**EFA** **Briefing for Board**

Susanna Palkonen 20 May 2009

**EFA partnership in a project proposal for the EU Public Health Programme work plan 2009**

**Project title: Health-based ventilation guidelines for Europe**

**Acronym: HealthVent**

HealthVent guidelines are to form a basis for revision of relevant building codes and standards taking in consideration health, energy efficiency, different building types and climate conditions in Europe.

**Project summary**

Present project will bring together experts from medicine, engineering, indoor air sciences, exposure assessment, energy evaluation, ventilation practices and respiratory patients. They will collect, survey and critically review the information that is necessary to develop the health-based ventilation guidelines. The experience, findings and recommendations of the previous EC projects, including ENVIE, as well as all projects relevant to the topic will be considered.

The data necessary to develop guidelines include the data on the effects of ventilation and indoor air exposures on health and diseases, the data on the types of currently used and regulated ventilation systems and their performance in Europe as well as data on the relationship between the existing ventilation strategies and technologies on the energy use in buildings. These data will be integrated and used to develop health-based ventilation guidelines which will be defined taking into account the building type in particular homes, offices and public places such as schools and nursery homes, climatic zones and ventilation strategies.

The consequences of the guidelines will be outlined for health indicators, such as reduction of DALY, for future trends in built environments as well as on energy use in buildings, establishing information necessary to continuously maintain and implement EPBD. It will among others outline the possibilities of integrating of indoor air quality in energy audits.

The project will additionally identify and summarize the gaps in knowledge and outline the needs for future research on the effects of ventilation and indoor air quality on health, as well as future needs for in indoor air quality and ventilation strategies.

The guidelines will provide information necessary for policy makers as well as all stake holders in building design, construction, operation and performance and the public. The guidelines will help Member States in revising existing building codes and practices in the light of energy efficiency of buildings and are likely to have considerable impact on improving quality of life of European citizens.

**Partners:**

**Coordinator**: Technical University of Denmark, Pawel Wargogi

**10 associated partners**, representing knowledge from technical and research side and health, including EFA:

Universitätsklinikum Jena, Germany, Wolfgang Bischof

Università degli Studi di Milano, Paolo Carrer

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Mat Santamouris

Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica Portugal, Eduardo de Oliveira Fernandes

National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, Matti Jantunen

Université de La Rochelle, France, Francis Allard

International Network for Information on Ventilation and energy Performance, Peter Wouters

Federation of European Heating and Air-conditioning Associations (REHVA), Olli Seppänen,

Association 'Asthma' (medical association I think), Todor Popov

**2 collaborating partner**: WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Matthias Braubach

DG Joint Research Centre, Stylianos Kephalopoulos

**Work packages:**

1 Coordination of the project

2 Dissemination of the project – EFA partner

3 Evaluation of the project (internal evaluation EFA partner)

4 Health and ventilation – EFA partner

5 Existing building, building codes, ventilation standards and ventilation

6 Ventilation strategies, technologies and energy

7 Health-based ventilation guidelines – EFA partner

8 Implementation and impact assessment of guidelines

**Relevance for EFA:**

* IAQ is relevant for all disease areas EFA represents and one of our policy priorities
* Since for a long time EFA has called for European programme on IAQ (to start the process rolling by Green Paper on IAQ). There are encouraging developments, but not enough and this action can contribute for such programme. The WHO Europe is preparing IAQ guidelines, but they will be more centered on presenting scientific evidence rather than forming the basis for action. Health Vent is to coordinate with WHO, who is a partner.
* HealthVent guidelines when part of Health Programme will feed in the EU policy.
* Respiratory patient perspective and experience in producing such guidelines is very important for our members and their members
* Dissemination of results actively to and advocacy by patient organizations to change current practice is our role so it is better to be paid to do it
* High political relevance: Politically, participation is very beneficial for EFA as EU advocate and the current climate change and energy efficiency agenda is about to seal our buildings without IAQ perspective. Health in all policies and health inequalities are key themes of EU Health Strategy and IAQ is key
* Brings in, although not a lot, EU funding
* Potential high impact of the results for people with allergy, asthma and COPD across Europe