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AQMO

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AQMO	Air Quality and Mobility	
Q&As	Questions and Answers	
R&I	Research and Innovation	

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Executive Summary

The AQMO project aims to develop an end-to-end platform integrating, in a common framework, air quality measuring, data analytics and pollution modelling and forecast to provide political executives and citizens.

At the beginning, the final dissemination action of the AQMO project was planned to be a two-day physical workshop that would have disseminated the project's results among several communities: air quality monitoring specialists, HPC experts...

Measures of restrictions taken in France and all over Europe due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to change this plan and organize a virtual workshop that was shooted in Rennes mid-December 2020.

This report provides details of the organisational effort that went into the preparation of the originally planned AQMO workshop. It describes how and why the team opted for a new format and how it has been thought to maximize the impact of the dissemination efforts.

The first dissemination of the virtual workshop will be done at the end of January 2021 through different platforms, among which the AQMO project website.

Introduction

The AQMO workshop was originally to be held as a collocated event to the InOut conference series organised in May in Rennes, France, while involving a large set of stakeholders, i.e. from industry, academia, and local authorities as well as citizens.

However, due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the project team decided, to postpone it until July 2020, and later until the autumn 2020, in the expectation of a significant improvement in the global situation, and on the other hand, to prepare this same workshop virtually in case of impossibility to maintain it on site.

Finally, as the global sanitary situation did not improve, it was decided to have this workshop professionally recorded in December 2020 instead of holding a live virtual one.

By involving just a few speakers from the project team and no audience, it allowed to still introduce the various project results through presentations and a round of pre-established Q&As, all while achieving an asynchronously presentable product that can be shared and reused by all partners within their respective channels.

During this workshop, all partners highlighted the results of projects and how they were obtained. They shared their expertise, explaining how they had contributed to the project and what they had gained from it in their own activities and for their future vision.

This report is organized around three sections: the first part briefly explains the partnership original plan, the second details the discussion and decisions made by the consortium in response to the restrictions' measures due to Covid-19 pandemic. The third section finally reports the organization of the virtual workshop.

1 AQMO Workshop Organisation

As part of its dissemination strategy, the AQMO communication team aims to disseminate the project's results, maximize the project's impact, raise awareness for citizen and policy makers and ensure sustainability and extension of the platform after the end of the project.

For the last 2 years, the AQMO project team has participated in a large number of external events and conferences, aiming to share their progress within the partners' communities and expand the project's networks.

With this same objective in mind, the team was in charge of organising an AQMO workshop which would gather key stakeholders (e.g academia, industry, policy makers) in order to present a live demonstration of the platform developed and share the latest results with the global community.

The original idea was to separate the workshop in 2 to 3 specific aspects over two half-days, in order to reach the project's various target audiences: scientists, users and the wider public.

As a complementary part of the "technical" section of this workshop, a physical event gathering citizens and representatives from local authorities (from the Rennes metropolitan area and beyond) was to be held in May 2020 in Rennes (France), taking advantage of the annual InOut conference series organised at the same time to maximize its visibility.

As this major event is organised by the project partner Rennes Métropole for stakeholders to exchange about mobility, test innovations and witness full-scale experimentations, this naturally appeared as a crucial opportunity for AQMO to spread the word and disseminate its results for potential replication in Europe.

The AQMO team has been regularly in contact with the InOut event coordinator in order to ensure the proper connection of the two events.

2 Covid-19 Pandemic – Switch from Physical to Virtual Workshop

As the Covid-19 restrictions intensified at the French level, InOut as well as all major European events relevant for AQMO (such as the EuroHPC Summit Week) were cancelled and/or postponed.

The quarantine measures in place disturbed the course of the project's progress and its various on-going campaigns (sensors installation on buses, data collection and processing etc.). That's why the team decided to first postpone its AQMO workshop in July 2020, in the expectation of a significant improvement in the global situation; meanwhile requesting a project extension for an opportunity to prepare for better end-of-project dissemination conditions at a later date in Autumn 2020.

The team continued organising its workshop, with a narrowed audience in mind, and started looking for venues in Rennes still. After listing our main requirements and needs, we gathered a few venue suggestions (i.e Le Couvent des Jacobins and Les Ateliers du Vent) as well as draft agendas to be discussed with the rest of the consortium. Meanwhile, the AQMO partners contributed to put together a list of potential invitees to the workshop.

After comparing the venues considered, the team decided to hold on the one hand, the technical parts of the workshop on project partners' premises, in order to optimise the event expenditure, and on the other hand, to welcome attendees from the wider public in a venue benefiting from more space, to ensure that the event would take place in as safe as possible sanitary conditions.

Later, as the global sanitary situation did not improve over the 2020 second and third trimester and because of the impossibility to have relatively large gatherings on site, the AQMO team decided to switch formats to hold a live virtual workshop in Autumn 2020.

As the year went by, the overall R&I community seemed to start suffering from Zoom burnout. The consortium then finally adapted its decision and opted for organising a pre-recorded physical event with a small panel, and which would then be fully accessible to all stakeholders via AQMO channels and partners. The other advantage of this format was its reproducibility and flexibility.

To ensure the best possible quality for its pre-recorded event, the AQMO team decided to work with professional video makers.

3 Pre-recorded Workshop Organisation

Following the decision to switch to a professionally pre-recorded workshop, the AQMO consortium commissioned Eddy Tertrais and his film crew to carry out this action.

The recording took place in Rennes as originally planned. The place chosen as the setting for this workshop was Whoorks.

Whoorks provides workspaces, either private or shared, for a chosen period of time. Each centre offers common areas, with coffee corners, meeting rooms and even an agora, a real conversation space that can accommodate up to a hundred people.

The AQMO coordinators received their proposal soon after for revision, concluded it was perfectly appropriate, matched all requirements and fit the budget allocated for this action (i.e. for private meeting, lunch on premise and filming space) and engaged in the contracting process with them.

The shooting of the AQMO workshop took place on 17 December 2020. The video is set to be finalised and published through all project's and project partners' channels by February 2021.



Figure 1 – AQMO Workshop shooting at Whoorks in Rennes, France

Conclusion

Even if the project's main dissemination event had to be reorganized into a prerecording workshop, this method offers many advantages compared to a physical event as the content can be seen at any time from any place, thus having the capacity to reach a broader audience.

The resulting video will be shared through two main channels: the project's website and social networks for the large public. A targeted mailing campaign will complement this approach, building on the list of contacts provided by the project's partners, thus ensuring that the main audiences are properly reached.

AQMO partners have also already expressed their interest to disseminate the virtual workshop through their own communication channel.

The expected release date of the video is the 21st of January, 2021.