



IDEAL

INDOOR AIR QUALITY
HEALTH

CLUSTER POLICY STRATEGY

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cluster details

Cluster title	Indoor Air Quality and Health
Cluster acronym	IDEA/IDEAL
Dates and duration	September 1 st 2022 – August 31 st 2026 (48 months)
Horizon Europe call	HORIZON-HLTH-2021-ENVHLTH-02-02 Indoor air quality and health
Number of projects	7

IDEAL's projects

PROJECT	TITLE	GA NUMBER
K-HEALTHinAIR	Knowledge for improving indoor air quality and health	101057693
SynAir-G	Disrupting Noxious Synergies of Indoor Air Pollutants and their Impact on Childhood Health and Wellbeing	101057271
LEARN	Evaluation on indoor air quality for children around Europe	101057510
TwinAIR	Indoor air quality for healthy living	101057779
InChildHealth	Identifying determinants for indoor air quality and their health impact in environments for children: measures to improve indoor air quality and reduce disease burdens	101056883
Inquire	Identification of chemical and biological determinants, their sources, and strategies to promote healthier homes in Europe	101057499
EDIAQI	Evidence Driven Indoor Air Quality Improvement	101057497

Cluster's aim

To optimise synergies, avoid overlaps and increase the impact of the projects selected for funding under the call HORIZON-HLTH-2021-ENVHLTH-02-02 Indoor air quality and health, the projects have formed a cluster. Common cluster activities include the following:

1. Common cluster kick-off meeting of the six projects
2. Annual cluster meetings and periodic report of joint activities
3. Common dissemination and communication activities
4. Thematic workshops/trainings on issues of common interest
5. Working groups on topics of common interest
6. Advisory board

Document details

Deliverable Type	Report
Deliverable N°	-
Deliverable Title	Common Policy Strategy for the IDEAL Cluster
Name of Lead Partners for this deliverable	SynAir-G, KHealthInAir
Version	V.1.0
Contractual delivery date	31 August 2023
Actual delivery date	31 August 2023
Dissemination Level	Public
Purpose	This document outlines the common policy strategy for the IDEAL cluster. It identifies the main policy goals and stakeholders, as well as the key milestones and deliverables, to maximise the impact of the Cluster activities at the policy-making level.

Revision history

The following table describes the main changes done in the document since it was created.

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR (PROJECT)
V.0.1	14/07/2023	First draft	Panagiotis Chaslaridis, SynAir-G Valeria Ramiconi, SynAir-G Agata Papotto, SynAir-G Carla Viegas, InChildHealth Alex Borg, Ediaqi Jon Switters, Ediaqi
V.0.2	21/08/2023	Second draft	Panagiotis Chaslaridis, SynAir-G Valeria Ramiconi, SynAir-G Agata Papotto, SynAir-G
V.0.3	29/08/2023	Third Draft	Olympia Ageli, TwinAIR Stylios Karatzas, TwinAIR
V.1.0	29/08/2023	Final version	Panagiotis Chaslaridis, SynAir-G Valeria Ramiconi, SynAir-G Agata Papotto, SynAir-G

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2. IDEAL CLUSTER COMMON POLICY STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

The Common **Policy Strategy** of the IDEAL Cluster is an activity jointly led by SynAir-G and K-HealthInAir projects, in collaboration with the wider Working Group on Science Translation for Policy and Practice (WG1).

This document details the IDEAL Cluster strategy and methodologies to implement effective policy actions in order to maximise the impact of the IDEAL Cluster and the individual projects of its members. Dissemination will be based on the activities and plans proposed by the Common Dissemination and Communication Strategy of the Cluster.

The common policy strategy provides an overview of the objectives, plans, timeline, activities and resources involved in the policy activities of the cluster.

2.2 Policy Aims and Strategy

The final objective of the IDEAL Cluster Common Policy Strategy is **the identification of recommendations to ensure the scientific translation of indoor air quality research into policy and practice and maximise the impact of the findings and results from the different projects.** Each policy brief will identify specific policy recommendation which will be consolidated as they are published and will be added in this document as an Annex. The recommendations as part of the policy brief will be then shared through the IDEAL Cluster channels as well as tools and outcomes of the document.

The Strategy entails several activities:

- The identification of relevant target groups (public and private bodies, civil society, stakeholders) at different levels of interest (international, national, regional, local) involved in (or affected by) the policy-making process, including:
 - Members of the European Parliament participating in relevant committees e.g. ENVI, ITRE etc.
 - Officials in relevant Commission services e.g. DG Environment, DG Energy, DG Research and Innovation etc.
 - Relevant national ministries e.g. of countries presiding the Council of the European Union
- Community building, to ensure a continuous interface among different projects and complementarity of work.
- The production and use of multidisciplinary evidence addressing barriers and real gaps to science translation while supporting decision-makers to transform society for the better.
- The identification of the key messages and findings to be translated for different policy levels, using the most relevant tools/actions for communication, dissemination and exploitation.
- The development of different channels for external communication of results, including dissemination events, social media, participation in conferences, policy briefs etc

2.3 Deliverables and Contribution

The IDEAL Cluster identified in the Working Group 1 “Science translation for policy and practices” the responsible organisations for the policy efforts of the cluster. Two projects, K-HealthInAir and SynAir-G are the co-leaders of the WG, but all the IDEAL Cluster projects members will contribute equally to the effort.

The working group will develop policy briefs and recommendations addressed to European and National authorities, to integrate the results of the cluster into policy strategies and initiatives, and influence the priorities of policy-makers, ensuring a timely uptake of the research findings.

In order to ensure an effective outreach of the policy-related deliverables, the WG1 will meet online at least once every semester to align on strategies, tasks and responsibilities. At the same time, additional ad hoc meetings can be organised to ensure the regular updates sharing as well as co-creation of the deliverables. After each meeting, a document with the minutes of the online session will be circulated among the WG1 members.

On the more operational side, an online shared folder will be provided to collect members inputs on the deliverables and work together on documents and their review.

Table 1: Working Group 1 Deliverables

Deliverable name	Lead partners	Contributing partners	Description	Due date
Cluster Policy Strategy	SynAirG K-HealthinAir	ALL	Definition of the 4-year strategy for the cluster to maximise the impact of the result of the 6 projects.	M12
Policy Briefs	SynAirG K-HealthinAir	ALL	Focused on science for policy communication / translation. Report on how the results of the cluster could contribute to policy strategies and initiatives.	M18 M32 M46

The key deliverables of this work are the three **Joint Policy Briefs**, which will focus on facilitating communication/translation of scientific evidence into policy and will report on how the results of the IDEAL Cluster could contribute to actual policy strategies and initiatives. The publication of the Joint Policy Briefs is foreseen as follows:

- March 2024, for the 1st Joint Policy Brief (JPB 1)
- July 2025, for the 2nd Joint Policy Brief (JPB 2)
- August 2026, for the 3rd Joint Policy Brief (JPB 3)

The WG1 reached a consensus on the approach the JPBs will adopt. The following approach was agreed:

- JPB 1 will provide a broad overview, defining the overarching issues linked to IAQ and the current situation of Indoor Air Quality in Europe. The focus will be to offer an outline of the objectives of the IDEAL Cluster projects. Stemming from these objectives, the JPB1 will aim to provide with key policy questions as well as recommendations.
- JPB 2 and JPB 3 will be more specific in nature, according to the advancements of the studies, the result of the research carried out and the identified gaps regarding IAQ. JPB 2 and JPB 3 will differ in scope from JPB 1, in the sense that they will aim to outline the main research findings that will be available by then. Nevertheless, like JPB 1, they will also seek to articulate specific recommendations for policy action.

All Joint Policy Briefs will be aligned with the scientific objectives of each project to ensure that they build on the scientific knowledge of research carried out in the individual projects. Their aim will be to act as a guide for policy-makers to understand pervasive issues linked to IAQ and to in turn foster more evidence-informed decisions. Furthermore, each project will also develop guidelines addressed to end users, policy-makers, and industry actors reflecting the findings of research from each individual project, including recommendations on pollutants. The joint work of the WG1 and WG4 will ensure the alignment of the final outcomes and deliverables.

To ensure a smooth, collaborative, and efficient working process, several meetings will be organised, including annual and periodic Cluster meetings as well as WG1 biannual meetings.

Thematic workshops/trainings will also contribute to the process as delineated in the IDEAL Cluster implementation plan. A policy component will in fact be present in every workshop organised by the

IDEAL Cluster, to ensure that this crucial part of the joint work is put forward and is made visible to internal and external stakeholders.

To reinforce outreach, the news about the publication of the JPBs will also be included in the Cluster's and projects' newsletters. Finally, the project partners leading this task within WG1 will explore possibilities for further dissemination in coordination with the WG3 (Communication and dissemination), for example through press releases.

2.4 EU and International policies linked to Indoor Air Quality

The IDEAL Cluster identified a series of EU-level and international policies looking at different aspects of IAQ. A tracker has been developed and made available to all Cluster members for their contribution. The tracker is a living document that will be updated during the duration of the IDEAL Cluster and beyond. The table below provides a non-exhaustive list of several identified policies:

Table 2: EU and international policies related to indoor air quality

Name	Aim
Zero Pollution Action Plan	Improve air quality, reduce the number of premature deaths caused by air pollution by 55% by 2030
Ambient Air Quality Directives (2008-under revision)	Improve air quality by setting concentration limits and common measurement methods for certain pollutants
EU Renovations Wave initiative (2020)	Boost renovations in Europe
Directive 2018/844 on the Energy Performance of Buildings (2018-under revision)	Decrease the environmental and climate footprint of the EU building sector, accelerate renovations
New European Bauhaus initiative (2020)	Enhance quality of life and health within built environments
EU Regulation 305/2011 for the Marketing of Construction Products (2011-under revision)	Establish harmonised standards to assess the performance of construction products
EU Directive 2004/37/EC on Carcinogens, Mutagens and reprotoxic substances directive (2004-revised on a rolling basis)	Protect workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens or reprotoxic substances at work
Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) (2006 – under revision)	Improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals
Directive for the exposure to asbestos at work (2009 – under revision)	Protect workers health from risk of asbestos exposure, via limit values and specific requirements
WHO Air Quality Guidelines (2021)	Provide evidence-based recommendations on the levels of air pollutants in relation to critical health outcomes

[WHO fungal priority pathogens list to guide research, development and public health action](#) (WHO FPPL) (2022)

First global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering their unmet research and development (R&D) needs and perceived public health importance. The WHO FPPL aims to focus and drive further research and policy interventions to strengthen the global response to fungal infections and antifungal resistance.

2.5 Stakeholders mapping and engagement

The IDEAL Cluster developed a **stakeholder map**, with actors from various sectors such as health, education, science, construction and policy/civil society, including internal dissemination channels to facilitate the outreach and to mainstream IAQ importance. The list of relevant stakeholders from the area of industry, and civil society at both the EU and international level, is also a living document that can be accessed by the IDEAL Cluster members via the internal repository throughout the duration project. The final list with the relevant stakeholders will be used for dissemination of the policy briefs and other relevant policy related activities of the IDEAL Cluster.

2.6 Communication and Dissemination

The IDEAL Cluster has put forward a Communication and Dissemination Strategy detailing the various activities involved and their objectives. This will ensure an effective outreach vis-a-vis policy-related deliverables. The plan includes:

- The identification of primary and secondary target audience within the indoor air quality ecosystem, including academia, policymakers, industry associations, EU authorities, and the general public.
- The creation of an internal communication channel, including tools such as a common repository platform, an internal newsletter, and various distribution lists and internal events.
- Details on external communication channels and tools, including the website, newsletter, social media channels together with the rules and guidelines for using them.

Importantly, the plan foresees a series of events to support the dissemination of the policy outcomes of all the projects across the IDEAL Cluster as well as relevant stakeholders, including the wider public. In addition, each project composing the IDEAL Cluster has public events planned. Although the initiatives may emerge from individual projects, all Cluster members will be involved, to ensure that the dissemination of IDEAL Cluster findings and results are fully leveraged. Examples of these events include:

- SynAir-G launch event for policy recommendations at the European Parliament (October 2025): this event will be linked to the publication of the 2nd Joint Policy Brief.
- Joint Final conference (October 2026): this event will showcase the final Cluster projects' results and policy recommendations and will include academia, health care professionals, civil society as well as policy-makers.
- Newsletters to be developed under the WG3 scope.

2.7 Synergies with other EU projects and initiatives

The 7 projects involved in the IDEAL Cluster often foster synergies with projects falling under other EU research programmes. The aim is to build a common research space and avoid overlaps while also increasing the impact of these projects, and therefore maximising the usability of the evidence in policymaking. Some examples include:

- [European Human Exposome Network](#) (EHEN), which aims to protect citizens' health and wellbeing from pollution and environmental deterioration by providing new evidence for better preventive policies.
- [Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals](#) (PARC), which aims to develop next-generation chemical risk assessment in order to protect health and the environment.
- [Urban Health Cluster](#), which aims to improve and safeguard health and well-being of citizens, specifically focusing on urban areas.
- [Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring](#) (IPCHEM), in the context of the WG2 activities

Suggestion to rephrase a bit: The synergies with other projects will be fostered through multiple channels, including by inviting other projects' representatives to IDEAL Cluster events and workshops. In addition, as some IDEAL Cluster partners are also involved in some of the listed initiatives, we expect that there will be ample space for sharing knowledge and latest updates. These interactions will offer the opportunity to maximise the outreach, strengthen the impact and enable the exchange of good practices both within the Cluster and externally.

ANNEX I

Translation of indoor air quality research into policy Recommendations of the IDEAL Cluster