EU Clean Air Policy

- an update -

25 February 2020

LIFE Integrated Project Malopolska –

Workshop of LIFE Projects on Air Quality

European Commission
Clean Air

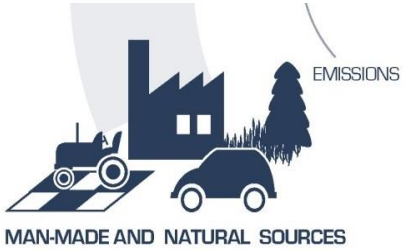
EU clean air policy framework

SETTING OBJECTIVES FOR GOOD AIR QUALITY

Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Directives

Maximum concentrations of air polluting substances (PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2, NO_2, O_3 + 8 more)

REDUCING EMISSIONS OF POLLUTANTS



National Emission Ceilings Directive

National emission totals (SO_2, NO_x, VOC, $PM_{2.5}$, NH_3)

-79% -63% -40% -49% -19%

EU-28 reduction targets btw. 2005 and 2030

Source-specific emission standards

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

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Fitness Check of the AAQ Directives

Scope: **Evidence-based, retrospective analysis** of whether EU actions are fit for purpose; identify regulatory burdens, overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies

Evidence:
- **Literature review** with more than 600 sources of evidence;
- Analysis of reported data as reported over the **period 2008 to 2018**;
- An **open public consultation** generated 489 responses;
- Replies to a **targeted questionnaire** from 43 stakeholders;
- Two **stakeholder workshops** (June 2018; January 2019);
- Seven **case studies** (in BG, DE, ES, IE, IT, SE, SK);
- Bespoke modelling and computations (**analysis of costs and benefits**);
- Desk review of **EU and national legislation**, as relevant.

Criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Coherence, EU Value Added

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Four key conclusions

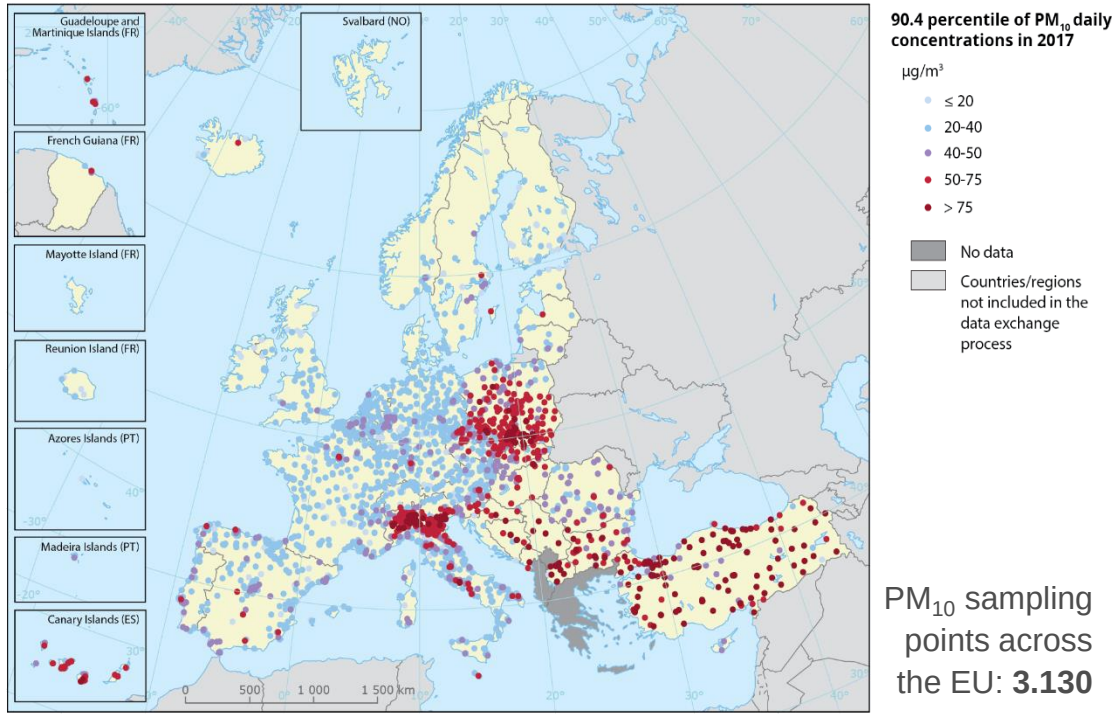
The AAQ Directives are ***broadly fit for purpose*** (with scope for improvements). In particular:

- The **monitoring network** benefits from continuous investment to ensure it is well maintained; additional guidance would be useful to address ambiguities.
- EU **air quality standards** have been instrumental in reducing concentrations and exceedance levels albeit subject to, at times considerable, delays.
- **Reliable and comparable information** is available, but with further scope to make use of e-Reporting possibilities, including an acceleration of reporting.
- The **clear requirement to take remedial action** when and where exceedances are observed has been decisive in triggering improvement in air quality.

Source(s): SWD (2019) 427

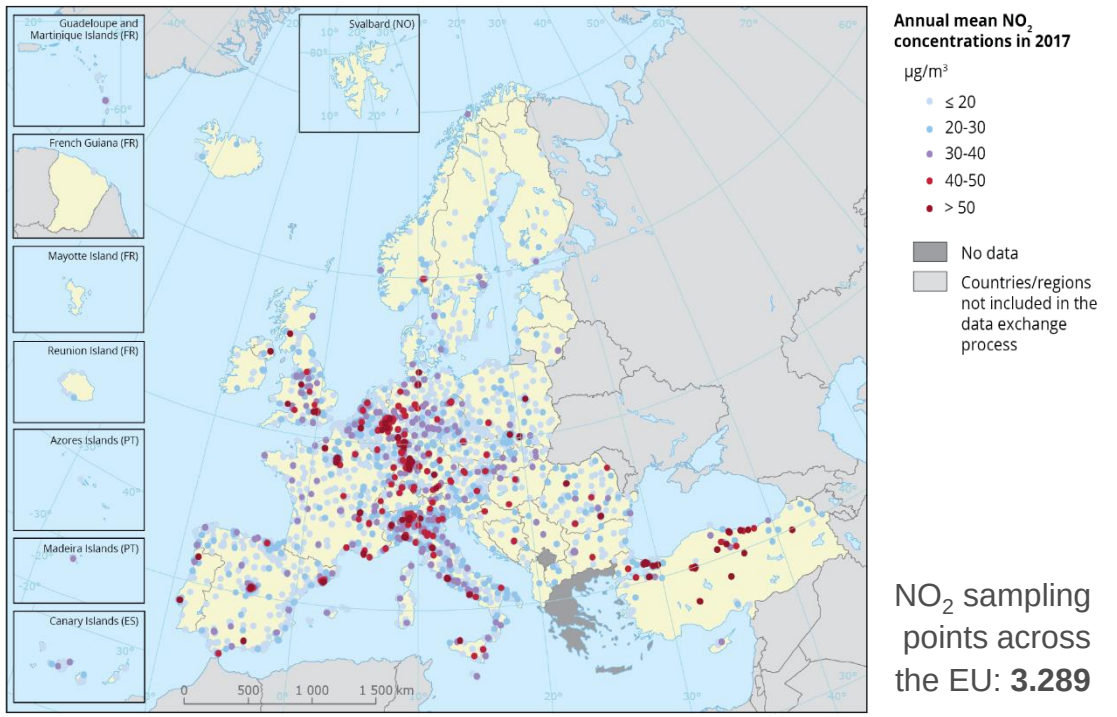
Comparable air quality data & information

PM_{10} exceedances are often linked to fuel combustion (i.e. heating, transport)



PM_{10} sampling points across the EU: **3.130**

NO_2 exceedances are often linked to traffic, in more than 130 cities in EU.



NO_2 sampling points across the EU: **3.289**

Source(s): For 2015-2017; EEA Air Quality in Europe (2019)

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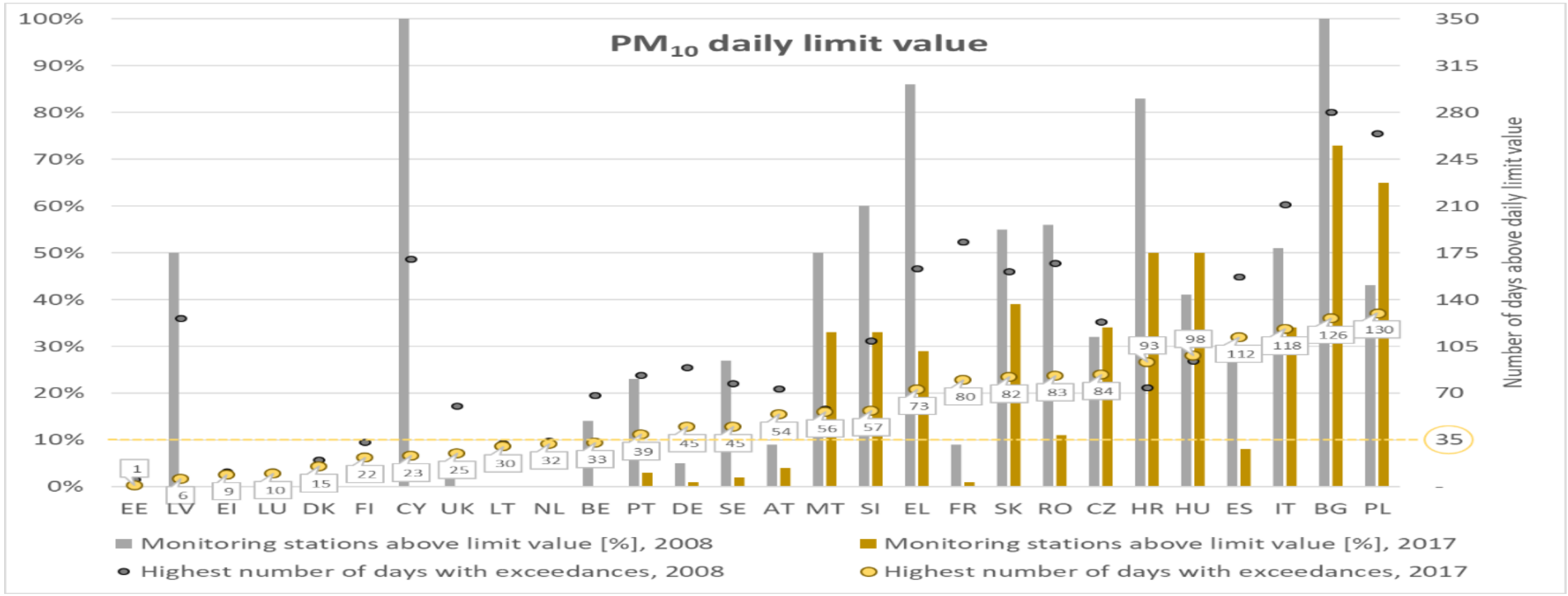
Air quality improvements (for example PM_{10})



Source(s): SWD (2019) 427

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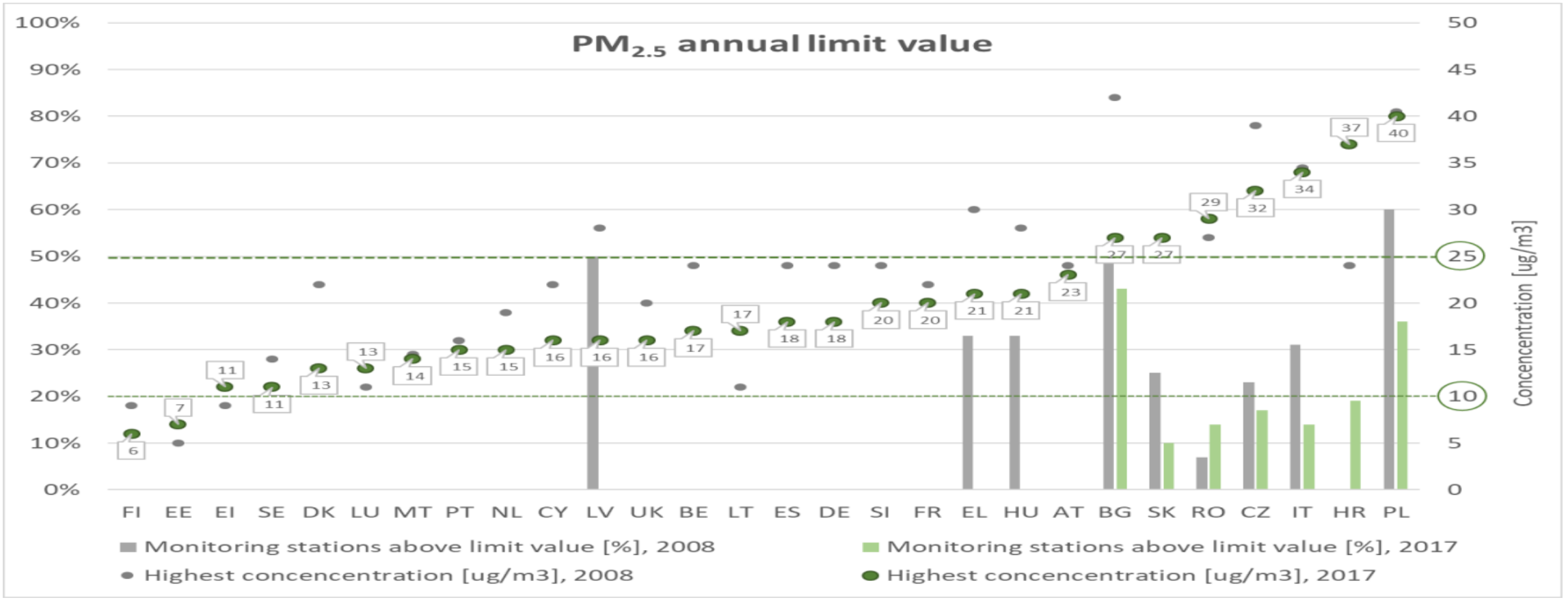
Air quality improvements (for example $PM_{2.5}$)



Source(s): SWD (2019) 427

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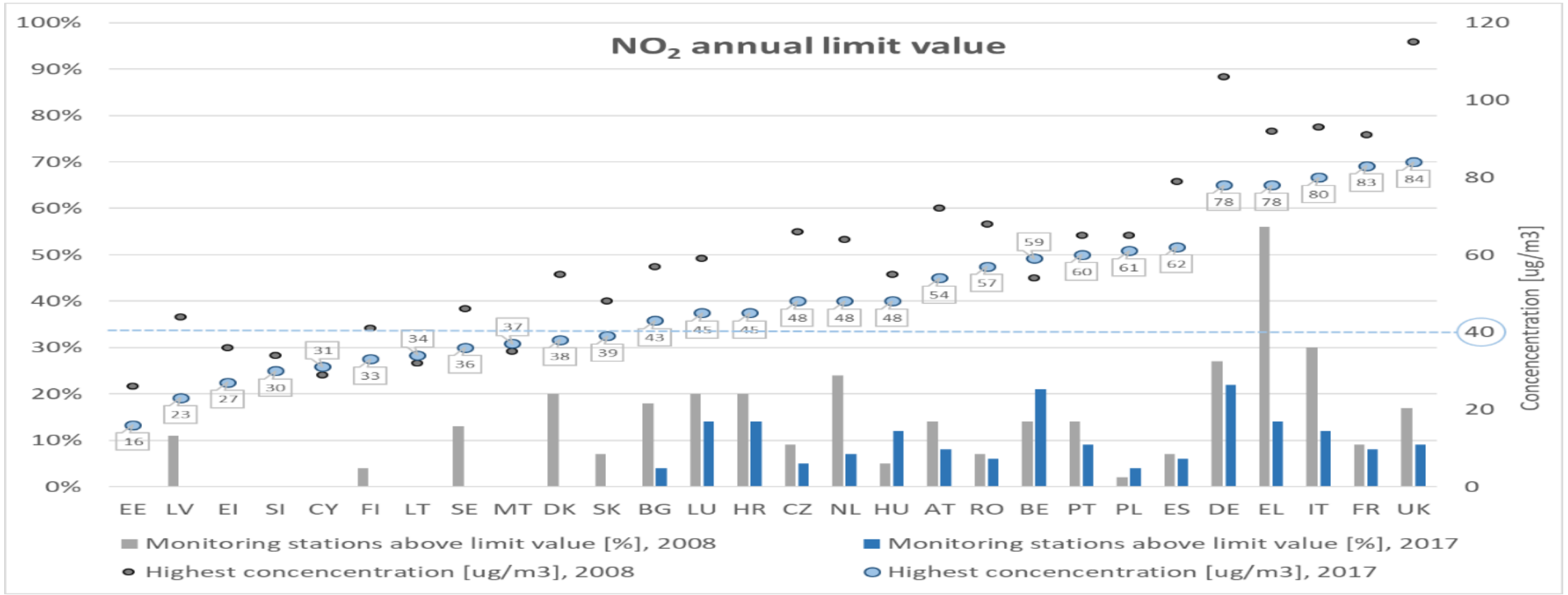
Air quality improvements (for example NO_2)



Source(s): SWD (2019) 427

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Seven key lessons learnt

- Air quality remains a major **health and environmental concern**;
- Air quality standards instrumental, and **partially effective**, to reduce pollution;
- Current EU standards are **less ambitious than scientific advice**;
- **Limit values** have been more effective than other types of air standards;
- Legal **enforcement action** by European Commission, and civil society, works *(the effectiveness of the latter being linked to the functioning of access to justice at national level and the dynamism of NGOs);*
- Scope to further harmonise **monitoring, information**, and **air quality plans**;
- Not all reported data equally useful, **e-reporting** allows for further efficiency.

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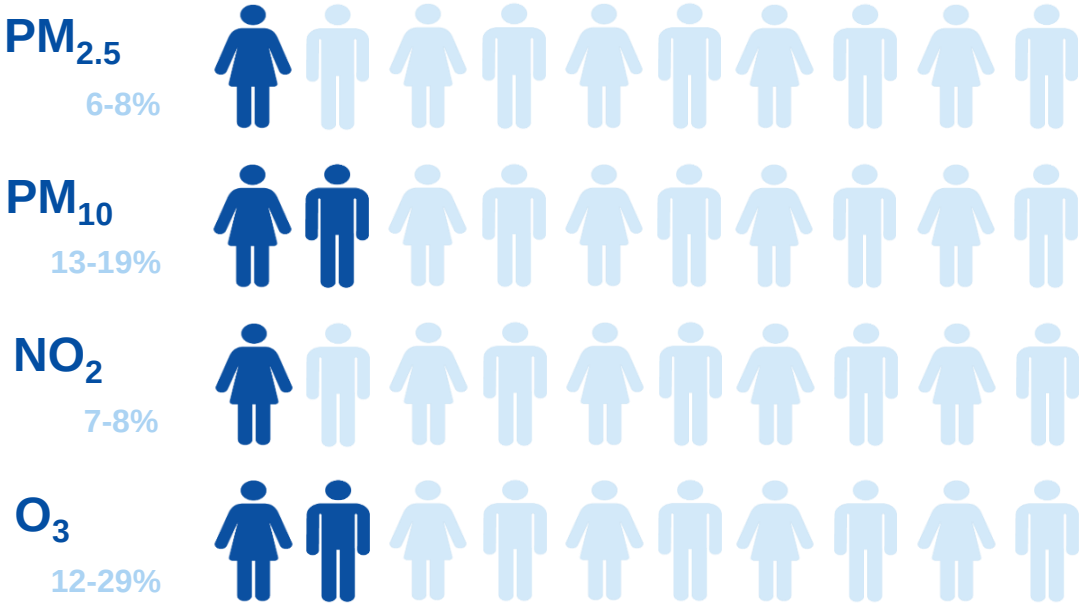
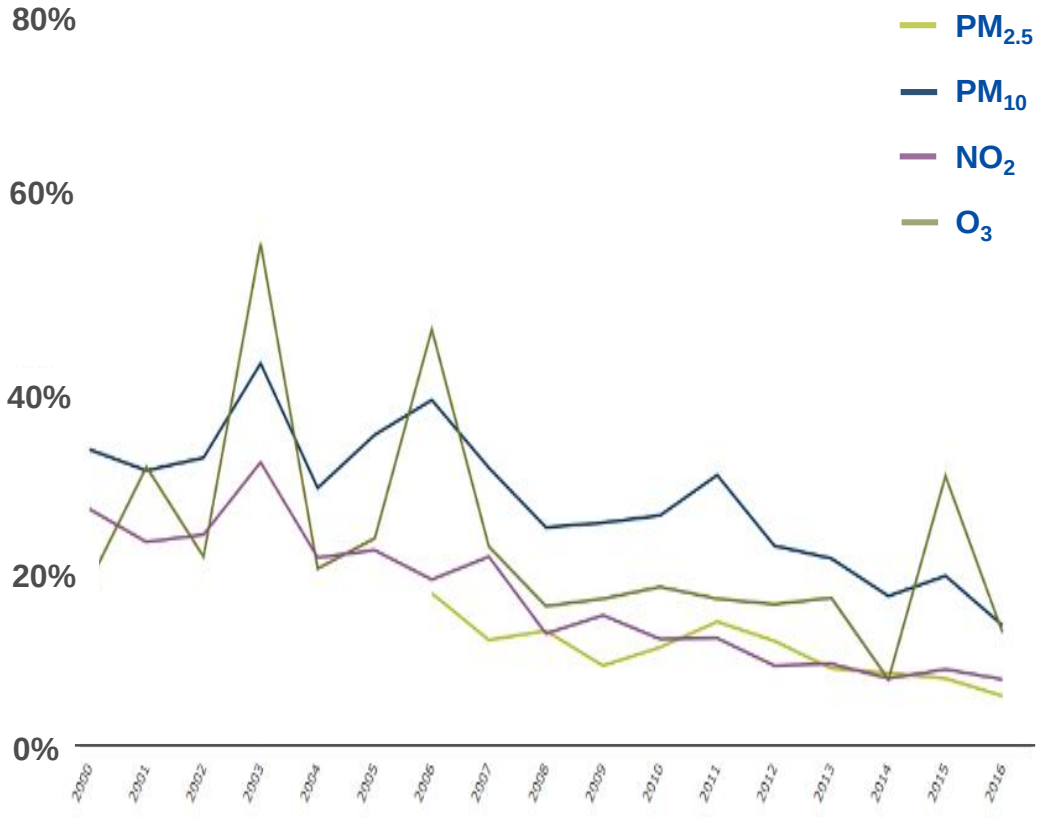
Air pollution remains a health challenge

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





Source(s): For 2015-2017; EEA Air Quality in Europe (2019)

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Air pollution remains a health challenge

	EU urban population exposed to air pollution **above EU standards**	EU urban population exposed to air pollution **above WHO Guidelines**
$PM_{2.5}$	6-8%	74-81%
PM_{10}	13-19%	42-52%
NO_2	7-8%	7-8%
O_3	12-29%	95-98%

Source(s): For 2015-2017; EEA Air Quality in Europe (2019)

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EU clean air policy priorities

Exceedances gap persists – continued push towards full implementation of existing clean air legislation (see also COM (2018) 330 'Cleaner Air for All'):

- **Continued enforcement action**: currently, 30 cases addressing 18 Member States as relates PM_{10}, NO_2, and SO_2 exceedances, as well as monitoring gaps
- **EU funding for clean air**: specific allocations for air quality of EUR 2 billion (2014-2020)
  plus substantial indirect contributions, under cohesion policy
  plus LIFE projects, Horizon 2020, EFSI funding, Urban Innovation Actions
- **Implementation support**: bringing together Member States, regions and cities, incl. Environmental Implementation Review, Clean Air Dialogues, Clean Air Forum
- **National Air Pollution Control Programmes**: to set a 2030 clean air trajectory

What’s next?

The European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final) announces that the Commission will adopt a **zero pollution action plan** for air, water and soil in 2021.

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

The Commission 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.

Funding 2021-2027 for Air Quality

Negotiations on the budget for 2021-2027 are ongoing. As a rough indication, currently figures close to €1100 bn circulate.

In the European Structural and Investment Funds, Policy Objective 2 (including climate, energy, environment) will likely be one of the two priorities. PO 1, 3 and 5 are also relevant.

Even if the budget is not fixed yet, preparations for the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes and other funding programmes are beginning, taking into account the European Semester.

LIFE Integrated Projects should look for adequate funding in the 2021-2027 period for the measures in the related Air Quality Plans, linking with NAPCPs, and also consider e.g. CEF and Invest EU/EIB, building on any CAD conclusions and the EIR.

Example

Transnational Cooperation Programme

Central Europe 2021-2027

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Thank you

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