

Considerations when deploying an air quality network

Edurne Ibarrola
Chief Scientific Officer – Kunak Technologies

27th July 2023

HOW TO CHOSE A SENSOR SYSTEM?

Take into account:

1. **What is the performance of the sensor system?**
2. What are the general features of the Air Quality Sensor System?
3. Which is the maintenance I need to carry out once they are deployed in field?

1. Performance of the Air Quality Sensor Systems

Sensor Limitations and Challenges

Environmental
conditions
effects

Cross-
sensitivities

Baseline and
span drift

1. Performance of the Air Quality Sensor Systems



Target Pollutant

Measurement Range

Detection Limit

Sensor Accuracy

Response Time

Calibration and data correction

Making the invisible visible:

A guide for mapping hyperlocal air pollution to drive clean air action



SELECTING MONITORING EQUIPMENT

The monitor sensors you choose to add to your network will depend on:

- the pollutant(s) you want to measure
- the data quality
- the budget you can devote to purchase and maintain the equipment.

Clements, A., R. Duvall, D. Greene, AND T. Dye. *The Enhanced Air Sensor Guidebook*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, 2022.

Craft, E., Nowlan, A., Rickenbacker, H., Uennatornwarangoon, F. *Making the invisible visible*. Environmental Defense Fund, 2019.

1. Performance of the Air Quality Sensor Systems

Target Pollutant

Measurement Range

Detection Limit

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Pollutant	Sources	Typical Concentration
CO	Fuel combustion in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves,...	0 to 0.3 ppm
CO ₂	Deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels	350 to 600 ppm
NO	Automotive engines and the burning of coal, oil, diesel fuel, and natural gas	0 to 60 ppb
NO ₂	Combustion of fossil fuels	0 to 50 ppb
O ₃	The result of the atmospheric reaction of a number of precursor pollutants	0 to 125 ppb
H ₂ S	Natural origin by the organic matter decomposition. Anthropically, in industrial activities (pulp manufacturing, oil refining, WWTP, and textile industry)	0 to 20 ppm
SO ₂	Combustion of coal or fossil fuels, in metallurgy and volcanic eruptions	0 to 100 ppb
NH ₃	Agriculture, livestock, and, waste and water management (slurries, composting and landfills).	0 to 3 ppm
VOCs	Fuel combustion (wood, coal, gasoline etc.)	0 to 5 ppm
PM	Road transport and industrial combustion plants and processes, commercial and residential combustion and power plants.	0 to 100 µg/m ³

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https://www.kunakair.com/doc/External/Kunak_Smart_Environment_EN_low.pdf

1. Performance of the Air Quality Sensor Systems

Sensor Accuracy

USES CASES - Belgium

Devices: 3 Kunak AIR stations

Measurement parameters:

- NO₂, NO, O₃, CO and particles (PM1, PM2.5 and PM10)
- Temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric pressure.

CHALLENGES

- Humidity >80%
- Electrical network not fully accessible
- Deployment for 1 year
- 3 different locations

SOLUTIONS

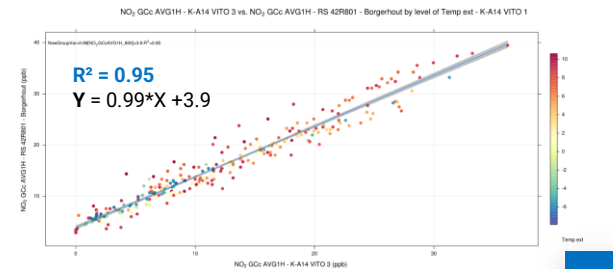
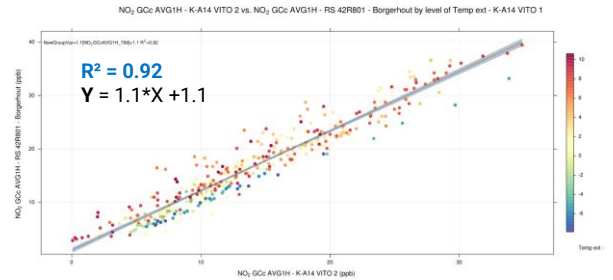
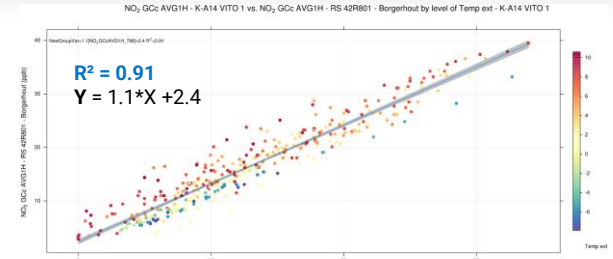
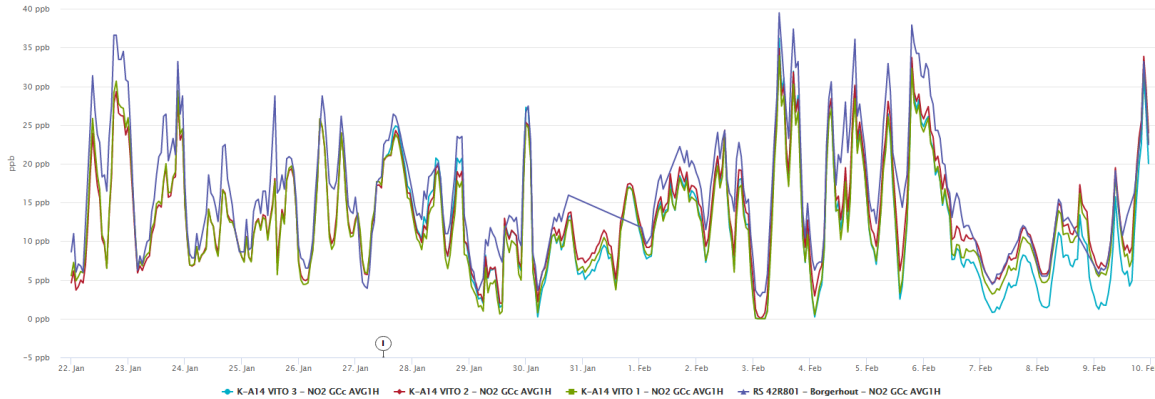
- Kunak temp/RH correction algorithm
- Kunak calibration (NOT Machine Learning based) – baseline adjustment from season to season.
- Autonomy through solar panel



1. Antwerp
2. Kampenhout
3. Saint Niklaas

1. Performance of the Air Quality Sensor Systems

Sensor Accuracy



	R^2	Mean Absolute Error (ppb)	U(exp) (<25%)
#1	0.91	3.62	17.13%
#2	0.92	2.81	5.99%
#3	0.95	3.80	9.99%

U(exp): Data Quality Objective expressed as the Expanded Uncertainty in the Limit Value

HOW TO CHOSE A SENSOR SYSTEM?

Take into account:

1. What is the performance of the sensor system?
2. **What are the general features of the Air Quality Sensor System?**
3. Which is the maintenance I need to carry out once they are deployed in field?

2. General features of Air Quality Sensor Systems



Durability

Enclosure

Ease-of-Use

Power

Display

Data Transmission

Data Access

Data Handling

Cost

- ✓ Usability → easy of use, reduced maintenance
- ✓ Portability → autonomy, mass and volume (Form factor)

Clements, A., R. Duvall, D. Greene, AND T. Dye. *The Enhanced Air Sensor Guidebook*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, 2022.

2. General features of Air Quality Sensor Systems

Durability

Robust for harsh environments

Enclosure

IP65

Ease-of-Use

Final user

Power

Mains vs Solar
Size of the solar panel

Display

For field deployments

Data

Transmission

LORA, Cellular, Wifi

Data Access

Cloud, Modbus

Data Handling

Final Private vs Public

Cost

100\$ to 5,000\$

HOW TO CHOSE A SENSOR SYSTEM?

Take into account:

1. What is the performance of the sensor system?
2. What are the general features of the Air Quality Sensor System?
3. **Which is the maintenance I need to carry out once they are deployed in field?**

3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network

Short reminder....

Sensor Limitations and Challenges

Environmental
conditions
effects

Cross-
sensitivities

Baseline and
span drift

3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network

Correct installation and maintenance to ensure the proper performance of the devices and the quality of the data.



Quality Assurance (QA) - appropriate calibration ensures that data monitored are robust and accurate.

Quality Control (QC) - monitoring the long-term performance to ensure it **remains calibrated** and **help notify the user** when it needs to be corrected, removed or re-calibrated.

Snyder et al., 2013 "Data of poor or unknown quality is less useful than no data since it can lead to wrong decisions".

3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network

Calibration and Corrections

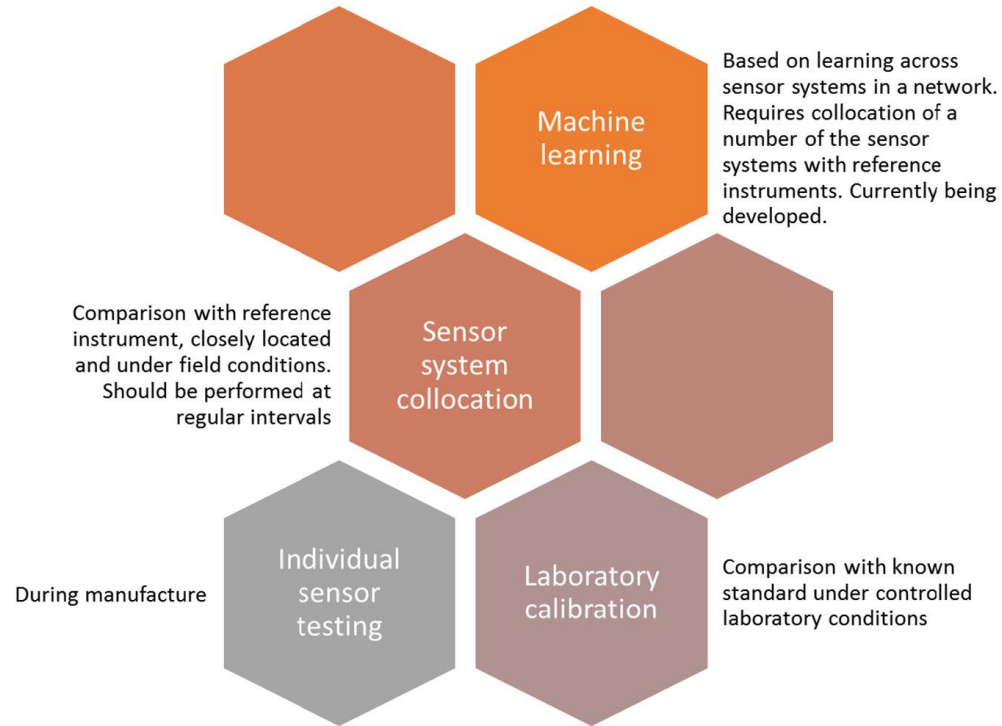
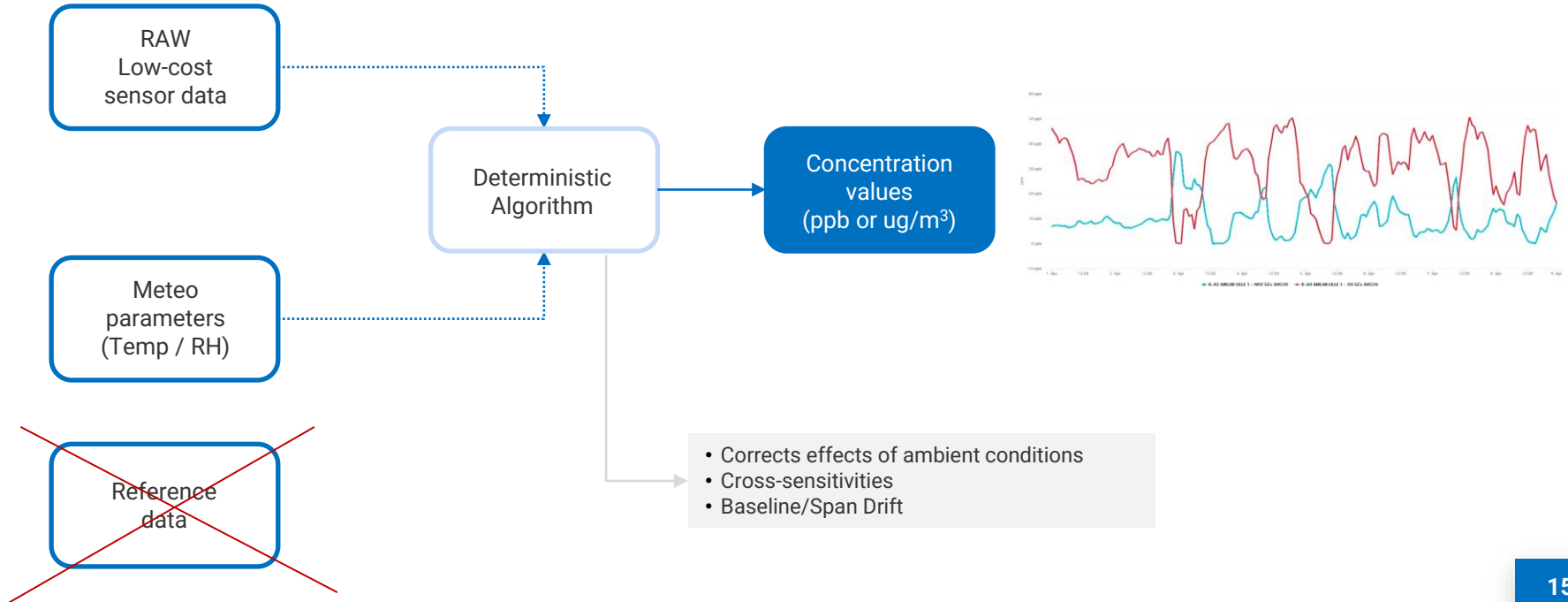


Fig. 2. Alternative methods available for calibration of low-cost sensor systems.

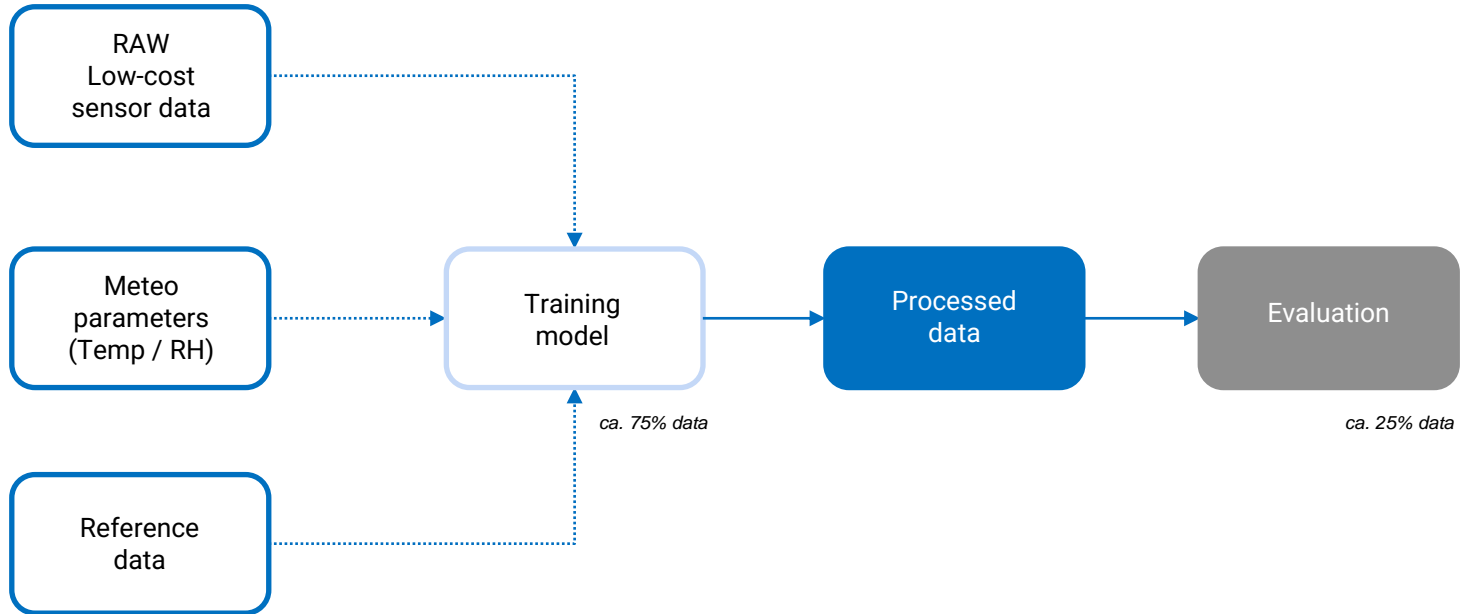
3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network

Calibration and Corrections: Deterministic Algorithms



3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network

Calibration and Corrections: Machine Learning



3. Maintenance of Air Quality Network



Air quality platform

- **Visualize the operation** of the equipment and the data obtained → to monitor the health of the network and the status of the devices.
- **Detect errors and anomalies** in the devices and data **immediately**, consult them, and invalidate the data if needed.
- **Detect** that the gas and particle sensors need **calibration** and allow the **calibration remotely**.
- Availability of a validation tool for **validating and invalidating the data remotely**, to have reliable data for advanced analysis.
- **Availability of raw data** (non-processed data) and **flags** (**Temporal, Valid/Invalid, Corrected**) to assure traceability.
- A **Computer-based Maintenance Management System** → to facilitate network maintenance.
 - maintenance tasks
 - uploading of images and documents
 - access to configuration history, logbook, etc.

CONSIDERATIONS - AQ NETWORK



USES CASES - Spain

Devices: 10 Kunak AIR Pro stations + sound level meters + information screens

Measurement parameters:

- SO₂, NO_x, O₃, CO and particles (PM1, PM2.5 and PM10)
- Noise level.
- Temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric pressure.
- Wind speed and direction.



CHALLENGES

- AQ data diffusion to citizens
- Civil engineering work. Poles installation.
- Public electrical network spots
- Lack of concern about the O&M of the network
- Public tender – fixed price

SOLUTIONS

- AQ data accessible from web portal and screens.
- National Project
- Powered by public electric bikes chargers
- Operation and Maintenance Service in remote
- Price not adaptable for improvements



CONSIDERATIONS - AQ NETWORK



USES CASES - Ethiopia

Devices: 5 Kunak AIR A14 stations

Measurement parameters:

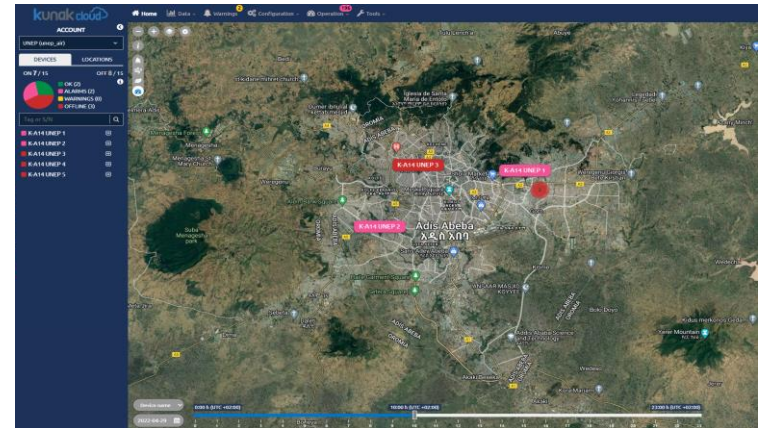
- NO₂, O₃ and particles (PM1, PM2.5 and PM10)
- Temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric pressure.
- Wind speed and direction.

CHALLENGES

- Not Official Reference Stations
- High temperature and humidity conditions
- Low budget

SOLUTIONS

- Factory calibration against reference standards
- Remote baseline and sensitivity correction
- Kunak temp/RH correction algorithm
- Automatic maintenance of the network (not technician hours)



CONCLUSIONS

- When developing an air quality sensor-system, must be considered →
the **climatic conditions**
the **facilities** when installing the sensors
possibilities of **calibration & maintenance** of the sensor system.
- The air quality sensor system must have a **well-known QA&QC procedure** →
the temperature and humidity effects, well corrected, independently of the final location.
the sensor-system proper installation, maintenance and calibration to **provide reliable and accurate air quality data effortless.**
Air quality platform user friendly that allows a proper maintenance of the network

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DEPLOYING AN AIR QUALITY NETWORK

Edurne Ibarrola – *Chief Scientific Officer*



+34 848 470 055



www.kunakair.com



eibarrola@kunak.es