

ACCENT-Plus: Linking science and policy needs in atmospheric composition changeMichela Maione[†];[†] University of Urbino, ItalyLeading author: michela.maione@uniurb.it

Over the past six years, the European Network of Excellence ACCENT (Atmospheric Composition Change: the European Network) has successfully accomplished the task of bringing together the atmospheric science community engaged in global change and air pollution studies. The EC FP7 Coordination and support action ACCENT-Plus (Atmospheric Composition Change: the European Network-Policy Support and Science) aims at extending the breadth of ACCENT to reach out more strongly to the policy community to facilitate the transfer of research results into policy development and decision making. A prerequisite to achieve this goal is to maintain the coordination and integration of the European science community in the field of atmospheric composition change and to strengthen the outreach from the scientific synthesis of ACCENT into the policy arena, within the European Research Area (ERA) context and, where possible, to wider global decision making activities. The networking/coordination actions that will facilitate this process include: * Involving the entire science community in the networking activity by associating with the new project the previous partners and associates of ACCENT; * Contributing to the development of new structures and initiatives for atmospheric composition research in Europe; * Organising a biennial gathering of the atmospheric composition research science community by continuing the series of Urbino Symposia; * Organising topical workshops on the relevant aspects of atmospheric composition change issues; Each workshop will be summarized by an appropriate synthesis for policy makers; The ultimate goal of ACCENT-Plus is to focus the research efforts of the community on answering the general question: "How can Europe control the composition of its atmosphere under a changing climate?", and to transfer the science results to policy/decision making. This will be obtained through the preparation of four key synthesis papers that present the latest understanding on four major topics of importance for policy. These topics are: (1) tropospheric ozone and its precursors at the regional and global scale; (2) the global nitrogen cycle and its importance for society; (3) the atmospheric methane budget now and through the current century and its importance in the climate problem and wider role in atmospheric composition change; (4) particulate matter with emphasis on the formation and fate of aerosol particles and their role in air quality and climate issues.