



**CITY OF  
ÖSTERSUND**  
STAAREN TJIELTE

# AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR PM10

Perspectives from Östersund

**Hanna Lundqvist**  
Ohrid, 8th of November 2023

# 1. Östersund

- North of Sweden, 65 000 inhabitants
- Few industries and only small scale wood heating
- Temperature inversions frequent during winter
- Strong outdoor and sports identity
- Habitual car driving for short and long transports



## 2. Problem discovered

- Discovered problems in 2020
- Very high levels of PM10 during spring months
- The problem is mostly related to road management and traffic
  - 12 000 tons of sand per year in winter as an anti-slip measure
  - 98 % studded winter tyres

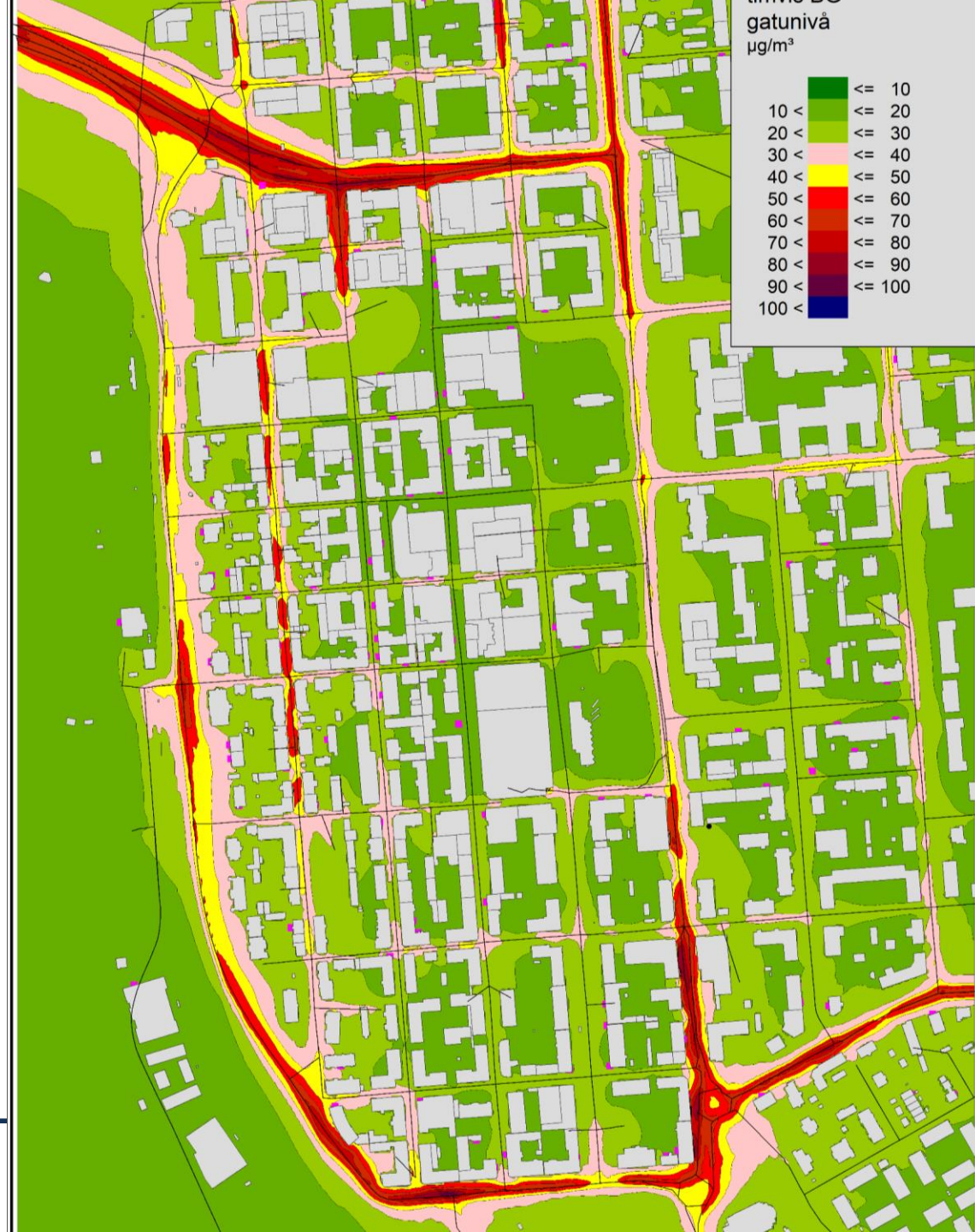




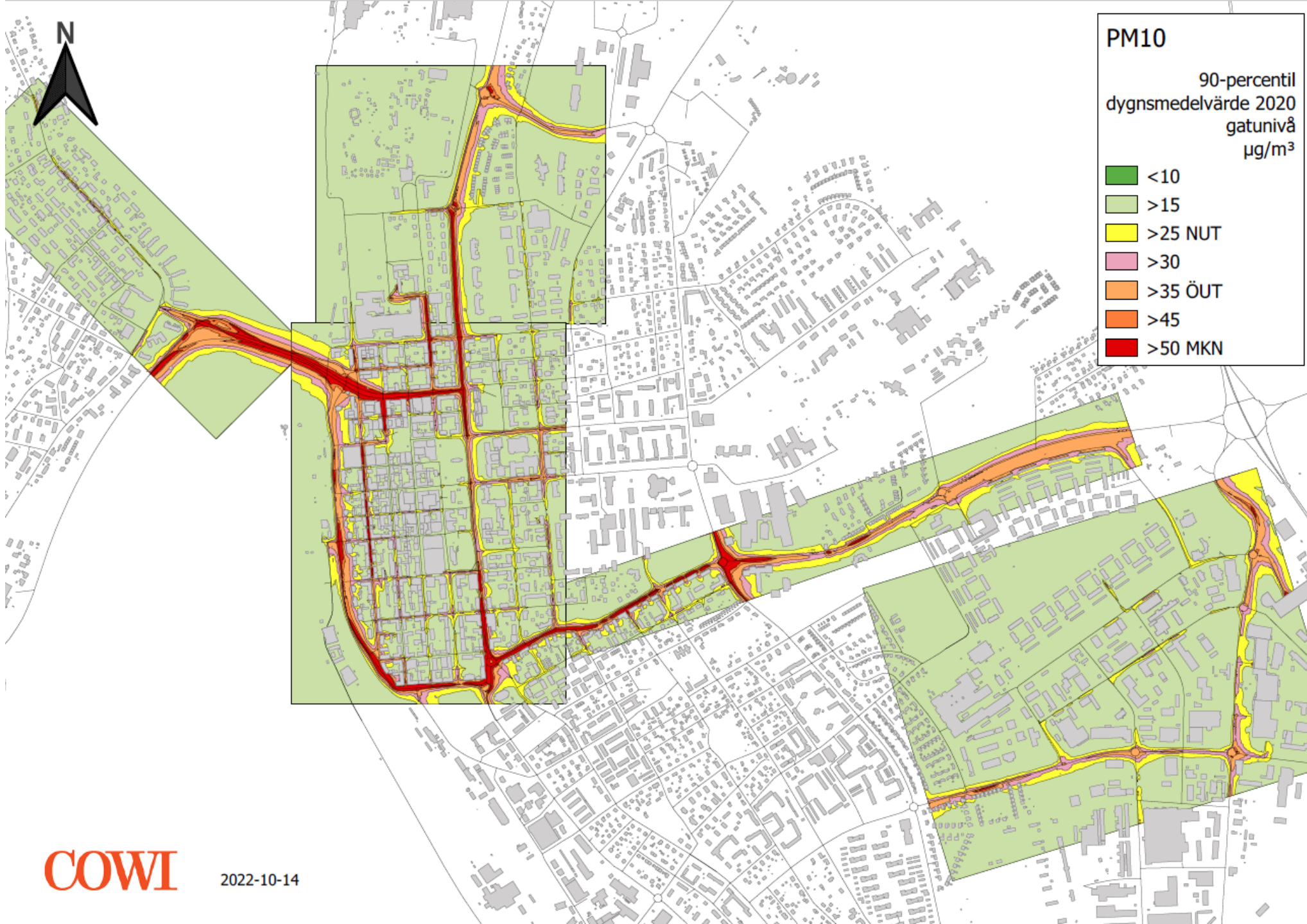
# 3. The work begins

- Injunction for air quality plan
- Communication towards the public
- Ordering air quality model (with help from Reflab)
- Starting to identify possible measures

→ Problematic distribution made next step tricky as most large roads are affected







## 4. Proposed and agreed measures

- Dust control in spring with saline solution & more wet road sweeping
- Change of sand quality
- Mobility management for more sustainable transport and fewer car trips
- New road surfacing when rebuilding city streets
- Reduced parking space in central Östersund



# 5. Challenges when establishing acceptance

- Suspicion towards us and other authorities
- Local commerce critical
- Difficult to communicate risk at population level
- Health aspects and juridicial liability were skimmed over in the local debate
- Car norm, studded tyres norm
- Limited time to investigate the consequences of different measures
- Suggested parking measures became a hot topic in the local elections



## 6. Solutions for establishing acceptance

- Involving a political advisory team as early as possible
- Making use of the available resources
- Trying to control the narrative in local media
- Fact checking everything twice





# 7. Estimating and evaluating the effects of the measures

- Research
- Support from consultants
- Travel surveys
- Experience from road workers
- Be prepared to settle for best estimates
- Difficult to compare expected effects and monitored effects



## 8. Take-home messages

- Be transparent, explain WHYs and HOWs and what the legislation says
- Ask for help and guidance. EPA, SMHI and Umeå University have been indispensable
- Try to maintain focus on health and the juridical responsibility of the municipality
- Be prepared to order complementary investigations





# Thank you for listening!

**Hanna Lundqvist**

Hanna.1.lundqvist@ostersund.se



**CITY OF ÖSTERSUND**  
STAAREN TJIELTE