

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Geneva, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (10-13h)

*Intervention up to 5 minutes from the floor within the General Segment; Item 3-Substantive issues; (a) Thematic session on Access to information; (f) Dissemination of real time, up to date, accurate and functional environmental information in forms and formats meeting the needs of different users.*

### STATEMENT by Rosa Arias (D-NOSES Project Coordinator, Ibercivis, Spain)

- Thank you, Chair, for this opportunity to present information about the D-NOSES project to the Parties and stakeholders. My name is Rosa Arias, and I am joined by my colleagues Nora Salas and Professor Stephen Stec, who is one of the members of our Advisory Board.
- **D-NOSES (Distributed Network for Odour Sensing, Empowerment and Sustainability, <http://d-noses.eu/>)** is a European Union's Horizon 2020 project that started in April 2018 and will last for three years, with a 3,1M budget and a total of 15 partners from 9 countries (**Spain, UK, Portugal, Greece, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Italy and Chile**). It is coordinated by the Ibercivis Foundation in Spain, the main authors of the European White Paper on Citizen Science.
- D-NOSES will implement **Principle 10** to provide access to information, public participation and access to justice for sustainability and governance in **odour pollution**, an under-regulated environmental issue that accounts as the second cause of environmental complaints after noise at a global level.
- Yet, odour pollution has repeatedly been **ignored in environmental regulations** leaving citizens defenceless. Due to the lack of regulation, situated technical studies are rarely conducted and data and statistics on odour pollution are scarce or difficult to access.
- Frequent odour pollution in populated areas can cause nuisance, headache, stress, anxiety or respiratory problems. It can also be related to other health and sanitary issues.
- Odour pollution also acts as a sign of alert of larger environmental issues, such as poor waste management, polluted water, inadequate industrial management or illegal dumping, amongst others.
- In addition, one of the main odorants (methane, CH<sub>4</sub>) is a powerful greenhouse gas (GHG) mainly produced in landfills and livestock facilities (a sector that accounts for the 25% of the total GHGs emissions, according to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC). Reducing odour emissions will increase global sustainability and contribute to the fight against **climate change**.
- **How will the project ensure public participation?** D-NOSES works with a quadruple helix approach to involve all relevant stakeholders (society, academia, industry and policy makers) that will be applied at **local, national and global levels**. We will use co-creation, participatory and engagement strategies at all levels and provide citizen science tools for generating odour data and ensure a high level of engagement across at least six European countries (Spain,

Italy, Portugal, Greece, UK and Bulgaria) and Chile, plus 4 extra countries to be determined. To reinforce the project's international dimension, we encourage other countries to engage with our **10 citizen science interventions**.

- **How will the project provide access to information?** Citizens participating in the project will not only have access to information, but will become **data generators** thanks to citizen science. We all have the best sensor to measure odours, our own nose, and we have created a simple App, **OdourCollect**, to co-create collaborative odour maps and identify conflicted areas. This will allow, for the first time, to gather **real time data** to tackle odour pollution in collaboration with the emitting industries and the relevant environmental authorities. **Accuracy** of the generated data will be guaranteed by odour experts to verify the origin of each observation and co-design local solutions. All data will be open and freely available (<https://odourcollect.socientize.eu/#/>). We will also create the **International Odour Observatory** to gather and make available all information in relation to odours, such as the regulatory framework, odour emitting industries and any other data of interest. The odour observatory will be available by the end of 2018.
- **How will the project provide access to justice?** The ultimate goal of D-NOSES is to introduce odour pollution in the policy agendas. Results from the ten citizen science interventions could generate community-based regulations that will follow the recommendations of the European White Paper on Governance ([http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_DOC-01-10\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_DOC-01-10_en.htm)). Advocacy actions, together with the project results, will produce **DIY Guidelines for project replicability, scientific standards and guidelines for policy making** and **The Green Paper on Odour Pollution** by 2021. A **'Strategic Roadmap on Odour Pollution'** will pave the way for bottom-up, multi-level governance for increased sustainability in the medium to long term.
- D-NOSES also considers the six dimensions of **Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)**, which include access to information, public engagement, ethics, science education, gender and governance.
- D-NOSES will also contribute to the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** as it is aligned with several **Sustainable Development Goals** within the **Environmental, Social, Economic and Cross-cutting Dimensions**, especially SDG3 (Good health and well-being), SDG13 (climate action), SDG15 (Life on land), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG5 (Gender equality).
- To conclude, D-NOSES aims to engage European countries at a high political level to pave the way for the creation of the **first European Regulatory Framework in Odour Pollution**. In December 2016, **Poland** encouraged the European Council to start working on an appropriate legislative proposal.
- We welcome countries interested in contributing to odour pollution advancements to engage with D-NOSES and contribute to the implementation of Principle 10 with their particular cases studies. Please contact me for more information at the e-mail [rarias@bifi.es](mailto:rarias@bifi.es). I will also be available during the networking breaks. You can get one project brochure and engage. Thank you.