

**19th International Conference on
Harmonisation within Atmospheric
Dispersion Modelling
for Regulatory Purposes
3-6 June 2019, Bruges, Belgium**



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First Announcement

**19th International Conference on
Harmonisation within Atmospheric
Dispersion Modelling
for Regulatory Purposes**



**Bruges, Belgium
3-6 June 2019**

Organized by

**VITO
Mol, Belgium**

Audience

The 19th International conference on Harmonisation within Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling for Regulatory Purposes (Harmo 19) is aimed towards model developers, model users, environmental protection agencies and legislation experts. What distinguishes this conference from many others is its focus on common tools and methodologies.

Focus of the conference

The series of international conferences on Harmonisation within Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling for Regulatory Purposes is concerned with the improvement of "modelling culture" both in Europe and at an international level.

Dispersion modelling is widely used for regulatory purposes, both for permits and for assessments, but there is a lack of sufficient mechanisms to make modelling processes transparent and ensure trust in modelling results.

There are many open questions and aspects of this, such as: Are the models scientifically sound for the purpose they are used? Are the models validated against observations or physical experiments? Are the models properly used by the experts? Are the users familiar with good practices and do they avoid bad practices? Are model developments sufficiently quality assured? Are reference problems established? Is proper exchange of experiences ensured? Work on these questions is needed in order to assess the air quality impacts on society and nature, on human health, biodiversity and climate.

Such issues that are not specific for one particular model, but common to several, are in focus at the 19th International conference on Harmonisation within Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling for Regulatory Purposes.

The series of Harmonisation conferences started in 1991 (see www.harmo.org) and is a natural forum for discussing modelling issues related to the European Union air quality directives. European networks such as the FAIRMODE network and COST Actions can use the conference in order to expose their work to a wider audience.

The Harmonisation conferences provide the ground where model users and decision-makers can bring their requirements to the attention of scientists and search together for better regulatory tools and indicators for the diverse impacts of air quality.

Find further details:

<https://www.harmo19.vito.be/>

<http://www.harmo.org>

Call for abstracts

Short abstracts of maximum 350 words should be submitted by **October 31, 2018** through the link

<https://harmo19.vito.be/programme/abstract-submission>

with indication of preference for oral or poster presentation and topic.

Sessions will be organised within the following topics:

- Model evaluation and quality assurance – model validation, model intercomparisons, model uncertainties and model sensitivities.
- Environmental impact assessment: Air pollution management and decision support systems.
- Use of modelling in support of EU air quality directives, including FAIRMODE activities.
- Parametrization of Physical Processes and Mathematical Problems in Meteorology and Air Quality Modelling.
- Urban Scale and Street Canyon Modelling: Meteorology, Air Quality and Passive Control Systems.
- Use of modelling in health and exposure assessments.
- Inverse dispersion modelling and source identification.
- Modelling air dispersion and exposure to accidental releases.
- Highlights of past work. Session devoted to reviews and to prominent scientists and 'golden papers' of the past, which have still relevance and should not be forgotten.

The basic criteria when selecting papers for oral presentations is how well they fit into the philosophy of developing an improved modelling culture where modellers as well as regulators and users will efficiently use each other's experience. When submitting abstracts authors are requested to motivate how their paper relates to the underlying main theme of the conference: *Harmonisation within modelling* in a broad sense (see the abstract submission form).

Special sessions may be arranged on model evaluation exercises and other topics within the scope of the conference. If you have suggestions for special sessions please contact the organisers as soon as possible. Information on special sessions and exercises will be posted on the conference web site and in the second announcement.

Contact:

harmo19@harmo.org

Important Dates

- Short abstracts (less than 350 words) should be submitted by **October 31, 2018**.
- Confirmation for acceptance of contributions will be made by **January 15, 2019**.
- Five-page extended abstracts should be submitted by **March 31, 2019**.
- Conference start: **June 3, 2019**.

Location

The Conference will take place at the Oud Sint-Jan (Old St. John) Site in Bruges, 3-6 June 2019. See: <https://oudsintjan.be/>

The Old St. John Site is located in the heart of one of the world's most beautiful cities. During the Middle Ages, Bruges was an international trading centre of high renown and enjoyed a golden period of unparalleled economic prosperity. Today, its UNESCO World Heritage city centre can boast a fine array of well-preserved historic buildings and squares. It is also a vibrant shopping centre and a place where culture in all its forms blossoms and flourishes.

Bruges can be easily reached by car, train or plane. Arriving by train from most European cities, there is one transfer needed at Brussels Midi/Zuid station. Multiple direct daily connections are available from Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp and from any other Belgian city to Bruges. By plane Bruges can be reached via Brussels airport through daily flights from 200 destinations in 66 countries. Easy access is obtained from Brussels Airport to Bruges by direct train connection. Travel time from Brussels airport to Bruges is 1h29.

Registration for the conference and hotel options at attractive rates will be made available through: <https://harmo19.vito.be/>

Organized by

VITO (<https://vito.be>)

VITO is a leading European independent research and technology organisation in the areas of cleantech and sustainable development, elaborating solutions for the large societal challenges of today.

VITO provides innovative and high-quality solutions, whereby large and small companies can gain a competitive advantage, and advises industry and governments on determining their policy for the future. VITO has 750 highly-qualified employees who work on international projects all around the world. VITO's headquarters are located in Mol, Belgium, and the company has a subsidiaries in China, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.