



PRESS RELEASE

MI-TRAP's First International Living Lab Brings Stakeholders Together to Address Urban Air Pollution

Berlin, Germany | 19 February 2025

MI-TRAP held its first International Living Lab (ILL) workshop in Berlin on 19 February 2025, bringing together researchers, industry representatives, policymakers and citizen science practitioners to discuss transport-related air pollution in European cities. Hosted at the [Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt \(PTB\)](#), Germany's national metrology institute and a MI-TRAP project partner, the workshop marked an important step in the project's stakeholder engagement strategy, creating a space for collaboration towards cleaner and healthier urban environments.

Identifying knowledge gaps and shared challenges

The workshop welcomed 44 participants, including members of the MI-TRAP consortium and representatives of related European projects and networks, including [Net4Cities](#), [PAREMPI](#) and the [European Citizen Science Association \(ECSA\)](#).

Using the World Café methodology, participants took part in three thematic discussions addressing key dimensions of urban air quality: identifying knowledge gaps, developing future scenarios and mapping the stakeholder landscape.

Discussions highlighted gaps in public awareness, scientific data and policy coordination. Participants noted that citizens often have limited understanding of pollution sources, while air quality indices and their implications for human health can be difficult to interpret. The exchanges underlined that technological innovation alone is not enough to address urban air pollution; effective communication, public awareness and behavioural change are also important.

Exploring future scenarios for urban air quality

The scenario-building exercise highlighted both opportunities and challenges for improving air quality across Europe. Participants recognised the potential benefits of regulatory frameworks and vehicle electrification, while raising concerns about non-exhaust emissions from sources such as tyre and brake wear.

The discussions also highlighted the risk of uneven progress between European cities and regions, particularly where political instability or economic constraints limit long-term planning. Participants emphasised the need for context-specific interventions and greater support for vulnerable urban communities.





Strengthening collaboration through the Quadruple Helix model

Stakeholder mapping highlighted the importance of the Quadruple Helix model, which brings together academia, public authorities, industry and civil society. Participants stressed that local engagement is essential to developing relevant strategies that reflect the needs and circumstances of different urban communities.

This collaborative approach is particularly important for improving knowledge and raising awareness of emerging pollutants, a key focus of MI-TRAP. By connecting scientific research with policymaking, industry expertise and community perspectives, the International Living Labs aim to support the development of solutions tailored to urban environmental challenges.

From discussion to implementation

Building on the outcomes of the first workshop, MI-TRAP planned further stakeholder engagement through capacity-building activities, including training, citizen science campaigns and policy dialogues across its 10 cities. These activities were intended to address the knowledge and engagement gaps identified in Berlin while strengthening collaboration among local stakeholders.

The next International Living Lab workshop was planned to present MI-TRAP solutions and data on traffic-related air pollution, giving stakeholders an opportunity to discuss their relevance to existing policy frameworks and industry activities.

The first ILL workshop established a foundation for continued collaboration towards cleaner urban environments. By bringing together researchers, public authorities, industry and citizens, MI-TRAP seeks to strengthen the links between scientific evidence, governance and community action in support of healthier and more liveable cities.

MI-TRAP thanks all participants for their valuable contributions, with special thanks to Manos Manousakas of [NCSR "DEMOKRITOS"](#) for facilitating one of the World Café discussions and supporting the organisation of the workshop.







Notes to the Editor

PROJECT SUMMARY

MI-TRAP (Mitigating TRansport-related Air Pollution in Europe) is a Horizon Europe initiative funded by the European Commission. Coordinated by Prof. Kostas Eleftheriades of the National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos," Greece, the project unites 26 international partners to address and innovate solutions for urban air quality challenges. The MI-TRAP project aims to improve the currently available Tools and services for air pollution mitigation from transport sources through a multi-dimensional approach. The project will develop and provide a suite of beyond the state of the art innovative monitoring Instrumentation package, data analysis tools to track emitted pollutants, enable systematic traffic management and evaluate the effectiveness of legislation and control measures. Past and present data will be used for enabling health impact assessment. Additionally, MI-TRAP recognizes the importance of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and implements pilot NBS in selected sites, in order to facilitate mitigation of air and noise pollution. The project will also incorporate citizen science practices, disseminating findings through open-science and citizen-science approaches with the support of key stakeholders and citizens.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Duration: 48 months | Starting from 1 January 2024

EU funding: € 5 541 423,21 | **Grand Agreement no:** 101138449

Coordinator: National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos"

Website: mitrap-project.eu **LinkedIn:** [@MI-TRAP](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MI-TRAP) **Facebook:** [@MITRAP2024.eu](https://www.facebook.com/MITRAP2024.eu) **Youtube:** [@mi-trap](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmi-trap)

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