in Poland:

Decrease of model bias from ~ -70% (previous emissions) up to ~ -5% (scenario emissions)



- Updates of national PAH emission inventory allowed to noticeably improve B(a)P model assessment results
- Model simulations indicate significant exceedances of EU target level (especially in winter time) associated with the effect of Residential Combustion emissions

## Further activities on PAHs: multi-model study of B(a)P pollution

#### Contribution to EuroDelta-Carb project on PM/BC (TFMM)

#### **Objectives:**

- Model assessment of B(a)P pollution levels and exceedances of air quality guidelines for 2017-2018
- Contribute to analysis of consistency of Residential Combustion emissions of PAHs/PM
- Analyzing relationship between B(a)P and PM transport and fate (including PM components – OC, EC)
- Use of EMEP and EEA AQ e-reporting B(a)P measurements

#### **Modeling groups:**

Institution	Model	Experts
EMEP/MSC-E	GLEMOS	Alexey Gusev
INERIS (France)	CHIMERE	Augustin Colette
FMI (Finland)	SILAM	Rostislav Kouznetsov, Evegeny Kadantsev
CIEMAT (Spain)	CHIMERE	Marta Garcia Vivanco
ENEA (Italy)	MINNI	Mihaela Mircea, Ilaria Delia, Mario Adani



Model domain and B(a)P emissions (2018)



B(a)P measurements (EMEP, EEA, 2018)

### **Directions of further work**

### (EMEP work-plan 2022-2023)

- Research/co-operation activities
  - Multi-model analysis of B(a)P pollution in 2017/2018 in framework of TFMM EuroDelta-Carb project
  - Analysis of long-term changes and source-receptor relationships on global/regional scale in co-operation with TF HTAP (combustion-related POPs)
  - Continuation of case study on B(a)P pollution in the EMEP countries (e.g. Spain, Poland)
  - Data exchange with TF Health on B(a)P/PAH concentration and exceedances of target values to assess population exposure
  - Contribution to the EU EEA assessment of B(a)P pollution in the EU countries