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Written by	Manon Coyne, Antonios Tsiligiannis, Pedro Gomes (POLIS)	20.02.2023
Reviewed by	Alexandra Michailidou (EMISIA)	24.02.2023
Approved by	Leonidas Ntziachristos (EMISIA)	27.02.2023

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Executive summary

This deliverable is the Newsletter 1 of the LENS project.

It introduces the project to the public, showcases first activities, and includes key information from the community of stakeholders LENS relates to.

List of abbreviations

ACEM	European Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers
COPERT	Computer Program to Calculate Emissions from Road Transport
LENS	L-vehicles Emissions and Noise mitigation Solutions
LVs	Light vehicles
PEMS	Pollutant emission measurement system
SEMS	Sensor-based emission measurement system
TA	Type-Approval
WHO	World Health Organisation





Newsletter

February 2023

Issue #01



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Welcome to the First LENS Newsletter!

The project started in September 2022, and after six months of intense work to get the activities started, we are ready to share a first overview of the project.

Get to know the challenges related to light vehicles and what we are planning to support their resolution. Join our engagement opportunities and activities. Read our update on the European framework and recent events with key outcomes for light vehicles and local authorities. Finally, learn more about our partners!

We hope you find our content interesting and rich, and look forward to sharing more...
Share the subscription to this newsletter with your network if you are in that case too 😊



What is LENS?

Get to know the LENS project!

LENS, or *L-vehicles Emissions and Noise mitigation Solutions*, is a Horizon Europe project that started in September 2022 and will run until August 2025.

LENS works on the development and promotion of interventions and best practices to **solve the problem of noise and emissions of LVs** (light vehicles), also suggesting solutions to **improve the performance of future vehicles** and **minimise the impact of existing vehicles**.

LENS will apply techniques to monitor the noise and emissions of LVs, provide recommendations on how to control the contribution of current and future LVs, examine emissions and noise performance under real driving conditions, and deploy methods to identify tampered vehicles. LENS will also conduct detailed pollutant and noise characterisation of more than 150 vehicles in the lab and on the road.

This added information will help **improve emission factors and assessment methods and tools** used in air and noise pollution assessments. The research results will **provide information on different policy options** for regulators, cities, and authorities, including the improvement of test procedures for type approval (TA).



Join the LENS Community!

Learn about the current opportunities to get in touch with the project partners and collaborate to solve the LENS challenges.

1. Register for the LENS First Stakeholder Event

On March 15 at 12:00-13:30 CET, the LENS partners warmly invite all interested stakeholders to join their [First Stakeholder Event](#).

This event will be hybrid: participants can join online or physically in the POLIS offices in Brussels (Rue du Trône, 98, 1050 Brussels). To register, please contact Isobel Duxfield at POLIS: iduxfield@polisnetwork.eu.

After an introduction to the project by the coordinator Leonidas Ntziachristos from EMISIA, Antonios Tsiligiannis from POLIS will present the opportunities to engage with the project. Both a City Platform and a Stakeholder Engagement Group will be formed shortly after the meeting. Further detail in the next section.

This First Stakeholder Event is organised jointly with the POLIS Working Group on Air Quality & Clean Vehicles.

Cities and regions who are members of the POLIS Network and involved in this working group will first discuss recent European policy developments related to vehicles' emission standards, then exchange good practices and lessons learnt on air quality management, before joining the public LENS event to get engaged with the project community, focusing on L-vehicles.

For this event, we are targeting personnel representing municipal, city, and regional authorities, regulators, and policymakers. We also invite researchers and representatives from other sectors to join the discussion, such as the automotive industry and law enforcement representatives.

We look forward to meeting and collaborating with you!



2. Join the LENS City Platform and the LENS Stakeholder Group

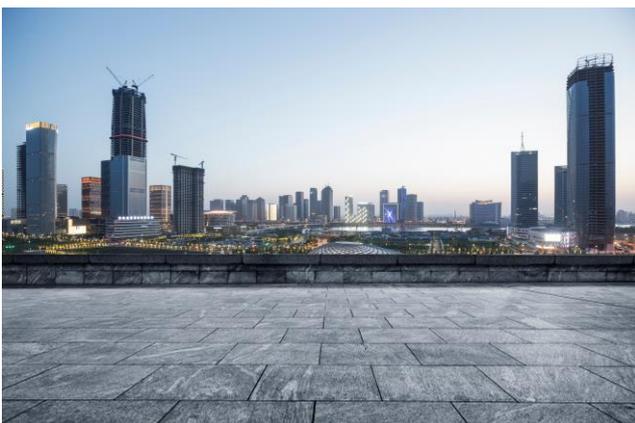
Are you a busy city where mopeds and scooters challenge citizens' tranquillity? Do you struggle with the European air quality requirements based on your population size? Interested in including light vehicles in your local mobility strategy?

The LENS City Platform is designed just for you! It gathers local authorities who share their challenges and experience related to light vehicles' management. The LENS community experts offer capacity building activities including webinars, trainings, and bilateral meetings. The tools developed in the project will be best adapted to members of the City Platform.

To receive further information, please contact Antonios Tsiligiannis:
atsiligiannis@polisnetwork.eu.

To register, you can already [complete the form](#).

We look forward to cooperating with you!



On another side, **are you a researcher, a manufacturer, or any type of solution provider working on light vehicles' noise, emissions, use and impact in cities?** Are you interested in learning from local authorities the challenges they need to solve in this regard? Do you have experience to share with them and other interested stakeholders?

You are more than welcome to join our LENS Stakeholder Group in this case. This group will be primarily invited to all LENS events and will have the opportunity to discuss and contribute to the tools developed for cities to better handle L-vehicles in their mobility ecosystem. In addition to an access to the project community's inputs, members of this group will be able to provide insights to other experts and policy makers.

Further information is always in the hands of our Antonios Tsiligiannis:

atsiligiannis@polisnetwork.eu.

Registration will be open right after the first stakeholder event on March 15 – stay tuned and join us!



What's the EU cooking?

Let us introduce the New Ambient Air Quality Directive

Air pollution is a major cause of premature death and disease and is the single largest environmental health risk in Europe. [It is responsible for nearly 300,000 premature deaths in Europe each year.](#)

On October 26, 2022, the European Commission proposed a new [Ambient Air Quality Directive](#), as part of the [Zero Pollution Package](#). This marks a clear improvement over the previous legislation and brings EU air quality standards more in line with the [WHO 2021 guidelines](#), although not fully aligned. The new legislative proposal provides more clarity on access to justice, and better public information on air quality, as well as better support to local authorities in achieving cleaner air.

As seen by the results of the [Zero Pollution Special Eurobarometer](#) published on October 24, 2022, citizens are seriously worried about Europe's air quality and demand stronger action at all levels of decision-making:

- 47% of Europeans consider that air quality has deteriorated in the last ten years.
- 67% of Europeans who are aware of EU air quality standards support their strengthening.
- 65% of Europeans think that more action should be taken at the international level, followed by European and the national level (both 42%), and 32% at the regional or local level. 19% of the respondents also believe that actions should be carried out at all levels simultaneously.

Therefore, new standards have been needed for a long time. The new Ambient Air Quality Directive will address a major concern of our citizens. Cities and Regions are ready to do their part and lead by example, implementing regulatory measures like Low and Zero Emission Zones, but also promoting innovation in vehicle emissions testing and compliance – as the LENS project initiates on light vehicles!



Partner in the spotlight: EMISIA

Get to know the LENS partners!

In this first newsletter, we would like to introduce you to the LENS project coordinator: EMISIA.



EMISIA is a Greek spin-off company of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki established in 2008. It is specialised in emission and noise assessment with experimental methods and analysis tools. As a research-oriented institute, EMISIA belongs to an expert research network that continuously improves modelling, technological and analytical abilities of noise and emission measurement systems.

EXPERTISE

The LENS project coordinator conducted several studies for authorities and industrial clients on L-vehicles' emissions, tampering practices, and testing processes. Collecting field data from high numbers of vehicles in various contexts, they issued recommendations on testing conditions and the feasibility of remote sensing for LVs.

In addition, their [SIBYL model](#) maintains historic fleet data and projections for all EU Member States and all vehicle categories, including LVs, and the penetration of electric vehicles (LVs and other categories).

They have a unique expertise in and access to:

- Sensor-based Emission Measurement Systems (SEMS), including black carbon measurement;
- Testing facilities including chassis laboratory and Pollutant Emission Measurement Systems (PEMS)
- The COPERT road transport emissions model (EU standard vehicle emissions calculator)
- Cost-benefit analysis tools and fleets for all Member States
- H2020 projects coordination

ROLE IN LENS

Besides coordinating the project and ensuring the interaction with the European Commission, EMISIA will support the project work with their wide expertise.

They will adapt SEMS and PEMS for LVs, conduct emissions and noise testing both on the road and in the lab, perform modelling activities as well as cost-benefit analyses of mitigation measures, synthesize recommendations suitable for different stakeholder groups (regulators, cities, enforcement authorities, riders, etc.), and disseminate project results – especially through their Transport and Air Pollution Conference.



What is happening in the L-vehicle community?

Report on the ACEM Annual Event

On the 6th of December 2022, POLIS attended the **15th ACEM (European Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers) Conference** entitled “The Motorcycle Industry’s Vision for Decarbonisation”, which was held in Brussels.

During the event, the motorcycle industry presented its [Vision 2030+](#), a set of strategic documents that outline its vision for the future of motorcycling in Europe with a horizon from 2030 to 2050. Vision 2030+ aims to promote the motorcycle as the “right mode” at the “right location” for the “right purpose”, focusing on meeting different societal needs, such as **personal mobility, leisure usage, and last-mile deliveries**.

Although the emissions from motorcycles represent less than 1% of the total emissions of the transport sector in the EU, the motorcycle industry has pledged to contribute to the decarbonisation of road transport. There are nowadays **more than 40 million motorcycles across the EU** and their number is expected to rise sharply as urban populations keep on rising.

With more expensive raw materials and more expensive fuels and energy sources, **the motorcycle sector is still lagging**, with a regulatory and technical maturity comparable to that of the car sector 12 years ago. Regulatory and technical barriers still need to be addressed for new motorcycles to be able to mitigate -or even eliminate- their contribution to climate change. This includes the **dedicated support and rapid adoption of new technological options**, such as electric powertrains, swappable batteries, synthetic fuels, hydrogen, and hybrid powertrains, among others.

For further information, you can read the ACEM report of the event [HERE](#).



ACEM President Michele Colaninno from Piaggio Group (© ACEM website)



Stay tuned for further updates!

Twitter: https://twitter.com/LENS_horizon

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lens-project/>



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