



# Clean Air Dialogues

*Policy support for air quality improvements  
example from Slovakia*

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## Air pollution in Europe - Overview

Europe's **air quality is improving**: between 1990 and 2015, emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> decreased by 56%, and emission of SO<sub>2</sub> even by 89% ... **yet**, there are **still**:

- Health impacts:** More than 400 000 premature deaths each year linked to air pollution  
17% of all lung cancer deaths are due to air pollution
- Economic impacts:** More than € 24 billion per year in direct costs
- Environmental impacts:** Eutrophication limits exceeded in 63% of ecosystem area in the EU, and in 73% of Natura2000 area

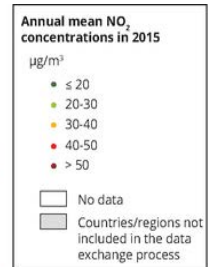
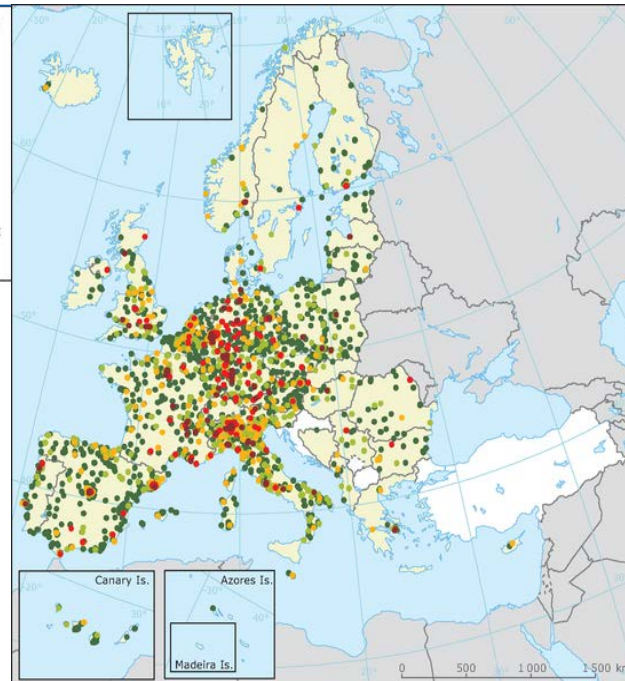
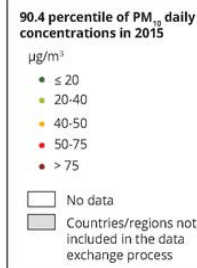
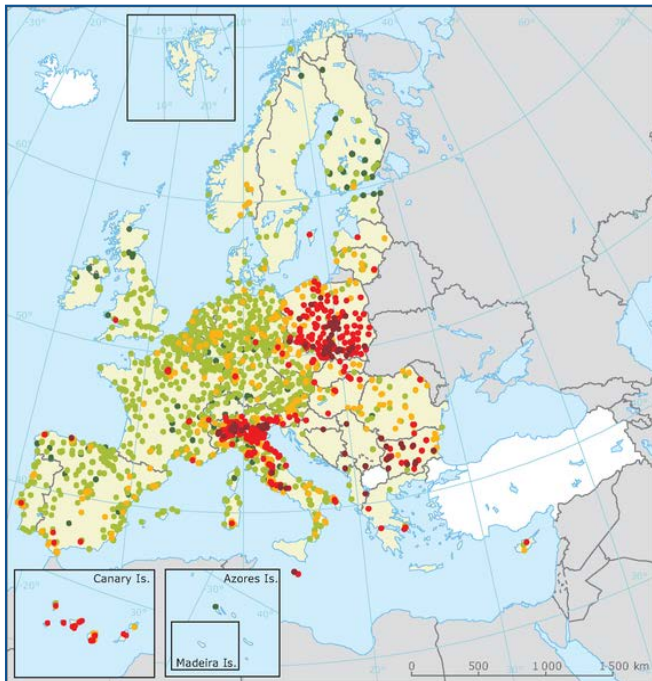
# Air pollution in Europe – Health dimension

	EU urban population exposed to air pollution above EU standards	EU urban population exposed to air pollution above WHO guidelines
<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>	7–8 % 	82–85 % 
<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	16–20 % 	50–62 % 
<b>O<sub>3</sub></b>	7–30 % 	95–98 % 
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>	7–9 % 	7–9 % 
<b>BaP</b>	20–25 % 	85–91 % 
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	< 1 % 	20–38 % 

# Air pollution in Europe – Key challenges

**PM10 exceedances:** often linked to fuel combustion (i.e. energy, heating)

**NO2 exceedances:** often linked to traffic, in more than 130 cities in EU, but not only.



# EU Clean Air Policy – The policy framework



## Air Quality Directives

Maximum concentrations of air polluting substances

CONCENTRATIONS

EMISSIONS



## National Emission Ceilings Directive

National emission totals (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>)

## Source-specific emission standards

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



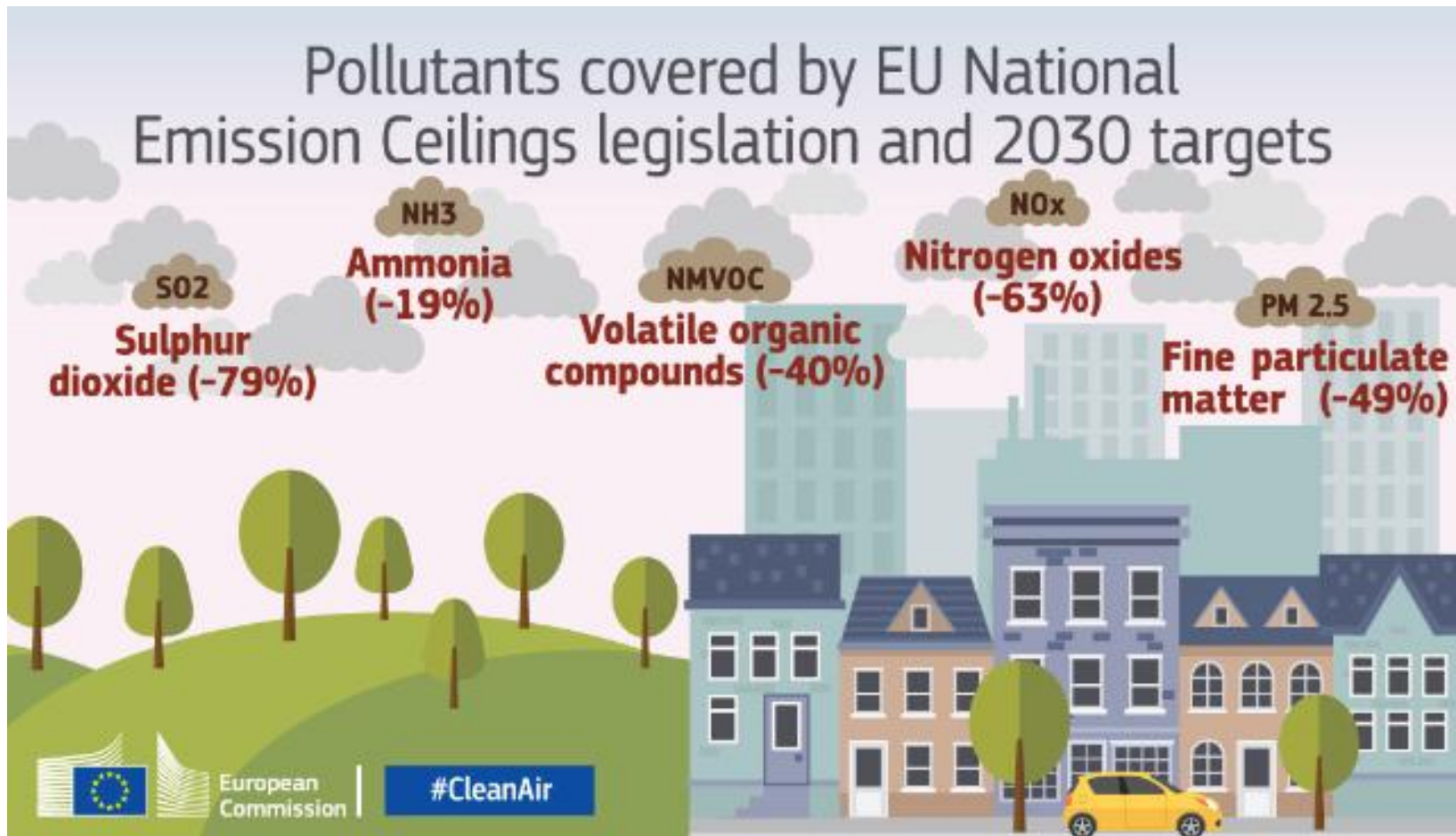
**Directives**  
- 2004/107/EC  
- 2008/50/EC

# Ambient Air Quality Directives – AQ Plans

The Ambient Air Quality Directive requires Member States to have air quality plans to **keep exceedance as short as possible**, containing:

- General information and details on measuring stations
- Nature and assessment of pollution (incl. trends)
- Techniques used for air quality assessments
- **Origin of pollution (incl. source apportionment)**
- **Details of measures and estimate of improvement of air quality planned, and the expected time required to achieve standards**

# The National Emission Ceilings Directive





## Examples of source-specific emission standards

- **Industrial Emission Directive**
- **Medium Combustion Plants Directive**
- **Energy Efficiency and Eco-design Directives, incl. related to domestic heating appliances**
- **Euro Standards for vehicles, Fuel standards**





## Clean Air Dialogues: Objectives

- Better understand implementation and implementation challenges in the Member States
- Exchange of good practices
- Promote synergies with policies dealing with climate, energy, transport, agriculture etc.
- Raise awareness on possibilities of EU funding



# Clean Air Dialogues: Principles

Open, voluntary process

All levels of governance; all stakeholders

Focus on how to improve future situation



## Clean Air Dialogues: Experience

2017-18: Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary and Slovakia.

Planned with Spain and Czech Republic.

Useful for all coal regions or countries in transition.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean\\_air/dialogue.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air/dialogue.htm)



## Clean Air Dialogue in Slovakia: Main outcomes useful in a coal-transition context

*“Raise public awareness on health impact of residential solid fuel combustion.*

*Incentives to accelerate scrapping of sub-standard solid fuel stoves and boilers; Incentives to promote systematic transfer to cleaner heating sources; Fuel quality requirements to solid fuels used in households, and related market surveillance.*

*Include air quality efforts in other relevant policies, to enhance actions by utilising synergies and co-benefits.*

*Draw on experience from other MS, such as Małopolska LIFE project.”*

# Other tools to promote air policy implementation



## Peer-2-Peer tool

### What?

- Introduced by the **Environmental Implementation Review (EIR)** process
- Supporting Member States **improving implementation of EU environmental policy & legislation**
- Spreading good practice through a focussed **peer-to-peer exchange between public authorities**
- **Covering all different environmental themes**
- Using the well-established **TAIEX instrument**

### How?

- On request of a Member States' public authority TAIEX can fund:
  - ❖ **missions of experts** from public environmental authorities (2 to 5 days)
  - ❖ **study visits** to another Member State in order to learn from their peers (up to 3 participants, 2-5 days) and
  - ❖ **single or multi-country workshops**



More information, e-application and expert registration:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/p2p/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/p2p/index_en.htm)

# Other tools to promote air policy implementation



## Clean Air forum

Objective: provide guidance and facilitate coordinated implementation of EU air legislation, bringing together stakeholders, incl competent authorities (at all levels), COM, industry, civil society, scientific community

1<sup>st</sup> one in Paris in Nov. 2017

Next one in Slovakia in 2019

<https://www.euconf.eu/clean-air/index.html>



## Some concluding reflections

Public (and political) awareness of **air quality challenge** has increased => acceptability of transition.

Reducing air pollution effectively requires **close cooperation** between different societal actors and across governance levels (EU, national, local).

Air quality management, building renovation, fuel and appliances switching all play a key role in improving local air quality => **regions are at the center.**

Air quality is intrinsically linked to coal transition => **enhance synergies.**



## **More Information**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/>

## **Feedback**

[ENV-AIR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENV-AIR@ec.europa.eu)

## **Thank you!**

European Commission  
DG ENV C.3 - Clean Air