



# Air Quality in The Netherlands

# How did we start again?

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## Kick-off meeting 21-22 June 2016

- Two days, 18 SAIs, brainstorm sessions
- Goal of the meeting: set up a common audit framework for the cooperative audit on air quality and discuss project management issues.
- End result: audit framework + chosen methodology (buffet-model)



# Audit framework

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Main audit question:

What is known about the effectiveness and efficiency of measures taken by the national and local government to improve air quality and are these measures compliant with international and national legislation?



# Audit framework – sub-questions

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1. What is the main problem in your country regarding air pollution?
2. What governance system is in place; who is responsible for what?
3. What rules and regulations are laid down in legislature?
4. What policy is undertaken to tackle the problem?
5. How is policy funded, what is known about the cost of the measures taken and the measurable benefits?
6. How is the status of and development in air pollution monitored and reported?



# What happened after the kick-off meeting?

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- 2 co-coordinators – NIK and NCA
- 16 SAIs in total – EU / Non –EU
- 3 meetings after the kick-off meeting
- SAIs work on the national reports
- Co-coordinators work on the joint report and coordinates the process towards a joint report



# Why a cooperative audit on air quality?

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- Contribute to knowledge on how air quality policies are implemented on national levels and how effective and efficient these national policies are.
- Air pollution is a transboundary problem - important that governments work together to find a common solution.
- Working together to increase the impact of the joint report.
- Deliver a powerful message by the presentation of common findings and joint conclusions and recommendations.



## Why a cooperative audit on air quality? (2)

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- Spur national governments to take preventive and corrective actions.
- Increase the public awareness on air pollution, how the citizens are informed and what their governments are doing.
- Foster knowledge exchange by presenting best practices and experiences.
- Promote cooperation between SAIs.



# Lessons learned

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- One project coordinator or two co-coordinators?
- Two co-coordinators:
- Formal agreement: make expectations clear and write them down at the beginning
- Make clear how you see your role as a coordinator
- Make a detailed timetable, taking into account time-consuming procedures - internal QC rules





## Lessons learned (2)

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- Decide how you want to gather the information and what kind of information you think you need.
- Re-evaluate if the data you gathered is still useful.
- Keep communicating about the expectations and be very clear and open in your communication.
- When you have decided to develop a joint report, make a final decision about which elements to include.



# Extra tips in general

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- Communication is key!
- Determine form of cooperation: joint, parallel, coordinated, concurrent
- General consensus on audit questions, approach, end product
- Have multiple meetings, get to know each other, exchange audit experiences and findings during the audit.
- Discuss internal work procedures, habits, match schedules etc



## Extra tips in general (2)

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- Make a timetable.
- A cooperative audit costs more time!!
- Conduct the audits simultaneously to the extent possible.
- Choose the type of reporting that best fits your purpose(s).  
Develop a joint report if there is added value.
- Use of cases/good practices/best practices in your report
- Choose the right time for publication of the joint report for more impact



# Thank you for your attention

