

Euro-Life-Net

ENVIRONMENT - HEALTH - CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report 3 June 2005

Proposal, Status and Next Steps

1. Introduction.

CITIDEP presented for the first time its **EuroLifeNet** proposal this 26th May 2005, in Ispra, Italy, at the APHEIS¹ meeting hosted by the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EU).

EuroLifeNet objective is to connect the gathering of scientific environmental data with raising citizen awareness through participation, with focus on youth, targeting schools as a key partner. With **EuroLifeNet**, schools can provide a large network of valuable data sources, creating at the same time a sense of *European Scale Cooperation* at citizen level.

The **EuroLifeNet** proposal addresses two strategic priorities in the European Union: the *Environment-Health* critical relationship, and fostering *Citizenship*. **EuroLifeNet** also responds to UN's *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*. These priorities require inspiring, innovative projects.

To help policy makers justify difficult decisions on pollution, scientists need to correlate indoor, outdoor and personal exposure data, and improve continuously data quality and coverage. Schools and students are a resource already in place, able to contribute to some of these requirements, thus minimizing costs. But as “co-authors” of the scientific data, they become champions of its use for extracting real consequences, raising their personal awareness, as well driving the raise of educated public awareness through their parents and local community links.

The objective of this brief report is to inform the results of the mission to the APHEIS meeting, summarize the current status of the EuroLifeNet proposal, and initiate a dialogue concerning the next steps to take. The report is addressed to all interested CITIDEP colleagues, to potential EuroLifeNet partners or supporters, and to Institutions that may fund EuroLifeNet or simply advise us on content and procedure.

¹APHEIS - Air Pollution and Health: A European Information System (<http://www.apheis.net/>)

2. The EuroLifeNet proposal.

At the kind invitation from Emile De Saeger, IES/JRC, Pedro Ferraz de Abreu, CITIDEP, presented at the 26-27 May 2005 APHEIS meeting in Ispra, Italy, 1) the work done by CITIDEP as a project **PEOPLE**² partner and 2) a follow-up proposal: the **EuroLifeNet** program, with a pilot project.

A thoroughly updated version of this presentation is available for download from:

<http://www.citidep.net/docs/citidepIspra05newlr.ppt> [2.6 Mb]

and is to be considered a core part of this report, since it will not be reproduced here. Slides 19-28 describe the EuroLifeNet proposal, including photos of equipment to be used and other important details. Please read them if you want to know in what consists the EuroLifeNet proposal (rationale, goals, framework, functionality, timetable).

To view a full presentation, you may download also the 2 support movie files from:

<http://www.citidep.net/mov/PMportsampler.mov> [132 kb]

<http://www.citidep.net/mov/PEOPCITI.MOV> [8.8 Mb]

The **EuroLifeNet** proposal builds directly on our (CITIDEP) experience with **PEOPLE** and “**PEOPLE-Citizenship**” projects. It is also based on recent experiences of participatory science that were very successful (NASA’s GLOBE, Berkeley’s BOINC). So it is useful to follow the first part of the presentation (slides 2-18) concerning that experience, in particular CITIDEP work in schools for **PEOPLE** in 2002-2003.

CITIDEP Report on its “**PEOPLE-Citizenship**” project was presented at the METROPOLIS Workshop "Information - Communication - Awareness - Education", (JRC-IES), Ispra, Italy, 5 June 2004, courtesy of Robert Field in absence of the authors. It can be downloaded from:

<http://www.citidep.net/docs/peopleciti.pdf> [5 Mb]

and is to be considered an annex of this report. It will not be reproduced here. The essential of its content is included in the [citidepIspra05newlr.ppt](http://www.citidep.net/docs/citidepIspra05newlr.ppt) file (slides 2-18) above indicated, so the [peopleciti.pdf](http://www.citidep.net/docs/peopleciti.pdf) report is only a reference for those that require more detail. This report will be published as part of the “global” (EU) **PEOPLE** final report of the IES/JRC, due in 2005.

²PEOPLE - Population Exposure to Air Pollutants in Europe (<http://www.people-pt.net/>)

3. APHEIS Meeting

CITIDEP presentation at the May 2005 APHEIS meeting was preceded by a presentation of the PEOPLE project³, by Robert Field (IES-JRC), and by a few kind introductory remarks from Emile De Saeger (IES-JRC) in support of our work in schools in connection with PEOPLE.

In the sequence of Pedro Ferraz de Abreu's presentation of CITIDEP **EuroLifeNet** proposal, several participants asked questions demonstrating interest (e.g. was it part of the school curricula or mostly extra-curricular, how many person-hours involved, what was the institutional relationship with schools and government, how much will it cost an EuroLifeNode), and offered to provide us with relevant information concerning other work in similar lines (e.g. network of European schools).

Some of this feedback, together with kind encouragement, came from Sylvia Medina (APHEIS coordination and InVS, France), Giulio Gallo (European Commission - DG SANCO, Luxembourg), Scott Brockett (European Commission - DG Env., Brussels), Hans-Guido Mücke (German Fed. Environ. Agency, Berlin), MariaLuisa Tamborra (European Commission - DG Research, Brussels), Patrick Goodman (Dublin Inst. of Technology, Ireland), Manuel González Cabré (Servei d'Informacio en Salut Ambiental, Barcelona), among others. It was also discussed briefly with the Portuguese APHEIS representative, Cristina Amaral (Min. Health, Div. Env. Health, Lisbon), possible avenues for cooperation in Portugal. To all, we express our thanks.

4. EuroLifeNet meetings, post-APHEIS

a) Meeting with IES

In direct follow-up of the APHEIS presentation, took place a meeting with Pedro Ferraz de Abreu (CITIDEP), Emile De Saeger (IES/JRC) and Patrick Goodman (Dublin Inst. Technology). Robert Field (IES/JRC) also came in.

We visited the IES lab that supported PEOPLE scientific data on benzene, and could observe the "Particulate Matter" (PM) portable measurement devices, as well the "background" PM devices (photographs included in the slides). We agreed that it makes sense for an **EuroLifeNet Pilot Project** to focus on measuring PM, corresponding to current scientific needs.

³For those interested in the PEOPLE results in Lisbon concerning benzene, you may download from http://www.people-pt.net/docs/PEOPLE_Lisboa_report03.pdf

One important aspect of the PM portable devices (~ 300 grams) is that they can be plugged to a computer through a standard USB cable, thus making immediately available the data collected. This is a major advantage (from the point of view of **EuroLifeNet** objectives) over the benzene samplers, which required to be sent from Lisbon (and all other cities) to a central lab in another country, with a lag time of several months between the sample day and the data report. A potential problem is the noise when devices are operating, requiring perhaps some creative procedure to minimize the noise during a 24 h period (the slides with corresponding support movie file, allow to listen to the device noise when working).

Here is the summary of the main conclusions:

- **EuroLifeNet Pilot Project** will focus on measuring personal exposure to PM (10 or 2.5).
- IES-JRC will lend, during the duration of the pilot project (beginning 2006), the required PM portable and “background” devices to ~ 8 schools designated by CITIDEP, preferably distributed east-west, north-south in Europe, with urban and non-urban locations.
- IES-JRC will assume the scientific coordination of the project, and will provide some guidance towards the funding applications.
- CITIDEP has to provide project leadership, including in the funding application, and set up the school network and the related operations.
- For European funding, LIFE+ is a good candidate, but it will require other funding participation from national sources. We must prepare a plan and a budget to move forward and establish local partnerships.
- CITIDEP network has interested contacts in Lisbon, Viana do Castelo and Açores (Portugal), Paris and Lyon (France), Lyubliana (Slovenia) and Florence (Italy). We need to map the path to build EuroLifeNet nodes from these early contacts, and consolidate a working team.
- Patrick Goodman (Dublin Inst. Technology) is interested to support **EuroLifeNet** and facilitate a process towards having Dublin as one of the school partner sites.

b) Meeting with Barcelona contact

Took place an informal meeting between Pedro Ferraz de Abreu (CITIDEP) and Manuel González Cabré (Servei d’Informacio en Salut Ambiental, Barcelona), present at the APHEIS meeting, and that expressed interest in exploring the possibility to include Barcelona in the EuroLifeNet. Given past and current relationships with Barcelona, this is most welcome.

c) Meeting with Milano contacts

Thanks to the initiative of Anna Gerometta, from the NGO "Mamme antismog di Milano", motivated by the interest in the **PEOPLE** project, took place a meeting between Pedro Ferraz de Abreu (CITIDEP) and Paolo Crosignani, an epidemiologist of the "Milan Istituto dei Tumori", who has published work in this area and has a keen interest in promoting clean air policies to improve citizen health. We found an extensive common ground with EuroLifeNet goals, and it was agreed to begin a process that will build some form of partnership with Milan citizens, either through civil society groups or even towards having Milan as one of the school partner sites.

d) Meeting with ICS, Lisbon

Thanks to the interest demonstrated by Luisa Schmidt, a researcher at the "Instituto de Ciências Sociais" (ICS), University of Lisbon, and a well known journalist specialized on environment, it is in motion a process that may eventually take the shape of a partnership for **EuroLifeNet**.

e) Meeting with UNESCO Committee in Portugal for "EDS⁴"

Again thanks to the support of Luisa Schmidt, it began a dialogue with the Portuguese UNESCO Committee in charge of implementing a national intervention concerning United Nations **resolution 57/254**, which proclaims 2005 the beginning of the "United Nations Decade of Education Towards Sustainable Development". The **EuroLifeNet** program is fully committed to this principle and may help the UNESCO Committee to implement a concrete, unifying initiative, that could become a "flag project" for this "EDS" initiative, at least in Portugal.

f) Contacts with former PEOPLE partners in Lisbon

Given the excellent relationships that emerged from PEOPLE institutional partnerships in Lisbon, we kept a permanent dialogue with these former partners, including recent exchanges with Luisa Nogueira (CCDR-LVT) and Ana Cabral (IC). The door is open for cooperation on EuroLifeNet.

We want to express our appreciation to all these contributors.

5. Next Steps

The current developments and reactions to the EuroLifeNet proposal are extremely encouraging and exciting. We think we have good conditions to amplify the good results that were achieved by

⁴EDS - Educação para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável, 2005-2014, Portugal

PEOPLE and “PEOPLE-Citizenship”, both on what concerns advancing scientific knowledge that helps good policies, and raising citizen awareness. We can also build on other great experiences along similar lines, some of which are still in motion. But we need to move forward, in very concrete and pragmatic terms, to keep the momentum.

The EuroLifeNet proposal is still in its early design stages. This means that practically all aspects are open to modifications and improvements in the sequence of your input, including the name of the project itself. We invite your suggestions.

To our CITIDEP colleagues, as well to our colleagues from other Institutions, that are interested in being a part of EuroLifeNet, or at least to provide some kind of support, we ask to send us a written “statement of interest”, expressing as clearly as possible the expected terms and forms of contribution you can provide. These statements are **not** a formal commitment of any kind, but are of great importance to give a clear, non-ambiguous picture of the current status and potential development.

We need suggestions / information / help concerning:

- a) the design of the pilot project;
- b) the institutions that are best candidates to EuroLifeNet partners in each city / country;
- c) the persons that may become direct actors for EuroLifeNet in each city / country
(teachers, scientists/experts, institutional representatives, ngo activists, etc.)
- d) the costs of implementing each concrete facet of the project (budget building);
- e) the funding institutions and programs we should consider applying to, with details;
- f) the persons we should invite to be included in our project mailing list;
- g) what else you consider important.

We will create two project mailing lists: one, for the project task force (working messages), other for EuroLifeNet public news updates. Please let us know in which one you want to be included - if any (we do not spam). Thank you.

6. References

Ferraz de Abreu, P., Medina Silva, I., Fonseca, T. (2004), "CITIDEP Project 'PEOPLE-Citizenship'", METROPOLIS Workshop: "Information - Communication - Awareness - Education", European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC-IES), Ispra, Italy, June 2004

Fonseca, T., Ferraz de Abreu, P., Costa, D., Liquito, C., Medina Silva, I. (2003), "Promoting citizenship in schools through an european environmental study and using new technologies: the PEOPLE-Citizenship project", International Conference on Public Participation and Information Technologies, MIT, USA, 10-12 November 2003