

## **Are you interested in taking part in the research project “NordicPATH – Nordic participatory, healthy and people- centred cities”?**

This is an inquiry about participation in a research project where the main purpose is to find new ways for citizens to participate in collaborative air quality monitoring and urban planning activities in Nordic cities. In this letter we will give you information about the purpose of the project and what your participation will involve.

### **Purpose of the project**

NordicPATH aims at developing strategies for smart and sustainable cities with a citizen-oriented approach. We want to actively engage citizens in air quality monitoring by using novel sensor technologies to provide high-resolution air quality information to citizens and municipalities. We also want to actively involve citizens in the co-creation of potential solutions to improve air quality through workshops and on-line surveys. Our goal is to involve as many different citizen groups as possible, and to stimulate the exchange of knowledge among citizens, public authorities, private sector and scientists.

NordicPATH is a research project partially financed by NordForsk<sup>1</sup>. In NordicPATH we aim to answer the following research questions:

1. Can air quality data collected by using novel sensor technologies be used by citizens and municipalities to build healthier cities?
2. How can citizens' insights and opinions about their neighbourhood be collected and visualized to design more sustainable environmental practices?
3. Does involving citizens in co-designing sustainable practices for their neighbourhood result in increased awareness about air quality?

### **Who is responsible for the research project?**

NILU-Norwegian Institute for Air Research is the institution responsible for the project. Other research partners are IVL-Swedish Environmental Research Institute (SE), University of Gothenburg (SE), Aalborg University (DK), Maptionnaire (FI). The following municipalities are participating in the project by inviting their citizens to join the project activities: Kristiansand (NO), Gothenburg (SE), Aalborg (DK).

### **Why are you being asked to participate?**

You are invited to participate in the project activities because you are living in one of the three participating municipalities and you are over 18 years old.

### **What does participation involve for you?**

You can participate in the NordicPATH project by joining one or more of the following activities:

1. **By hosting a sensor to measure air quality where you live and/or travel.** The project will use static and mobile sensors. The sensors monitor the air quality and send the data to a server hosted by the sensor manufacturer. For data communication the sensors use SIM cards or Wi-Fi. The SIM cards are provided by the project at no cost for the participant. The data will be visualized in real-time by a web-solution provided by the sensor manufacturer and can be

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<sup>1</sup> NordForsk is an organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding for and facilitates Nordic cooperation on research and research infrastructure.

downloaded by the participant that collected the data. In the case of static sensors, they are deployed in the exterior of the house of the participant or in its surroundings. In the case of mobile sensors, they can easily be installed at, e.g., the handle of a bike. The participant is responsible for installing the sensors, with on-line assistance of the project researchers. This is to ensure the sensors are being maintained correctly and that the participants do not carry out any actions that can potentially harm the sensors. Paper and on-line instructions will be provided by the project, as well as assistance by email or phone through the project researchers. Before hosting a sensor, the participant will sign a “loan agreement”. The participant can host the sensor until the end of the project. The researchers can ask at any time to return the sensor. The participant can also return the sensor at any time without need of explanation and without any consequence for them.

- 2. By participating in workshops together with representatives of your municipality to co-create potential solutions to improve air quality and liveability in your city.** The project will facilitate workshops at neighbourhood level for representatives of the municipality and residents of a specific neighbourhood, as defined by the project. The goal of the workshops is to tackle specific challenges identified by both the municipality and the neighbourhood residents. Each workshop will facilitate for participation of 10-30 residents and have a duration between 2-3 hours. Information of the location and time of the workshop will be given with at least 3 weeks of notice. Where necessary, for instance due to the COVID-19 situation or similar, the workshops will take place on-line. The participants are free to select the workshops they want to participate in. Participation in a workshop does not result in an obligation to participate in subsequent workshops.
- 3. By participating in online surveys to provide your views and ideas to specific topics in your city concerning air quality and environmental and urban planning.** The project will launch several online surveys that will be accessible for the citizens from the participant municipalities. The surveys will only collect personal data to ensure a diversity of respondents (e.g. gender, age range, education level). The survey will not collect name or residence or any other information that can relate to you as email or IP address. The answers will be collected electronically. The collected data will allow the municipality to consider residents’ insights when designing measures to improve air quality and liveability in the city. There is no need to install any software to answer the questionnaire. Answering the survey will take between 5 and 20 minutes each.

### **Participation is voluntary**

Participation in the project is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can withdraw your consent at any time without giving a reason. There will be no negative consequences for you if you choose not to participate or later decide to withdraw.

### **Your personal privacy – how we will store and use your personal data**

We will only use your personal data for the purpose(s) specified in this information letter. We will process your personal data confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation (the General Data Protection Regulation and Personal Data Act). All personal information will be anonymised before processing.

- 1. When borrowing a sensor:** We will keep your contact information separate from the measured data. Only the project partner that has countersigned the “loan agreement” for the sensor will keep your contact information (Name, address, email address, telephone number). This information will be stored safely at the respective project partners’ server without any other project partner being able to access it. The documents with your contact information will be password protected and/or encrypted.

2. **When participating in a workshop:** Your first name will be accessible for the rest of participants of the workshop. In case you do not want to use your real first name when introducing yourself, you can use a pseudonym. Your contact information (full name, address, email address, telephone number) will not be disclosed. This information will be stored safely at the server of the project partner that has organized the workshop and that has countersigned the “participation agreement”, without any other project partner being able to access it. The documents with your contact information will be password protected and/or encrypted. The project partners will have access to the anonymised documentation created in the workshop. An explicit consent for taking pictures or recording the whole or parts of the workshop will be asked for further below, as well, as at the beginning of each workshop.
3. **When participating through an online survey:** We will not ask for any personal information. All information we need from you will be related to your opinion/experience related to the topics urban planning, air quality and environmental policies in your city. All information you provide is anonymous and cannot be related to you.

All the personal information we receive from you is only for administrative and legal purposes and will not be used as part of the project research. Only anonymized data will be shared among the project partners. The anonymized collected data from sensors, workshops and online surveys will be used for research purposes as well as for the municipalities participating in the NordicPATH project for improving environmental and urban planning processes.

### **What will happen to your personal data at the end of the research project?**

The project is scheduled to end 31 March 2023. All personal data will be deleted at the end of the project. You can ask to have your personal information deleted at any moment during the duration of the project.

All other anonymised data will be transferred to the online repository Zenodo for research purposes.

### **Your rights**

So long as you can be identified in the collected data, you have the right to:

- access the personal data that is being processed about you
- request that your personal data is deleted
- request that incorrect personal data about you is corrected/rectified
- receive a copy of your personal data (data portability), and
- send a complaint to the Data Protection Officer or The Norwegian Data Protection Authority regarding the processing of your personal data

### **What gives us the right to process your personal data?**

We will process your personal data based on your consent.

Based on an agreement with the project leader NILU-Norwegian Institute for Air Research, NSD – The Norwegian Centre for Research Data AS has assessed that the processing of personal data in this project is in accordance with data protection legislation.

### **Where can you find out more?**

If you have questions about the project, or want to exercise your rights, contact:

- NILU-Norwegian Institute for Air Research via Dr. Nuria Castell ([ncb@nilu.no](mailto:ncb@nilu.no))
- Our Data Protection Officer: Kristin Butveit, HR Manager ([kbu@nilu.no](mailto:kbu@nilu.no))
- NSD – The Norwegian Centre for Research Data AS, by email: ([personvertjenester@nsd.no](mailto:personvertjenester@nsd.no)) or by telephone: +47 55 58 21 17.



Yours sincerely,

Project Leader, Dr. Nuria Castell