

ESCAPE LUR DEVELOPMENT AT TWO DIFFERENT SCALES: CATALUNYA AND BARCELONA AREAS

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Background/Aims: The objective of the study was to develop land use regression (LUR) models at two different scale levels (Catalunya and Barcelona) within the framework of ESCAPE project for assessment of long-term population exposure to air pollution.

Methods: Following the ESCAPE protocol we selected 80 locations spread over Barcelona (40), Sabadell (16) and Girona area (24) and collected NO_x/NO₂ levels using passive samplers (Ogawa). We took 14-days measurements in 3 different seasons during 2009 in order to calculate the annual average. We also sampled NO₂ continuously during the year on a fixed station in each area for time adjustment.

We gathered geographical information and created predictor variables at each site using ArcGis 9.2. Using multiple linear regressions, we constructed models for the Catalunya and Barcelona areas separately.

Results: The Barcelona model (40 sites) explained 72% of the intraurban NO₂ variability using four variables: high density residential area within 300 m, inverse distance to the nearest major road, inverse distance to the nearest street plus traffic intensity on that street and total length of road within 1000m. The Catalunya model explained 70% of the NO₂ variability using three variables: roadlength1000, traffic intensity within 25m and natural area within 5000m. Results for NO_x were similar.

Conclusion: As part of the Europe wide ESCAPE project we have LUR models for Barcelona and Catalunya that can be linked to epidemiological studies in the study areas. Further work will include the comparison of these models with other LUR and dispersion models in the areas.