



AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH: POLICY LINKAGES

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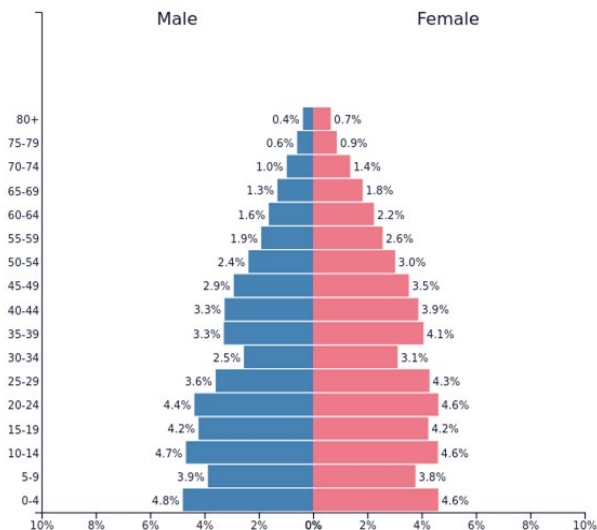
21 January 2020



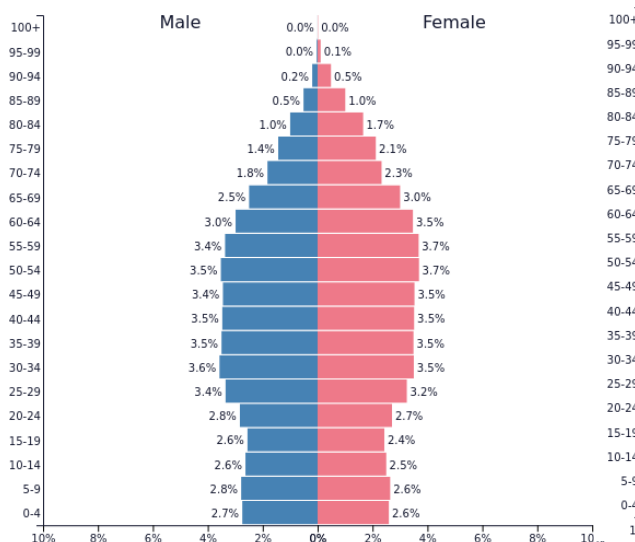
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We live longer...

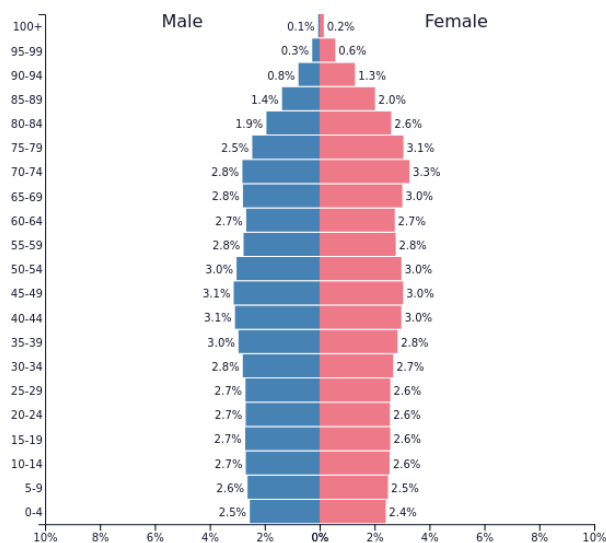
1950



2020



2060

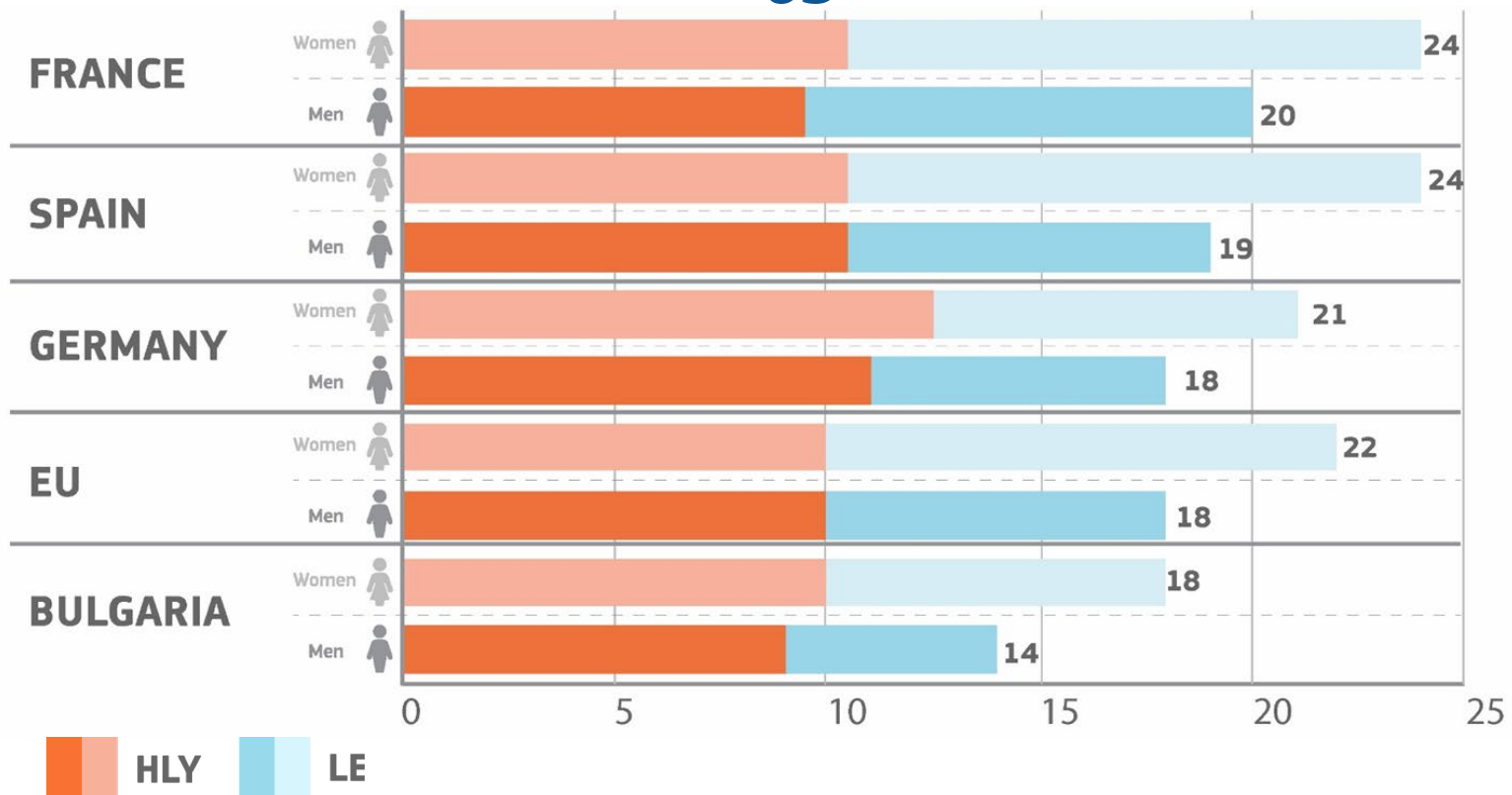




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...but not always in good health

Life expectancy (LE) and healthy life years (HLY) at 65



IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES ON THE EU ECONOMY

PREMATURE DEATHS FROM CHRONIC DISEASES

555 000 PEOPLE



OF WORKING AGE

ECONOMIC LOSS

- > **3.4 MILLION PRODUCTIVE YEARS**
- > **€ 115 BILLION PER YEAR**
- > **0.8% OF GDP**

Air pollution and its impact in Europe

Europe's air quality is slowly improving, but fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone continue to cause serious impacts on health.

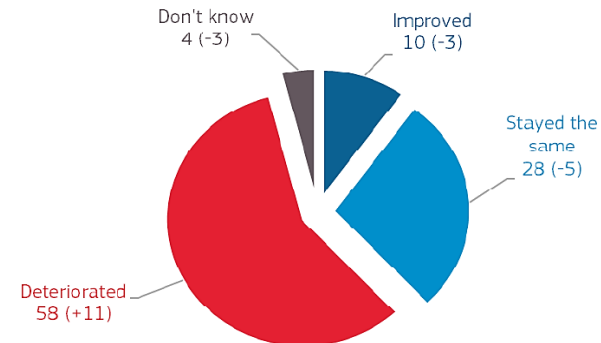
More than **400,000 premature deaths** in EU-28 each year.

Heart disease and **stroke** are the most common reasons for premature death attributable to air pollution, followed **by lung diseases** and **lung cancer**



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Environment and health



(Sept 2019 - Sept/Oct 2017)

Past trends
(10–15 years)

Health and well-being



Improving trends dominate

Trends show mixed picture

Deteriorating trends dominate

Outlook
to 2030



Concentrations of air pollutants
Air pollution and impacts on human health
Population exposure to environmental noise and impact on human health
Preservation of quiet areas
Pollution pressures on water and links to human health
Chemical pollution and risks to human health and well-being
Climate change risks to society
Climate change adaptation strategies and plans

Currently **6 to 8%** of citizens in **EU urban areas** exposed to particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) above EU limits; and more than **80%** above WHO guidelines.

Assessed against EU Limit Value

6-8 %



Assessed against WHO Guidelines

74-81 %



The Sustainable Development Goals



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**The European Green Deal as
a key framework to support
the EU implementation of
the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development**

**By 2030, substantially
reducing deaths and
illnesses from chemicals, air,
water and soil pollution.**

**Reducing by one third deaths
caused by NCDs**



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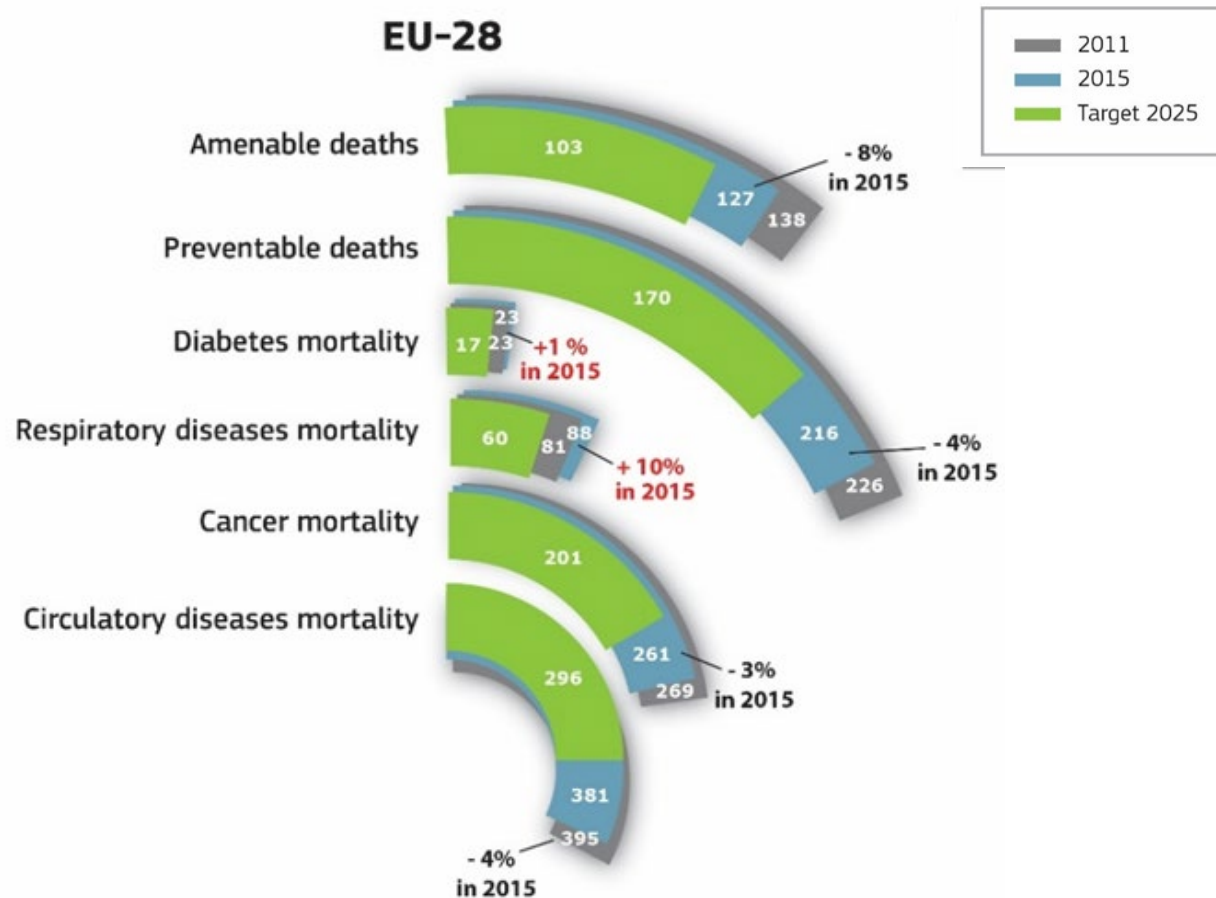


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WHO NCDs Target 1

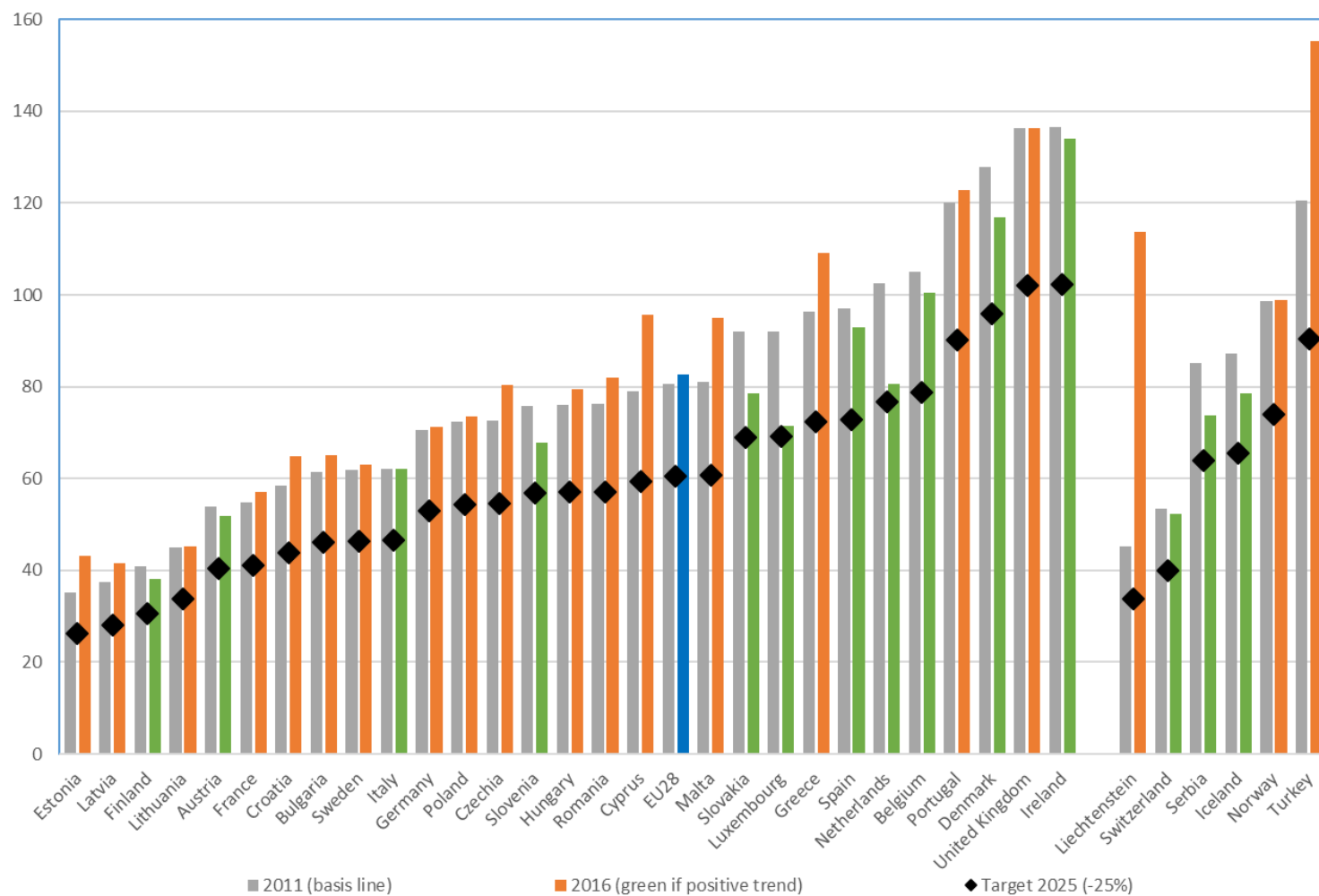
Mortality to be reduced by 25% in 2025

Death rates (per 100,000)





Member States performance in achieving WHO NCDs Target 1 to reduce mortality by 25% in 2025 for respiratory diseases

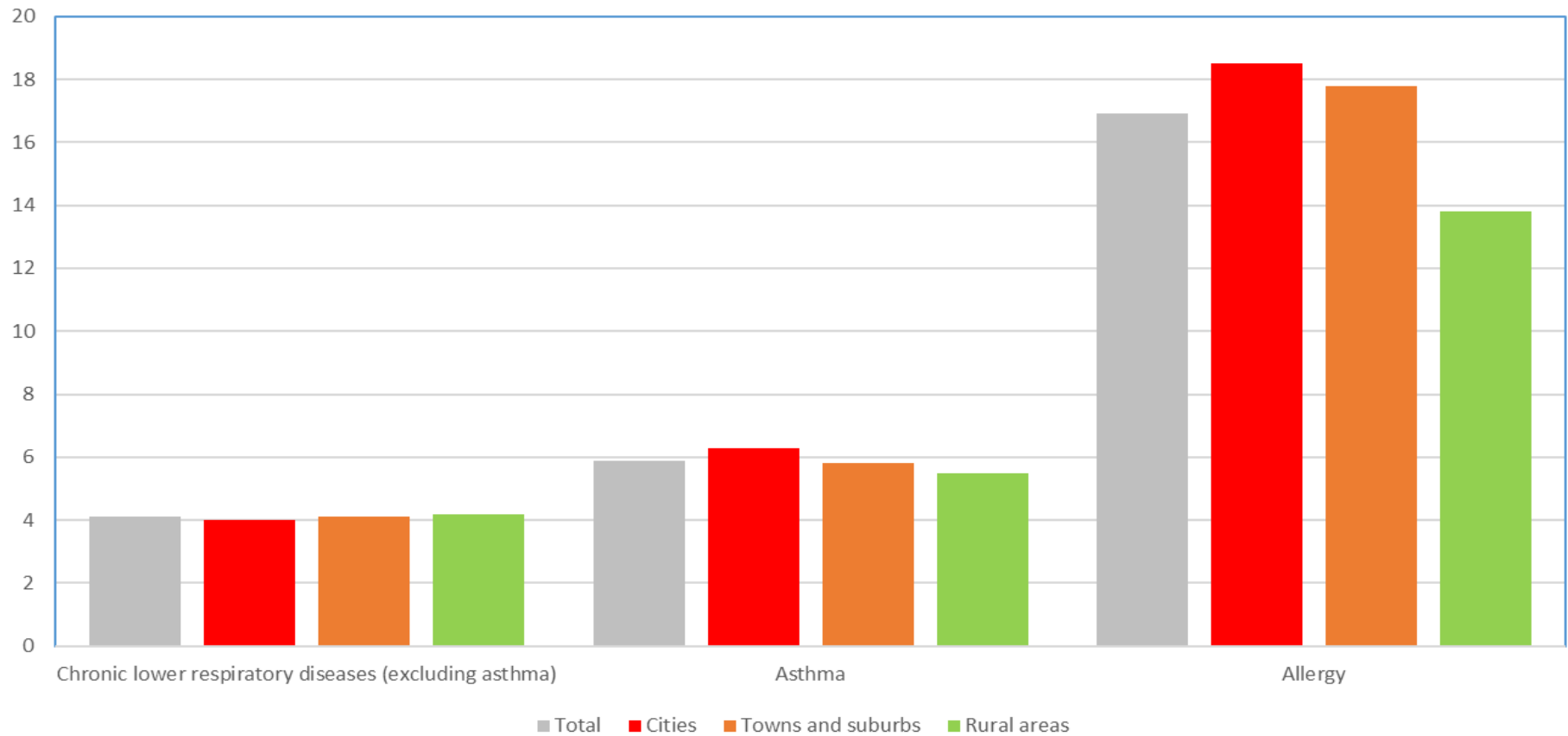


Source: Eurostat, Causes of death statistics [hlth_cd_asdr2]



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Percentage of people reporting a chronic respiratory disease by degree of urbanisation in the EU28 (2014)

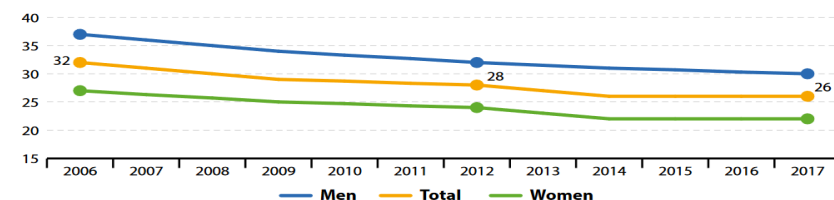


Source: Eurostat, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) [hlth_ehis_cd1u]



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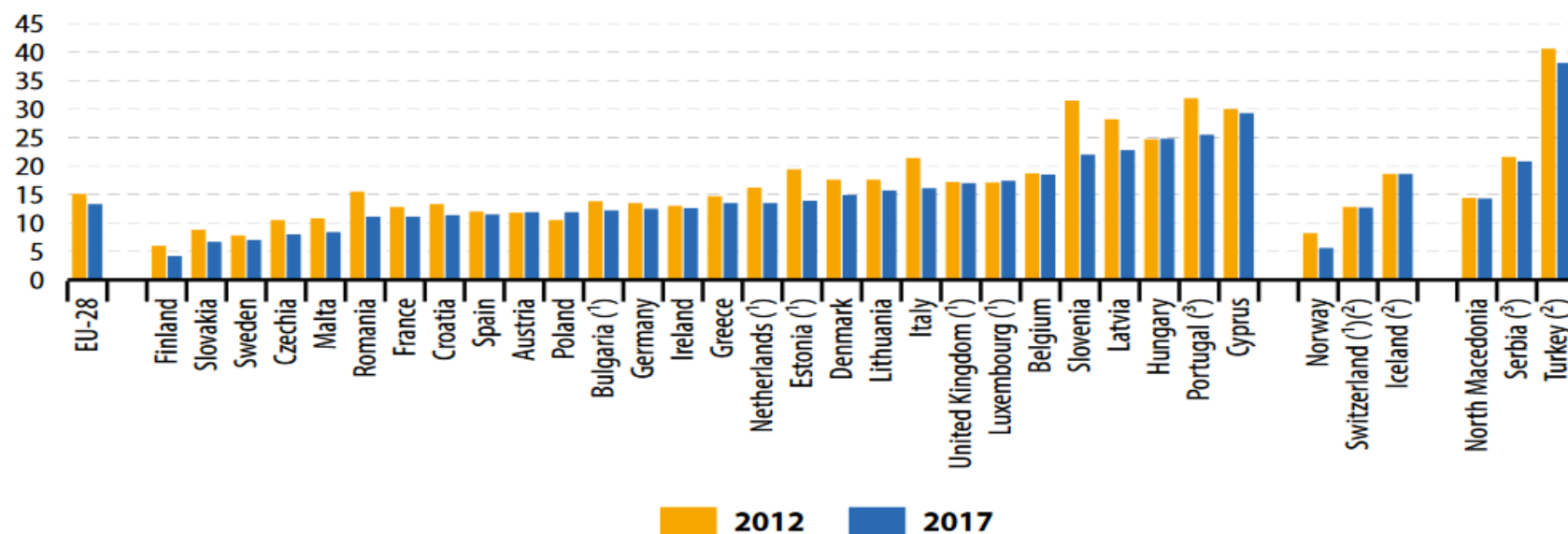
Figure 3.5: Smoking prevalence, by sex, EU-28, 2006–2017
(% of population aged 15 or over)



Note: Data were collected in 2006, 2009, 2012, 2014 and 2017 only; values for 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016 are interpolated; 2012 data excluding Croatia.

Source: European Commission services (Eurostat online data code: [sdg_03_30](#))

Figure 1.13: Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation
Figure 1.14: Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames or floor, by country, 2012 and 2017
(% of population)



⁽¹⁾ Break(s) in time series between the two years shown. ⁽²⁾ 2016 data (instead of 2017). ⁽³⁾ 2013 data (instead of 2012).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sdg_01_60](#))

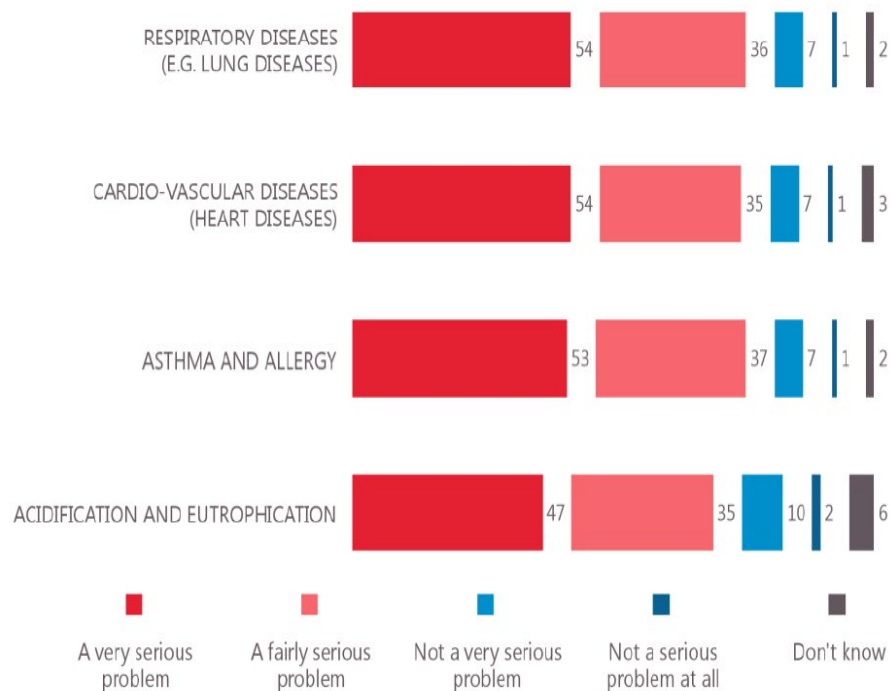


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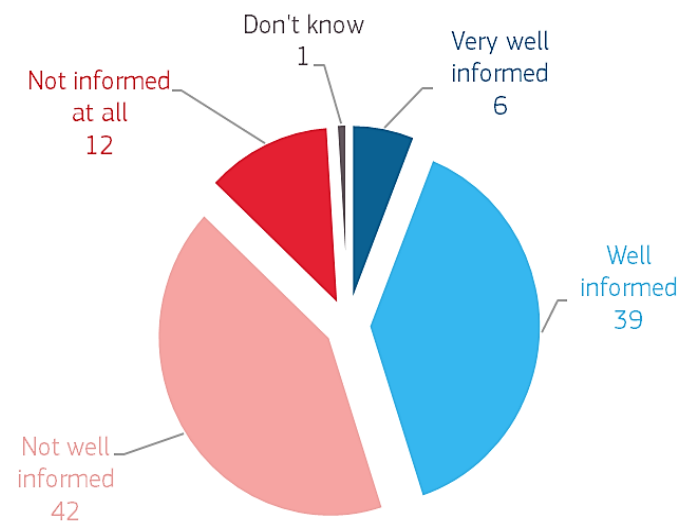
Public perception: air pollution and health

A majority of Europeans (54%) do not feel informed about EU air quality problems in their country

QC3 Would you say that the following is a very serious problem, a fairly serious problem, not a very serious problem or not a serious problem at all in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



QC1 How informed do you feel about air quality problems in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



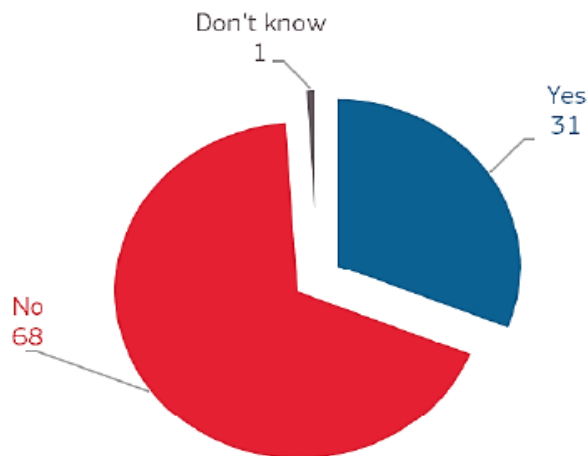
(Sept 2019)



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Majority of Europeans have not heard of EU Air Quality standards

QC9 Have you heard of the EU air quality standards?
(% - EU)

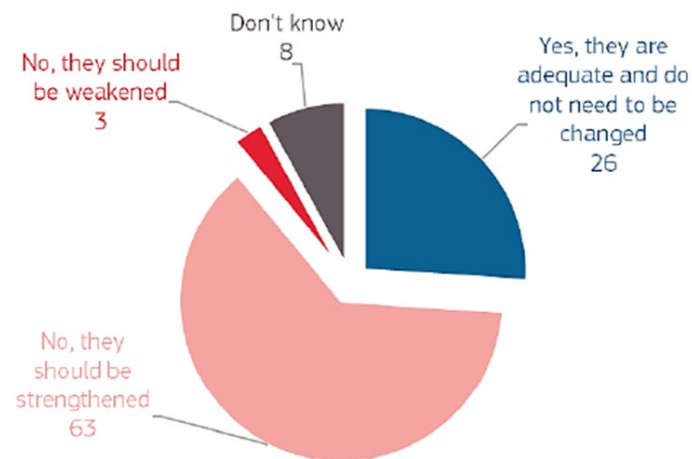


(Sept 2019)

**Special Eurobarometer
497 (September 2019)**

Those aware believe that current standards are not adequate

QC10 Do you believe that the existing EU air quality standards are adequate or not? (% - EU)



(Sept 2019)

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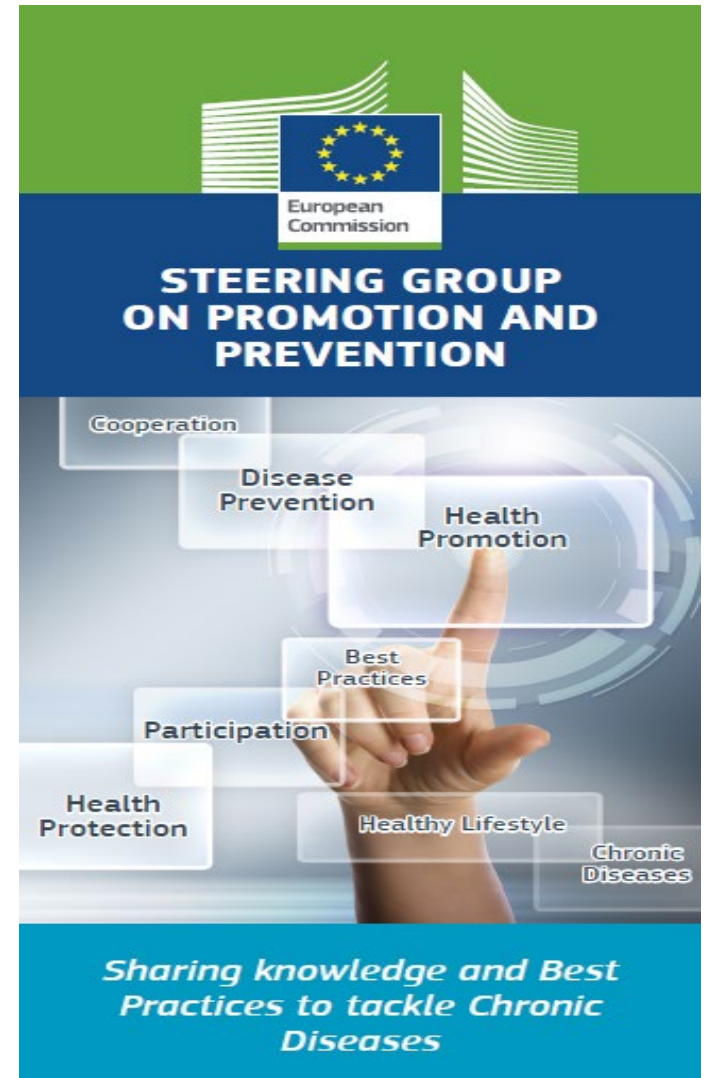
EU Health Policy Platform and EU Health Award



- ❖ **Platform:** sharing the latest updates on EU health policy
 - ✓ **2020 Thematic Networks:**
 - Colorectal Cancer
 - Digital Doctors
 - Training of health professionals
 - ✓ **Live Webinars**
 - ✓ Organisation by HPP team for registered users
 - ✓ **Annual meeting:** end of 2020
- ❖ **EU Health Award:** two calls will be launched early 2020

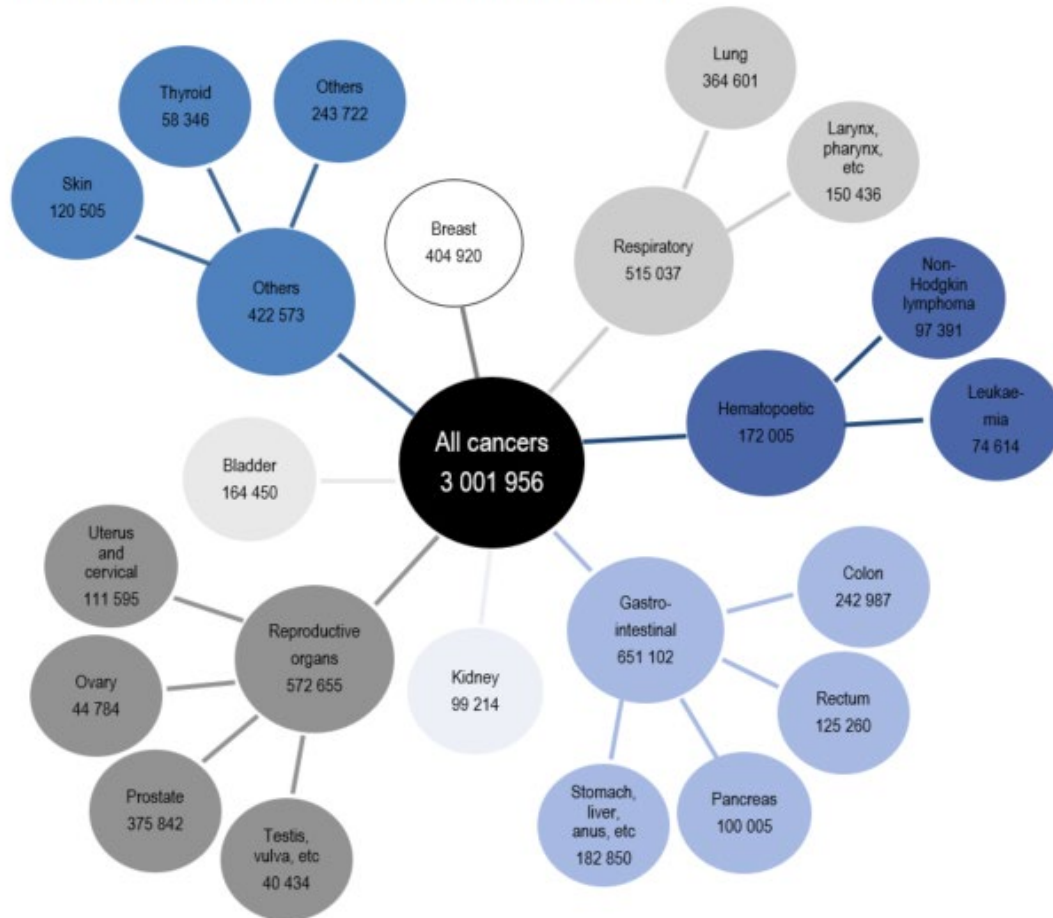
Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention

- Sets priorities
- Selects policy interventions to be implemented
- Monitors implementation
- Develops policies





Estimated number of new cancer cases, all EU countries, 2018



more and more studies are highlighting the connection between air pollution and lung cancer

Europe is Beating Cancer Plan

Linkages with other political priorities and the Green Deal

Note: Non-melanoma skin cancer is excluded.

Source: JRC (European Cancer Information System).

Air pollution is harming health and the environment

Response should be comprehensive and cross-border

The European Green Deal will help achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

All EU policies and actions need to contribute

Achieving climate neutrality and zero pollution ambition requires everyone's commitment

A European Green Deal

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent

