



EU Air Quality Policy Framework

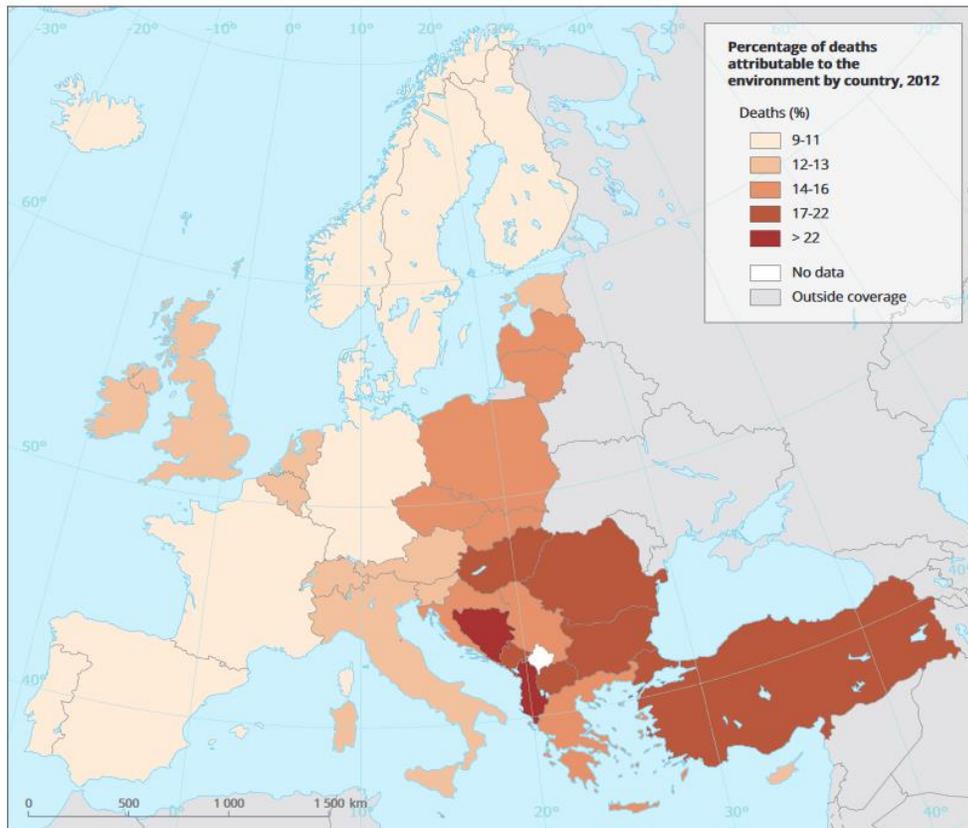
Virtual Workshop on Air Pollution and Health in Southeast Europe

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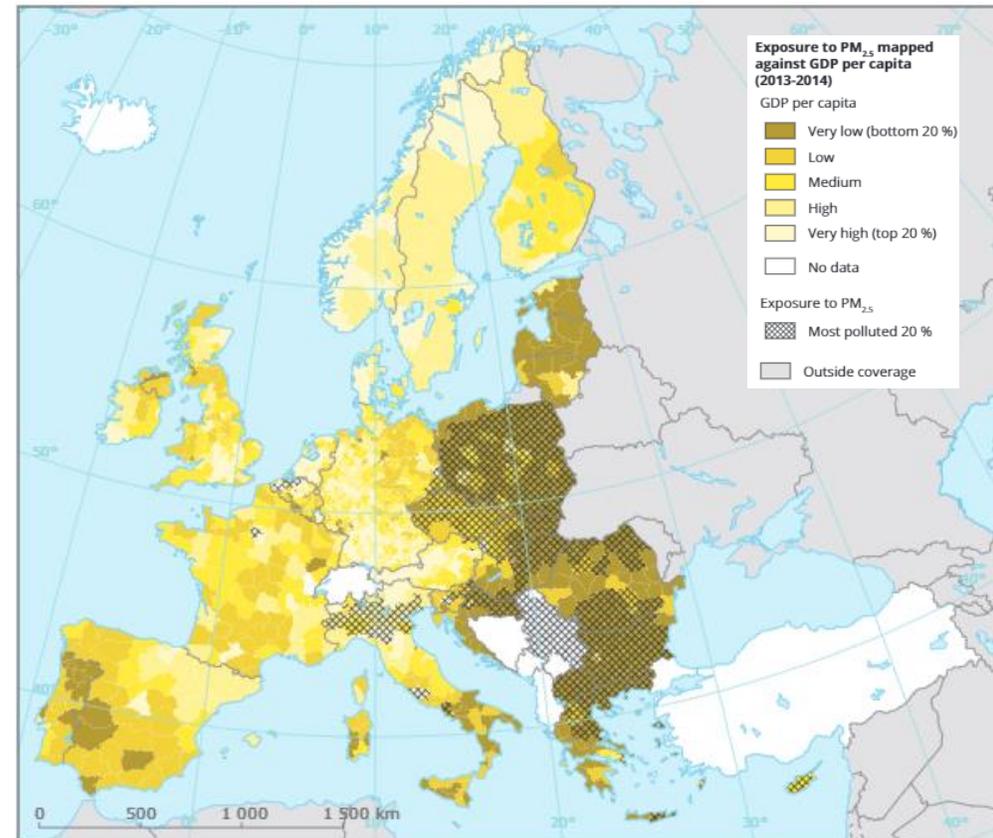
Air pollution - where is it a problem?

Percentage of deaths attributable to environment by country (2012).



Source(s): Healthy lives, healthy environment (EEA, 2020), based on WHO

Exposure to PM_{2.5} mapped against GDP at regional level (2013-14).



Source(s): EEA Report no. 22/2018 Unequal exposure and unequal impacts

Air pollution – who and what causes it?

Air pollution has multiple sources ...

PM_{2.5}: Households (54%), Energy & Industry (21%),
Transport (13%),...

NO_x: Transport (47%), Energy (15%), Industry (15%),
Households (8%), ...

SO_x: Energy (47%), Industry (33%), Households (15%),
Transport (3%), ...

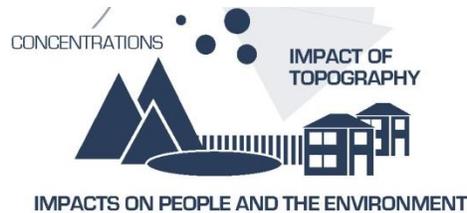
NH₃: Agriculture (93%), ...

... and originates across all scales

- Transboundary pollution
- National level background
 - City level sources
 - Road-side peaks

This combination requires EU Clean Air Policy to address all sectors & all scales

What are we doing about air pollution?



Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Directives

Maximum concentrations of
air polluting substances

(PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂, O₃ + 8 more)

SETTING OBJECTIVES
FOR GOOD AIR QUALITY

REDUCING EMISSIONS
OF POLLUTANTS



National Emission reduction
Commitments (NEC) Directive

National emission totals
(SO₂, NO_x, NMVOC, PM_{2.5}, NH₃)

Source-specific
emission standards

- IED Directive
- MCP Directive
- Eco-design Directive
- Energy efficiency
- Euro and fuel standards

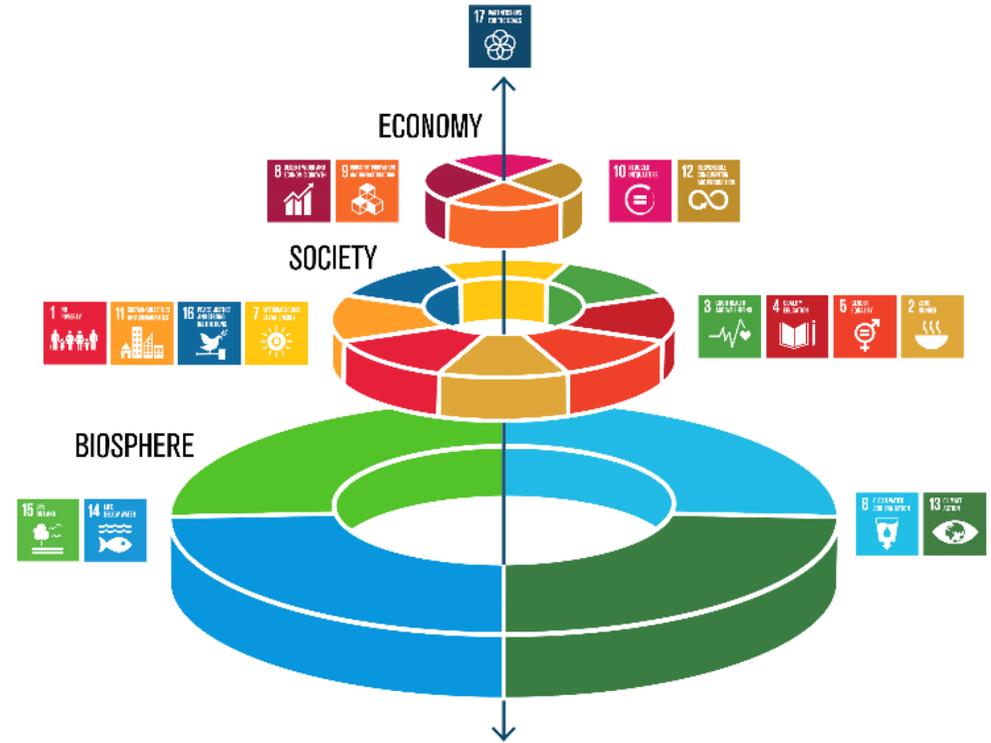
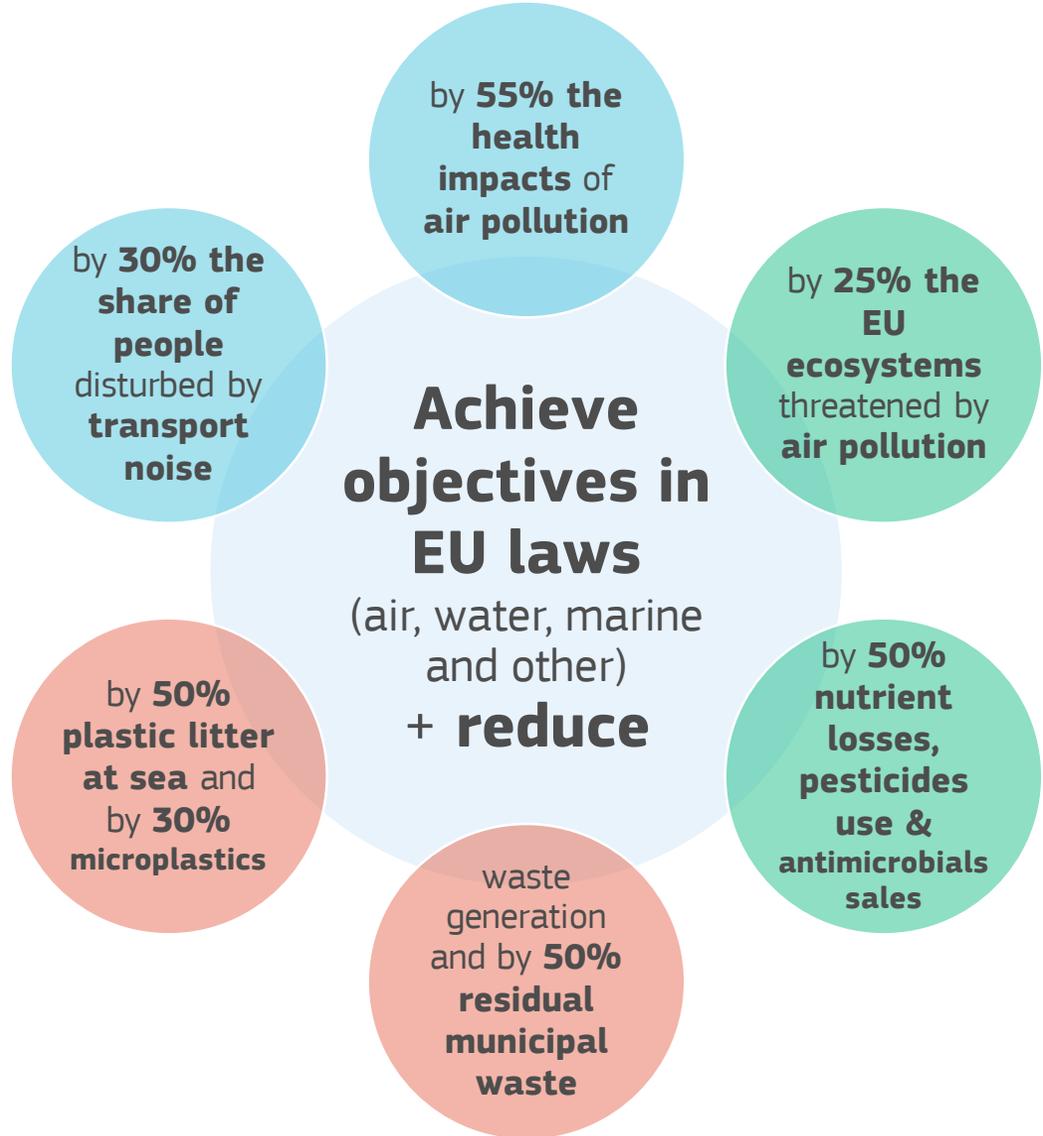
European Green Deal &
Zero Pollution Ambition



The **zero pollution vision** for 2050

*“Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to **levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems** and that **respect the boundaries our planet can cope with**, thus creating a toxic-free environment.”*

2030 targets complementing SDGs



Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote





“The Commission will draw on the lessons learnt from the evaluation of the current air quality legislation.

It will also propose to strengthen provisions on monitoring, modelling and air quality plans to help local authorities achieve cleaner air.

The Commission will notably propose to revise air quality standards to align them more closely with the World Health Organization recommendations.”

Communication on the European Green Deal (COM/2019/640 final)

#EUGreenDeal

9 zero pollution integrated flagships



1. Reducing health inequalities through zero pollution



2. Supporting urban zero pollution action



3. Promoting zero pollution across regions



4. Facilitating zero pollution choices



5. Enforcing zero pollution together



6. Showcasing zero pollution solutions for buildings



7. Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution



8. Minimising the EU's external pollution footprint

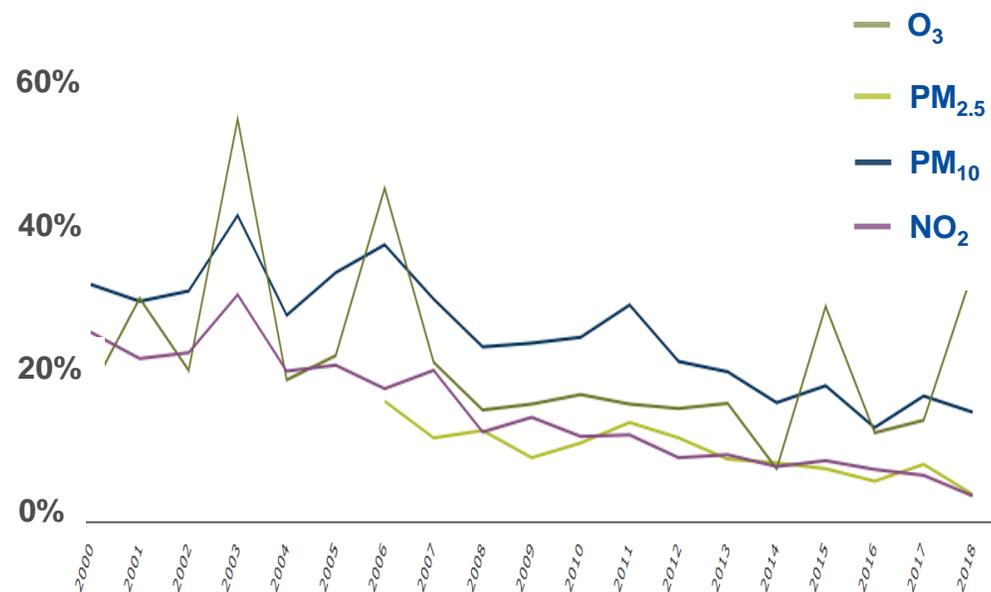


9. Consolidating the EU's Knowledge Centres for zero pollution

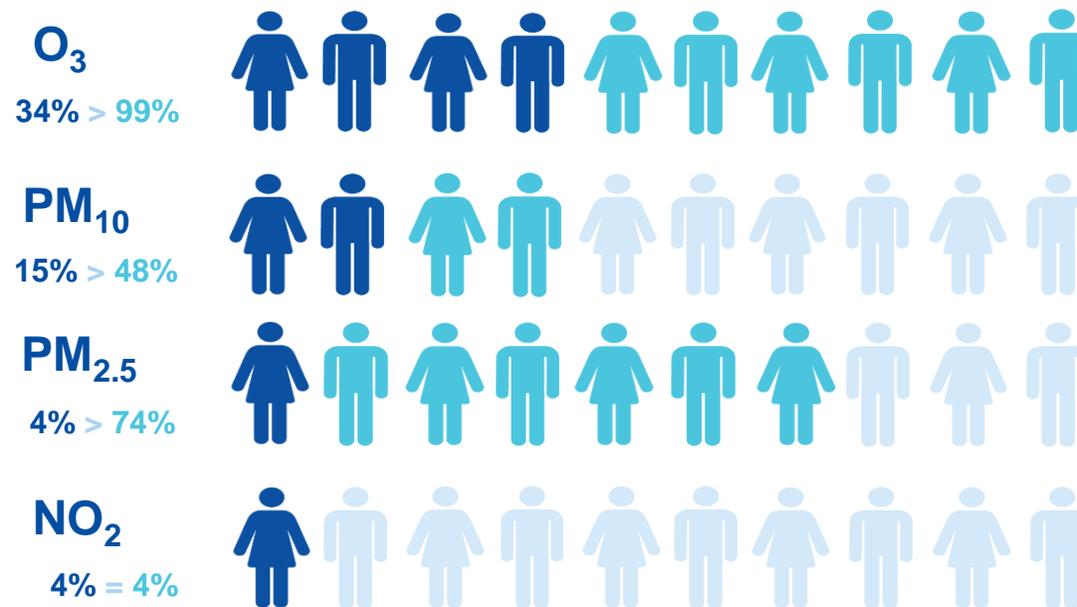


Clean air policy works ... but ...

EU urban population exposed to air pollution above **EU standards 2000 to 2018**



EU urban population exposed to air pollution above **EU standards > WHO guidelines** in 2018



Air policy revision: focus on three policy areas

Augment the current Ambient Air Quality Directives for three policy areas

- **Policy area 1:** closer alignment of the **EU air quality standards** with scientific knowledge including the latest recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Policy area 2:** improving the **air quality legislative framework**, including provisions on penalties and public information, in order to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and coherence.
- **Policy area 3:** strengthening of **air quality monitoring, modelling and plans**.

→ *to be further developed into more detailed options/scenarios for each policy area, also based on inception impact assessment*

Clean Air Milestones 2020 to 2023 (indicative)



What needs to be improved today?

Implementation: Need continued push towards full implementation of existing clean air legislation.

See also COM (2018) 330 'Clean Air for All' for an overview.

(Use) Funding: Specific allocations for air quality of some EUR 2 billion (2014-2020), plus substantial indirect contributions (> 28 bn).

See: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/Tracking-cohesion-policy-air-quality-investments/7ddu-4fki/>

Enforcement: As of 15 May 2021, still 31 infringement cases addressing 18 Member States (+ 1 vs UK) related to bad application.

Information: Eurobarometer polls (No 497, 2019) indicate a majority (54%) do not feel well informed about air quality problems.

See: <https://airindex.eea.europa.eu/Map/AQI/Viewer/> - up-to-date, near real time air quality data

Contact us:

env-air@ec.europa.eu

Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives :

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/quality/revision_of_the_aaq_directives.htm

Have your say:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12677-Revision-of-EU-Ambient-Air-Quality-legislation>

Thank you

