

***Interactive comment on “AIRUSE-LIFE +:
Estimation of natural source contributions to
urban ambient air PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations
in Southern Europe. Implications to compliance
with limit values” by Evangelia Diapouli et al.***

Anonymous Referee #2

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This manuscript describes a well performed analysis of the contribution of natural sources to PM concentrations in 5 cities in Southern Europe. One year of data collection of PM and chemical analysis was performed. The data analysis is based on various state-of-the-art techniques. The results are presented and discussed appropriately. The text is well written and the reasoning well documented. The manuscript is a nice piece of craftsmanship. It lacks scientific inspiration or innovation. Considering the Aims and Scope of ACP, i.e. “...The journal scope is focused on studies with general implications for atmospheric science rather than investigations that are primarily of local or technical interest...” (http://www.atmospheric-chemistry-and-physics.net/about/aims_and_scope.html), the manuscript is barely publishable there.

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Specific comments:

The reasoning for the obtrusive mentioning of “AIRUSE-LIFE +”, even in the title of the manuscript, becomes slightly clear after reading the acknowledgements, but not earlier than that. The acronym should be deleted from the entire manuscript except the acknowledgements.

page 2, line 10: it is not clear what is meant by “This natural background ...” because in the line before, it is talked about “both to natural sources and anthropogenic long range transported particles”.

page 4, line 26: how is nss-Na computed?

Fig. 12: Figures should not have headings, just subscript captions

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., doi:10.5194/acp-2016-781, 2016.

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