Data harmonization and quality management for atmospheric GHG measurements: what have we learned in the InGOS project?

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Data harmonization and quality management for historical (i.e. starting from 2000) atmospheric, non-CO₂ greenhouse gas measurements was an important task for the European station PIs which gathered in the InGOS ("Integrated non-CO2 Greenhouse gas Observing System") project. This retrospective of European CH₄, N₂O and H₂ datasets, collected at about 20 different stations, was needed, since European in situ atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring is traditionally conducted by a multiplicity of national organizations and institutions, each with its own measurement procedure, quality control and link to the international GHG calibration scales. The future ICOS infrastructure (Integrated Carbon Observing System; www.icos-infrastructure.eu) intends to overcome this heterogeneity in the observational network. Furthermore, uniform and comprehensive uncertainty estimates were calculated for all sites and all species to provide additional, valuable information to the data users. In this presentation we summarize and review the aims and achievements of this work package. In addition we highlight examples of revisited datasets and give recommendations for a future ICOS uncertainty quantification scheme.