

Local city report

Strasbourg

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Summary

The Psas program (www.invs.sante.fr/surveillance/psas9/), which monitors air pollution and health in France, has contributed to the health impact assessments (HIA) of urban air pollution carried out in 25 European cities by the Aphekom project (Improving Knowledge and Communication for Decision Making on Air Pollution and Health in Europe, www.aphekom.org). Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS) has coordinated both projects.

Because informing decision-making at the city level remains a core focus of both projects, we have broken the HIAs out for each participating city to highlight its local specificities.

We chose various scenarios for reducing exposure to particulate matter and ozone and we used different tools and exposure/response functions to estimate the short and long term health impacts of the different pollutants. Below appears the HIA findings for the city of Strasbourg.

A significant health gain would be achieved by lowering PM concentrations. Compliance with the WHO-AQG for PM₁₀ (20µg/m³) would induce benefits in terms of mortality and hospital admissions (8 deaths and 32 hospital admissions avoided per year). The associated monetary gain would be of more than 800 000 €. And compliance with the WHO-AQG for PM_{2.5} (10 µg/m³) would postpone 113 deaths, corresponding to a gain in life expectancy of 0.5 years per inhabitant. Considering the reduction in mortality, the associated monetary gain would exceed 180 millions €. The gain in life expectancy would be valued more than 260 millions €.

The results from the present health impact assessment (HIA) may help promoting measures aiming at reducing air pollutant emissions, especially from traffic.

In addition, the Aphekom project was able to show that living near streets and roads carrying heavy traffic may have serious health effects, particularly on the development of chronic diseases. Aphekom also investigated the effects of EU legislation to reduce the sulphur content of fuels (mainly diesel oil used by diesel vehicles, shipping and home heating) showing in 20 cities not only a marked, sustained reduction in ambient SO₂ levels but also the resulting prevention of some 2,200 premature deaths valued at € 192 million.

Together these findings show that policies aiming at reducing air pollution would be associated with a significant improvement in the health status and quality of life of European citizens.

Acronyms

Aphekom: Improving Knowledge and Communication for Decision Making on Air Pollution and Health in Europe

HIA: health impact assessment

O₃: ozone

PM₁₀: particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter <10 µm

PM_{2.5}: particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter <2.5 µm

SO₂: Sulfur dioxyde

Introduction

Much has been done in recent years in European cities to reduce air pollution and its harmful effects on health. Yet gaps remain in stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of this continuing threat that hamper the planning and implementation of measures to protect public health more effectively.

Sixty Aphekom scientists have therefore worked for nearly 3 years in 25 cities across Europe to provide new information and tools that enable decision makers to set more effective European, national and local policies; health professionals to better advise vulnerable individuals; and all individuals to better protect their health.

Ultimately, through this work the Aphekom project hopes to contribute to reducing both air pollution and its impact on health and well being across European cities.

Section 1. Standardised HIA in 25 Aphekom cities

Health impact assessments have been used to analyze the impact of improving air quality on a given population's health. Using standardised Health Impact Assessment (HIA) methods, the preceding Apehis project (1) (www.apheis.org) showed that large health benefits could be obtained by reducing PM levels in 26 European cities totalling more than 40 million inhabitants (2;3). Apehis thus confirmed that, despite reductions in air pollution since the 1990s, the public health burden of air pollution remains of concern in Europe.

Building on the experience gained in the Apehis project, Aphekom conducted a standardised HIA of urban air pollution in the 25 Aphekom cities totalling nearly 39 million inhabitants: Athens, Barcelona, Bilbao, Bordeaux, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Dublin, Granada, Le Havre, Lille, Ljubljana, London, Lyon, Malaga, Marseille, Paris, Rome, Rouen, Seville, Stockholm, Strasbourg, Toulouse, Valencia and Vienna. In each participating centre, the project analysed the short-term impacts of ozone and PM₁₀ on mortality and morbidity, as well as the long-term impacts of PM_{2.5} on mortality and life expectancy in populations 30 years of age.

This work shows that a decrease to 10 micrograms/cubic metre of long-term exposure to PM_{2.5} fine particles (WHO's annual air-quality guideline) could add up to 22 months of life expectancy at age 30, depending on the city and its average level of PM_{2.5} (figure 1).

Hence, exceeding the WHO air-quality guideline on PM_{2.5} leads to a burden on mortality of nearly 19,000 deaths per annum, more than 15,000 of which are caused by cardiovascular diseases.

Aphekom also determined that the monetary health benefits from complying with the WHO guideline would total some € 31.5 billion annually, including savings on health expenditures, absenteeism and intangible costs such as well being, life expectancy and quality of life.

This report details the results for Strasbourg.

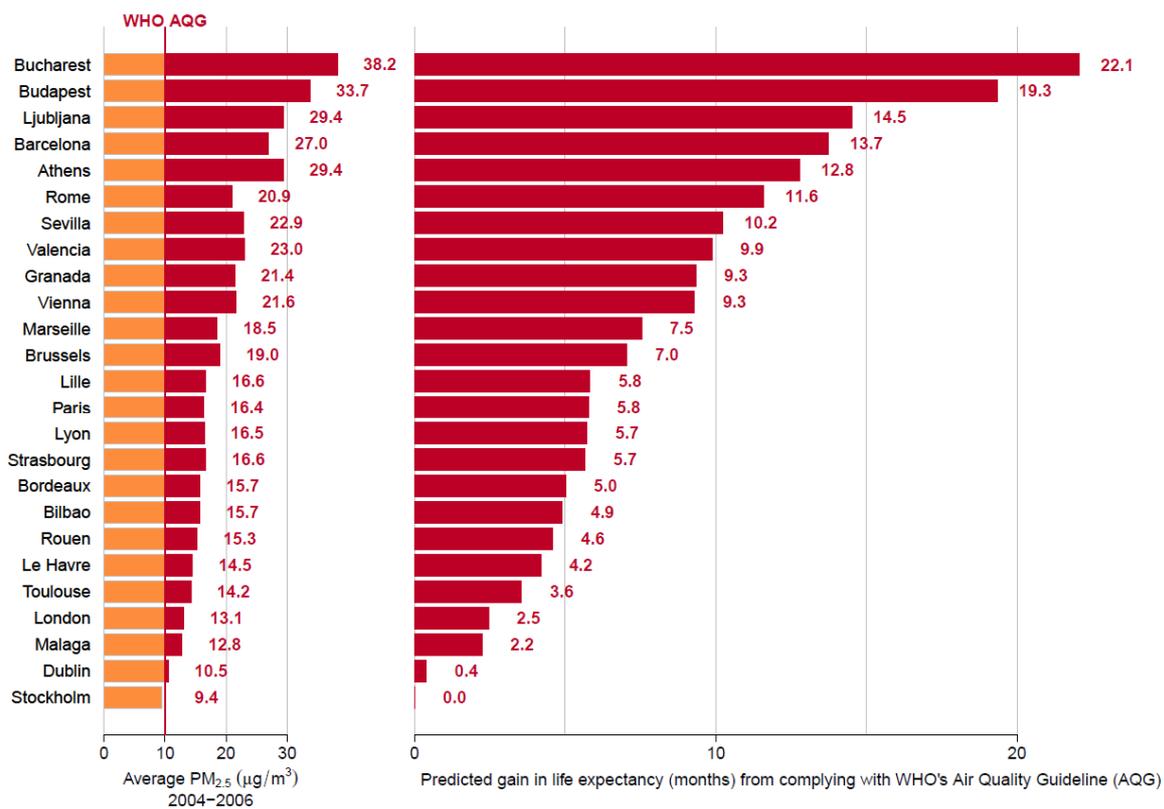


Figure 1: Predicted average gain in life expectancy (months) for persons 30 years of age in 25 Aphekom cities for a decrease in average annual level of PM_{2.5} to 10 µg/m³ (WHO's Air Quality Guideline)

1.1. Description of the study area for Strasbourg

The Aphekom project has defined the study area so that data from local air-quality monitoring can provide a good estimate of the average exposure of the population in the study area, taking into account local land use, daily commuting and meteorology.

The study area included 20 municipalities around Strasbourg, over 222 km². The area is located in the valley called Fossé rhénan (with the Vosges to West and Black Forest to the East) which encourages the stagnation of the air in the entire region and increases the dome phenomena of urban pollution.

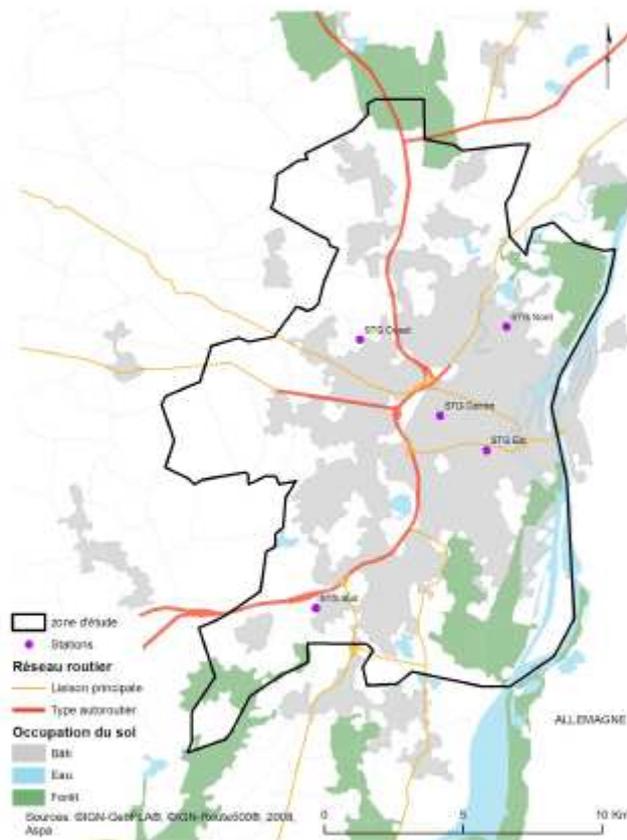


Figure 2 – Map of the study area

Climatology

It has an oceanic climate with a continental influence. Average temperature ranges from of 6.5 to 15.2°C. Relative humidity is 55.8%.

Population in the study area

In 2006, the population of this area was 440 264 inhabitants (13.7% older than 65 years), and a density of 1 983 Hab. /km².

Commuting

Approximately 86% of the employees of the urban area of Strasbourg work in the study area.

1.2. Sources of air pollution and exposure data

Sources

In the area of Strasbourg, the main sources of atmospheric pollution are linked to traffic, residential/tertiary sector, power production and industry emissions.

Exposure data

Air pollution data levels was obtained from ASPA (Association pour la surveillance et l'étude de la pollution atmosphérique en Alsace), the local air pollution monitoring network.

All the background stations within study area were used to build the exposure indicators for the period 2004-2006. Four urban stations were used STG Est (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, O₃), STG Centre (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, O₃), STG Nord (PM₁₀, O₃), STG Centre2 (O₃), and a suburban station was used for ozone (STG Ouest and STG Sud).

Ozone concentrations are measured by Ultraviolet photometric method. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations are measured by quartz microbalance method (TEOM).

After consultation of the reference laboratory in France for methods of measuring PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, we used two correction factors for respectively short and long term HIA calculations:

- In winter (increased levels of PM): 1.21
- In summer (moderate levels of PM): 1

These factors were based on comparative locally measurements between gravimetric and TEOM methods.

Corrected PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} annual mean have been calculated as the arithmetic mean of the annual concentrations of the urban stations.

The daily maximum ozone 8-hours concentrations have been calculated as the arithmetic mean of the maximum 8-hour moving averages of the stations.

Corrected PM₁₀ annual mean were below the limit value for 2005 (40µg/m³), but higher than WHO limit value (20µg/m³). The daily maximum 8-hour moving average has been higher than 100µg/m³ during 162 days between 2004 and 2006, and above 160µg/m³ during 19 days

Daily 8-hour maximum ozone levels show a large variability between winter and summer, while daily corrected PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels show a smaller variability.

Table 1 – Daily mean levels, standard deviation and 5th and 95th percentiles for air pollutants (2004-2006)

Pollutant	Daily mean (µg/m ³)	Standard deviation (µg/m ³)	5 th percentile (µg/m ³)	95 th percentile (µg/m ³)
Ozone (daily 8h max)	62	38	7	134
PM₁₀ (daily average)	25	12	10	48
PM_{2.5} (daily average)	17	9	7	35

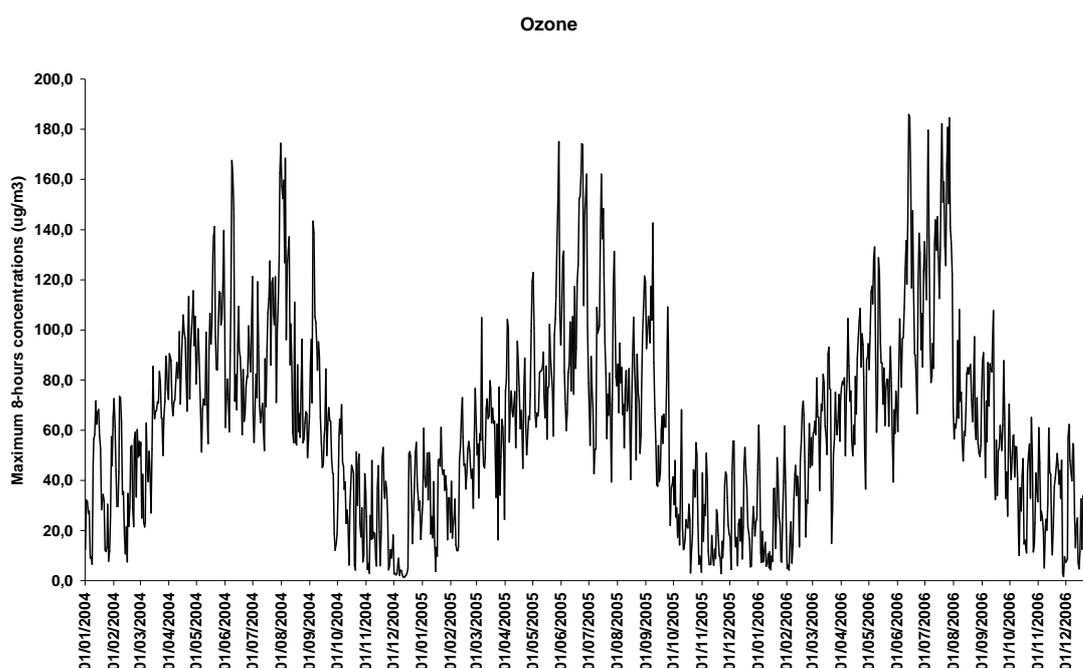
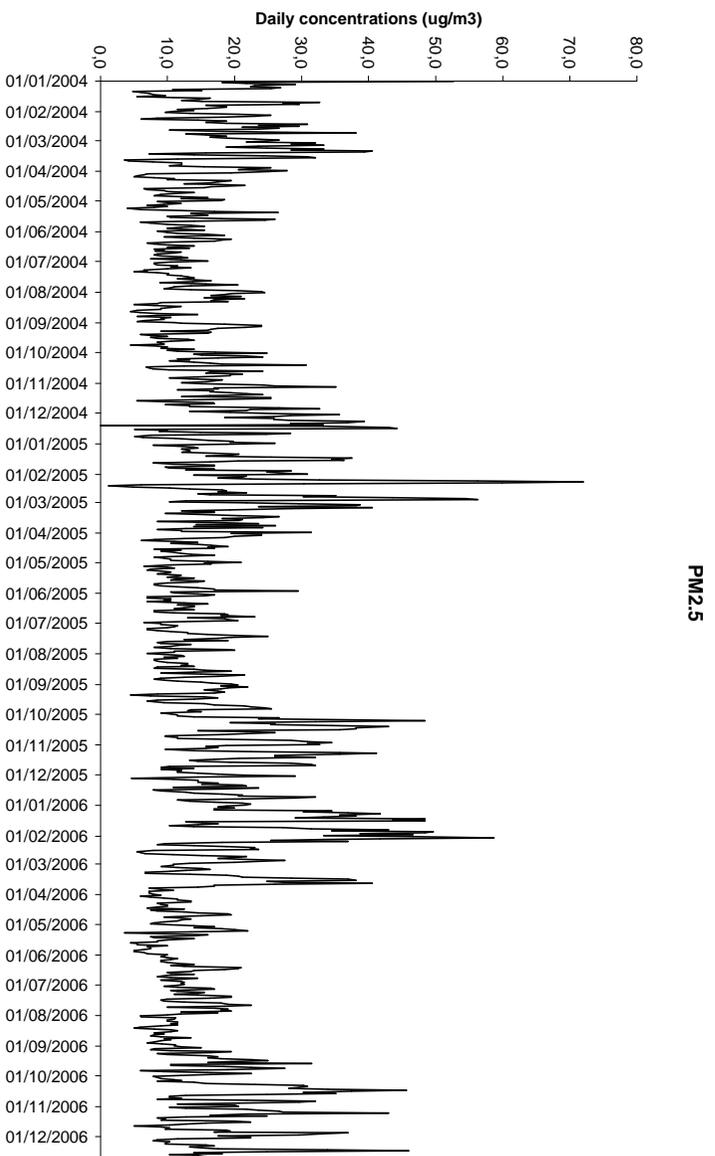
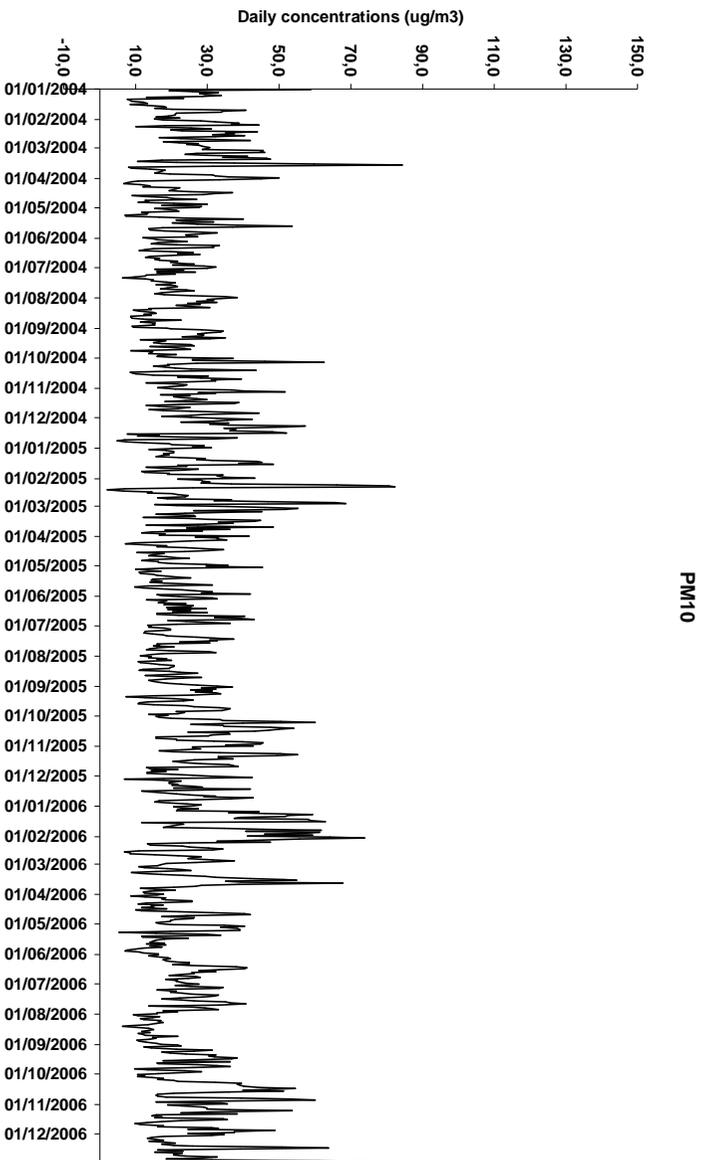


Figure 3 – Ozone concentrations in the study area



1.3. Health data

The number of deaths in the general population (non-external mortality) was 2903 (annual rate 659 per 100,000), among which 896 (annual rate 355 per 100,000) were due to cardiovascular causes.

Table 2 – Annual mean number and annual rate per 100 000 deaths and hospitalisations (2004-2006)

Health outcome	ICD9	ICD10	Age	Annual mean number	Annual rate per 100 000
Non-external mortality*	< 800	A00-R99	All	2903	659
Total (including external mortality)	000-999	A00-J98	> 30	2977	780
Cardiovascular mortality	390-429	I00-I52	> 30	896	355
Cardiac hospitalisations	390-429	I00-I52	All	3261	741
Respiratory hospitalisations	460-519	J00-J99	All	4261	374
Respiratory hospitalisations	460-519	J00-J99	15-64 yrs	1646	336
Respiratory hospitalisations	460-519	J00-J99	≥ 65 yrs	1479	968

* Non-external mortality excludes violent deaths such as injuries, suicides, homicides, or accidents.

1.4. Health impact assessment

Aphekomp chose different scenarios to evaluate the health impacts of short- and long-term exposure to air pollution. The scenarios are detailed below for each air pollutant.

NOTE: Under no circumstances should HIA findings for the different air pollutants be added together because the chosen air pollutants all represent the same urban air pollution mixture and because their estimated health impacts may overlap.

The HIA method is detailed in Annex 1 and HIA tools are provided in <http://si.easp.es/aphekomp>.

Here we present a summary of our HIA method.

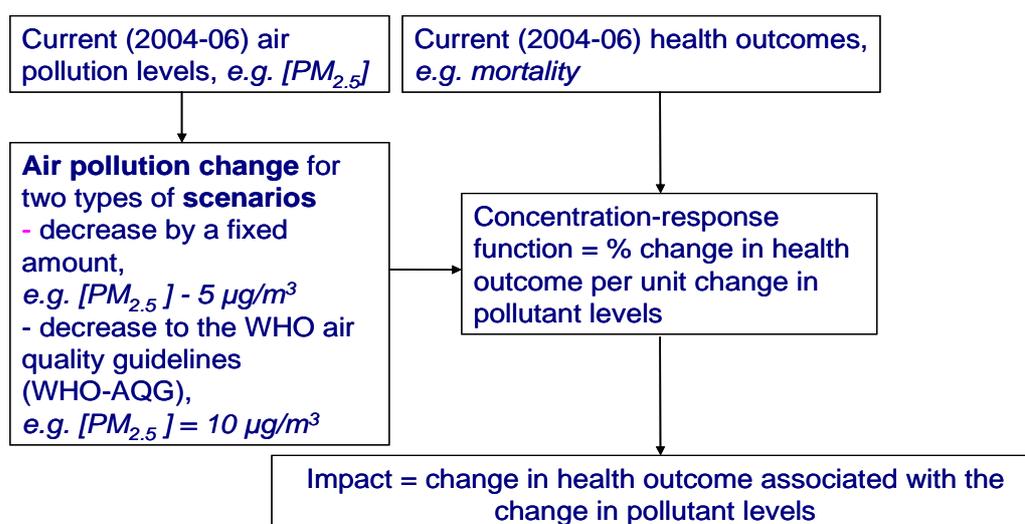


Figure 6 – Principles of local health impact assessment (HIA)

1.4.1. Short-term impacts of PM₁₀

For PM₁₀, we first considered a scenario where the annual mean of PM₁₀ is decreased by 5 µg/m³, and then a scenario where the PM₁₀ annual mean is decreased to 20 µg/m³, the WHO annual air quality guideline (WHO-AQG).

Decreasing PM₁₀ annual mean by 5 µg/m³ would postpone 9 deaths per year, 24 hospitalisations for respiratory diseases and 10 hospitalisations for cardiac diseases. Decreasing the annual mean to 20 µg/m³ would postpone 8 deaths per year, 23 hospitalisations for respiratory diseases and 9 hospitalisations for cardiac diseases.

Table 3 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM₁₀ levels on total non-external* mortality

Scenarios	Total annual number of deaths postponed	Annual number of deaths postponed per 100 000
Decrease by 5 µg/m ³	9	2
Decrease to 20 µg/m ³	8	2

* Non-external mortality excludes violent deaths such as injuries, suicides, homicides, or accidents.

Table 4 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM₁₀ levels on hospitalisations

Scenarios	Respiratory hospitalisations		Cardiac hospitalisations	
	Total annual number of cases postponed	Annual number of cases postponed per 100 000	Total annual number of cases postponed	Annual number of cases postponed per 100 000
Decrease by 5 µg/m ³	24	5	10	2
Decrease to 20 µg/m ³	23	5	9	2

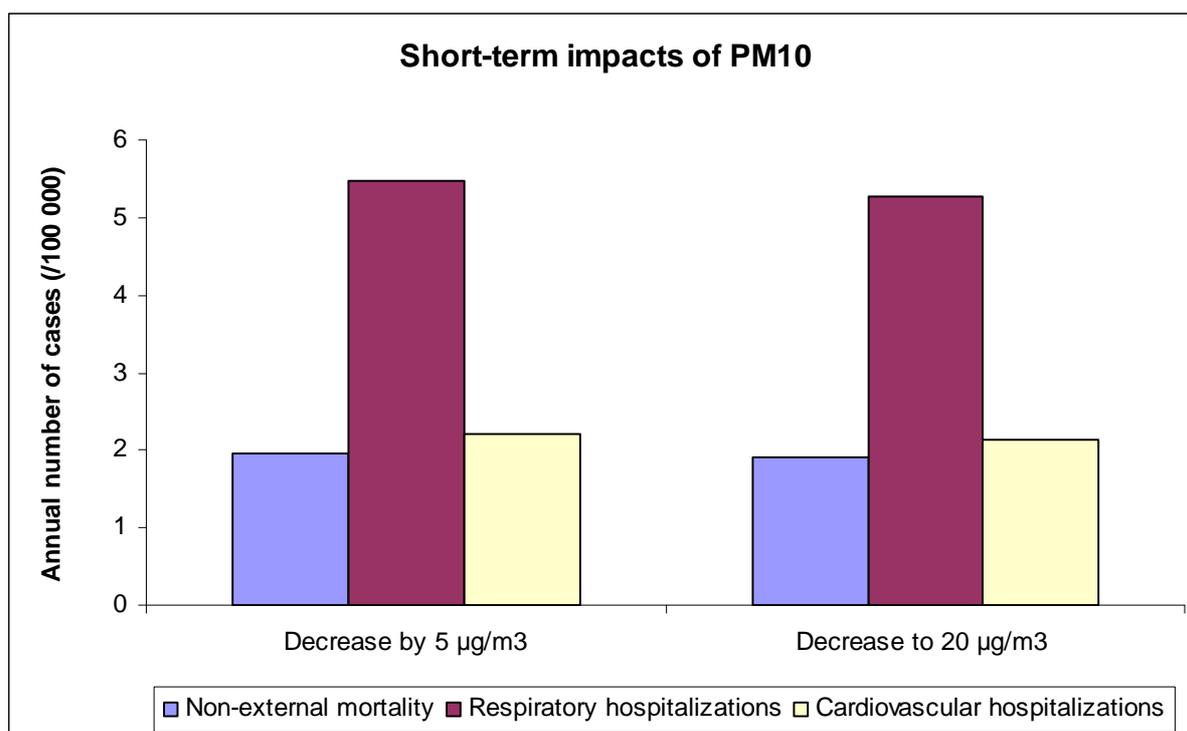


Figure 7 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM₁₀ levels on mortality and on hospitalisations

1.4.2. Short-term impacts of ozone

For ozone, WHO set two guideline values for daily the maximum 8-hours mean. The interim target value (WHO-IT1) is set at 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The purpose of the interim value is to define steps in the progressive reduction of air pollution in the most polluted areas. The second value, the air quality guideline value (WHO-AQG) is set at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

We first considered a scenario where all daily values above 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ were reduced to WHO-IT (160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), then a scenario where all daily values above 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ were reduced to WHO-AQG (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and lastly a scenario where the daily mean is decreased by 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Ozone values were below 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ during the study period except for 19 days. Decreasing values above 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ would postpone 4 deaths, 1 hospitalisation for respiratory diseases for people aged 15 to 64, and 3 hospitalisations for respiratory diseases for people older than 65.

Reducing all concentrations by 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, would postpone 4 deaths, 1 hospitalisations for respiratory diseases for people between 15 to 64 year and 4 hospitalisations for respiratory diseases for people older than 65.

Table 5 – Potential benefits of reducing daily ozone levels on total non-external* mortality

Scenarios	Total annual number of deaths postponed	Annual number of deaths postponed per 100 000
8h max daily values >160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	0.19	0.04
8h max daily values >100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	4	1
Decrease by 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	4	1

* Non-external mortality excludes violent deaths such as injuries, suicides, homicides, or accidents.

Table 6 – Potential benefits of reducing daily ozone levels on hospitalisations

Scenarios	Respiratory hospitalisations (15-64)		Respiratory hospitalisations (>64)	
	Total annual number of cases postponed	Annual number of cases postponed per 100 000	Total annual number of cases postponed	Annual number of cases postponed per 100 000
8h max daily values >160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = 160 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	0	0	0	0
8h max daily values >100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ = 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	1	0	3	5
Decrease by 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	1	0	4	6

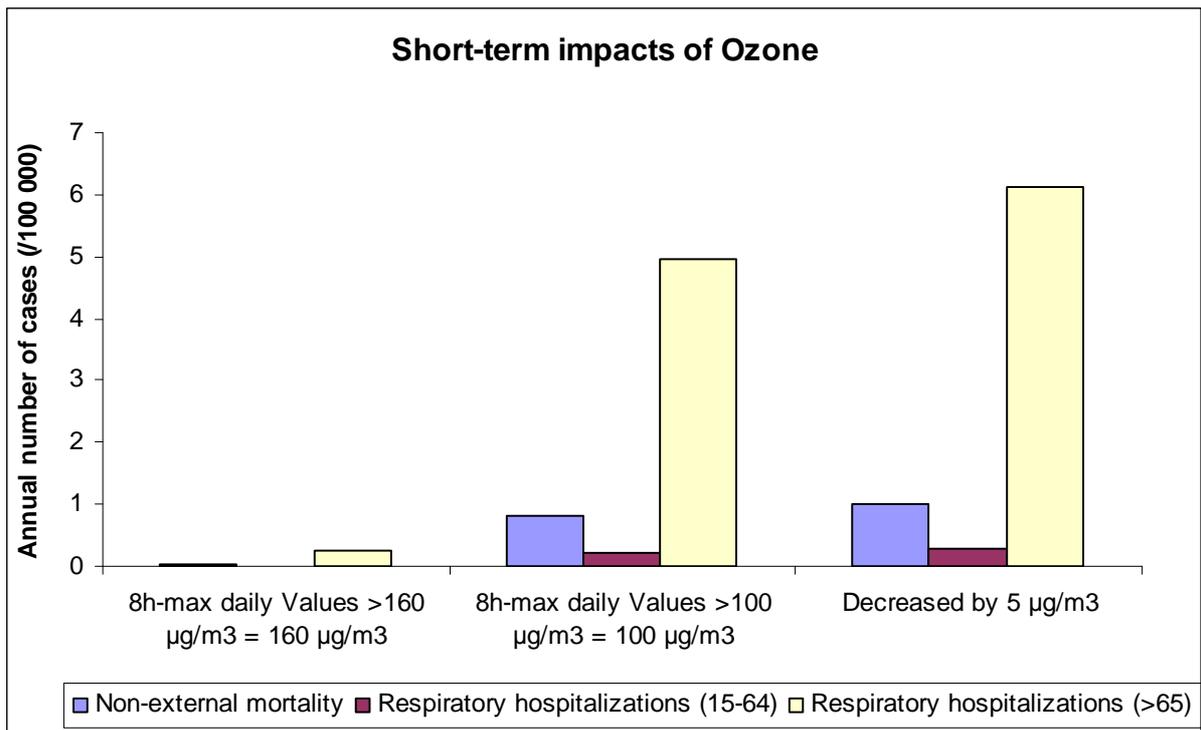


Figure 8 – Potential benefits of reducing daily ozone levels on mortality and on hospitalisations

1.4.3. Long-term impacts of PM_{2.5}

For PM_{2.5}, we first considered a scenario where the PM_{2.5} annual mean is decreased by 5 µg/m³, and then a scenario where the PM_{2.5} annual mean is decreased to 10 µg/m³ (WHO AQG).

Decreasing concentrations by 5 µg/m³ would postpone 85 deaths, and 49 deaths for cardiovascular causes. This corresponds to a gain in life expectancy of 0.4 years per inhabitant.

Decreasing concentrations to 10 µg/m³ would postpone 113 deaths, and 65 deaths for cardiovascular causes. This corresponds to a gain in life expectancy of 0.5 years per inhabitant.

Table 7 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM_{2.5} levels on total non-external* mortality and on life expectancy

Scenarios	Total annual number of deaths postponed	Annual number of deaths postponed per 100 000	Gain in life expectancy
Decrease by 5 µg/m ³	85	34	0.4
Decrease to 10 µg/m ³	113	45	0.5

* Non-external mortality excludes violent deaths such as injuries, suicides, homicides, or accidents.

Table 8 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM_{2.5} levels on total cardiovascular mortality

Scenarios	Total annual number of deaths postponed	Annual number of deaths postponed per 100 000
Decrease by 5 µg/m ³	49	20
Decrease to 10 µg/m ³	65	26

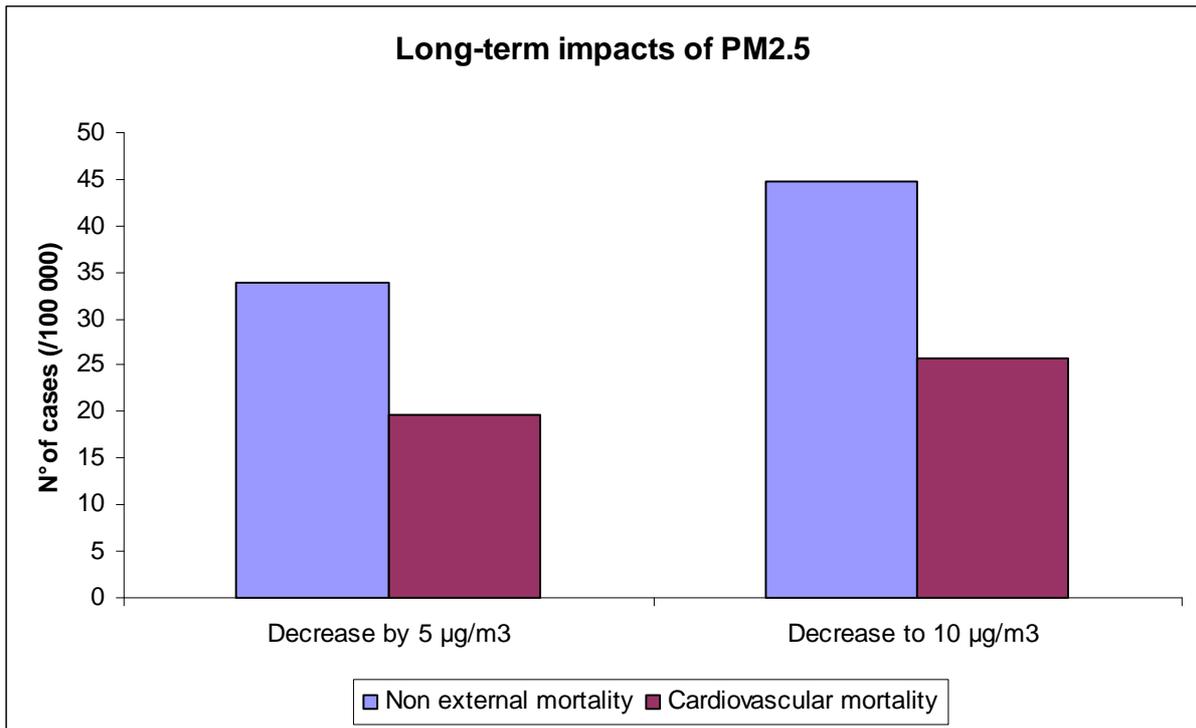


Figure 9 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM_{2.5} levels on mortality

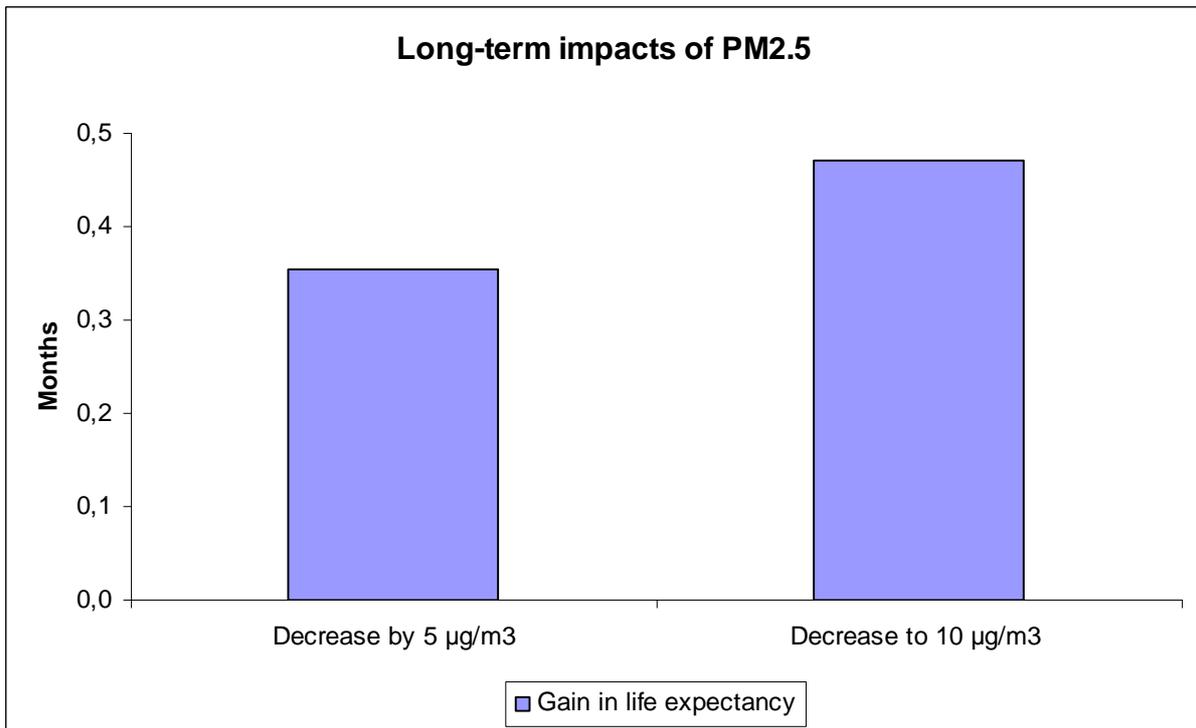


Figure 10 – Potential benefits of reducing annual PM_{2.5} levels on life expectancy

1.4.4. Economic valuation

These HIAs show short- and long-term potential benefits on mortality of reducing air pollution as well as the short-term potential benefits on hospitalisations.

Mortality

The monetary values chosen to assess mortality benefits are going to differ depending on the short- or long-term nature of the exposure to air pollution. Indeed, the short- and long-term postponed deaths differ regarding the size of the gains in life expectancy (see Appendix 2).

For short-term impacts, the monetary value of € 86,600 was chosen. Decreasing PM₁₀ concentration by 5 µg/m³ would then correspond to a saving of € 779,400. Decreasing PM₁₀ concentrations to 20 µg/m³ would correspond to a saving of € 692,800. And decreasing ozone concentrations above 100 µg/m³ to 100 µg/m³ would save € 346,400.

For long-term impacts, the monetary value of € 1,655,000 was chosen. Decreasing PM_{2.5} concentrations by 5 µg/m³ would then correspond to a saving of € 14,067,500. Decreasing PM_{2.5} concentrations to 10 µg/m³ would correspond to a saving of € 187,015,000. Taking into account the gain in life expectancy would correspond to a saving of € 198,452,906 for the first scenario, and € 266,493,903 for the second.

Hospitalisations

The standard cost of illness approach is used for short-term hospitalisations, and consists in applying unit economic values to each case, including direct and indirect costs. The method is detailed on Appendix 2. Considering that an hospitalisation costs € 3,777, the savings would be of €128,418 when reducing PM₁₀ concentrations by 5 µg/m³ and of € 120,864 when reducing PM₁₀ concentrations to 20 µg/m³. The gain associated to a reduction of ozone levels exceeding 100 µg/m³ would be of € 15,108.

1.4.5. Interpretation of findings

A significant health gain would be achieved by lowering the PM concentrations in Strasbourg. The compliance with the WHO-AQG for PM₁₀ (20µg/m³) would induce a moderate benefit on mortality and hospital admissions (8 deaths and 32 hospital admissions avoided per year). The associated monetary gain would be of more than € 800,000.

Lowering PM_{2.5} would have a greater impact. Compliance with the WHO-AQG of 10 µg/m³ would postpone 113 deaths, corresponding to a gain in life expectancy of 0.5 years per inhabitant. This gain in life expectancy would be valued more than 260 millions €.

The results from the present HIAs may help promoting local measures aiming at reducing air pollutant emissions, especially from traffic.

Section 2. Health Impacts and Policy: Novel Approaches

Pollutants such as ultrafine particles occur in high concentrations along streets and roads carrying heavy traffic. And evidence is growing that living near such streets and roads may have serious health effects, particularly on the development of chronic diseases. Until now, however, HIAs have not explicitly incorporated this factor.

For this purpose, Aphekomp has applied innovative HIA methods to take into account the additional long-term impact on the development of chronic diseases from living near busy roads. We also evaluated the monetary costs associated with this impact.

We first determined that, on average, over 50 percent of the population in the 10 European cities studied lives within 150 metres of roads travelled by 10,000 or more vehicles per day and could thus be exposed to substantial levels of toxic pollutants.

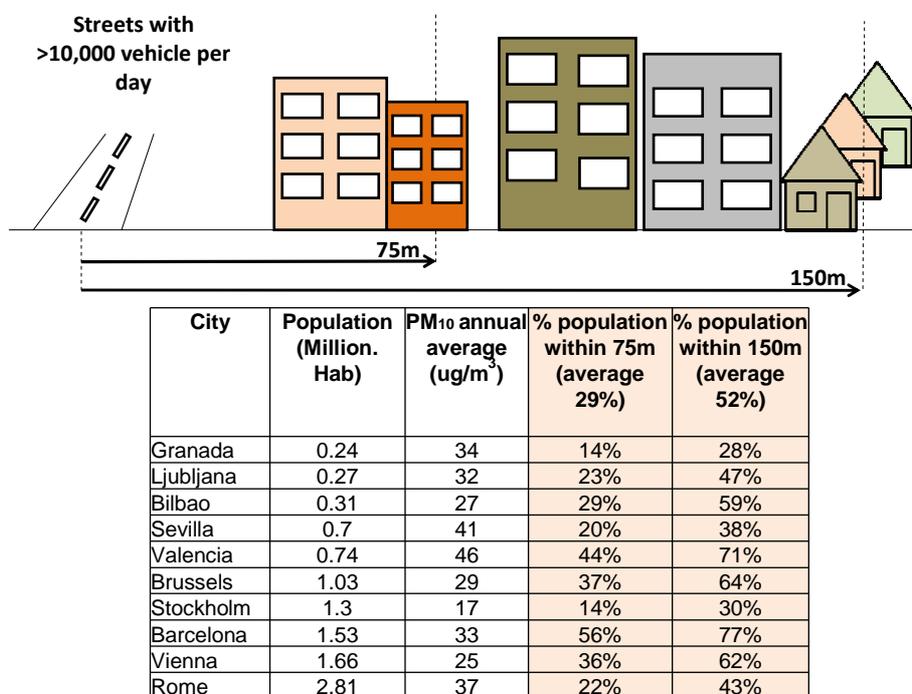


Figure 11 – Estimated percentage of people living near busy roads

In the cities studied, our HIA showed that living near these roads could be responsible for some 15-30 percent of all new cases of: asthma in children; and of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and CHD (coronary heart disease) in adults 65 years of age and older.

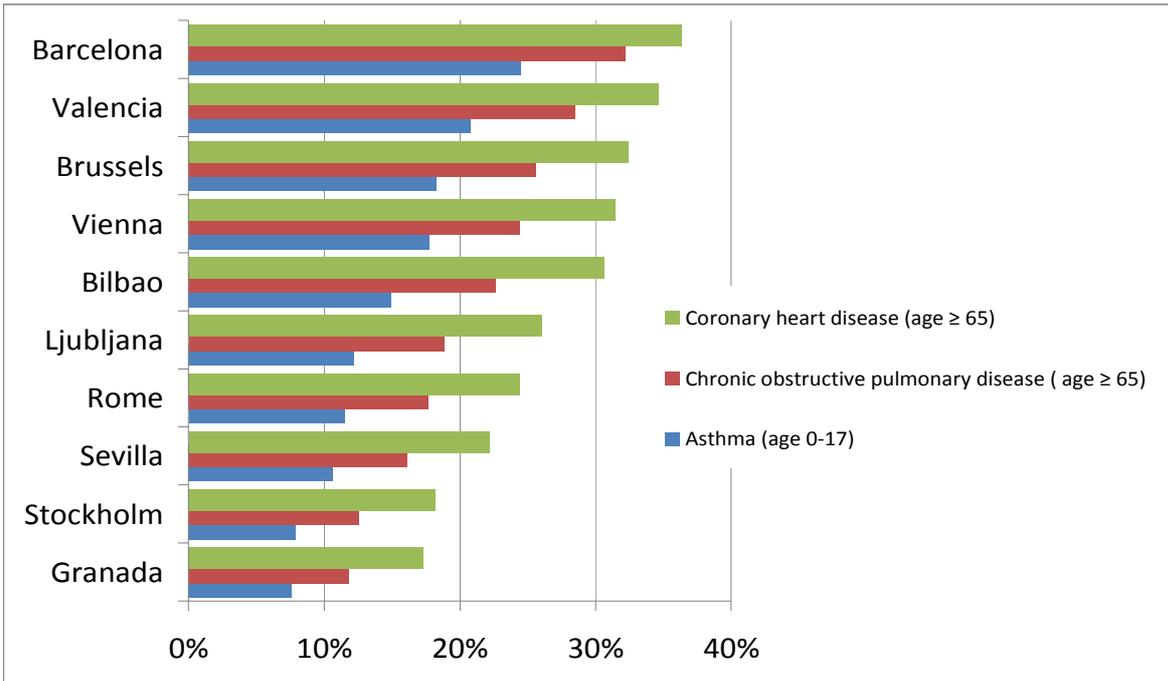


Figure 12 – Percentage of population with chronic diseases whose disease is attributable to living near busy streets and roads in 10 Aphekom cities

Aphekom further estimated that, on average for all 10 cities studied, 15-30 percent of exacerbations of asthma in children, acute worsening of COPD and acute CHD problems in adults are attributable to air pollution. This burden is substantially larger than previous estimates of exacerbations of chronic diseases, since it has been ignored so far that air pollution may cause the underlying chronic disease as well.

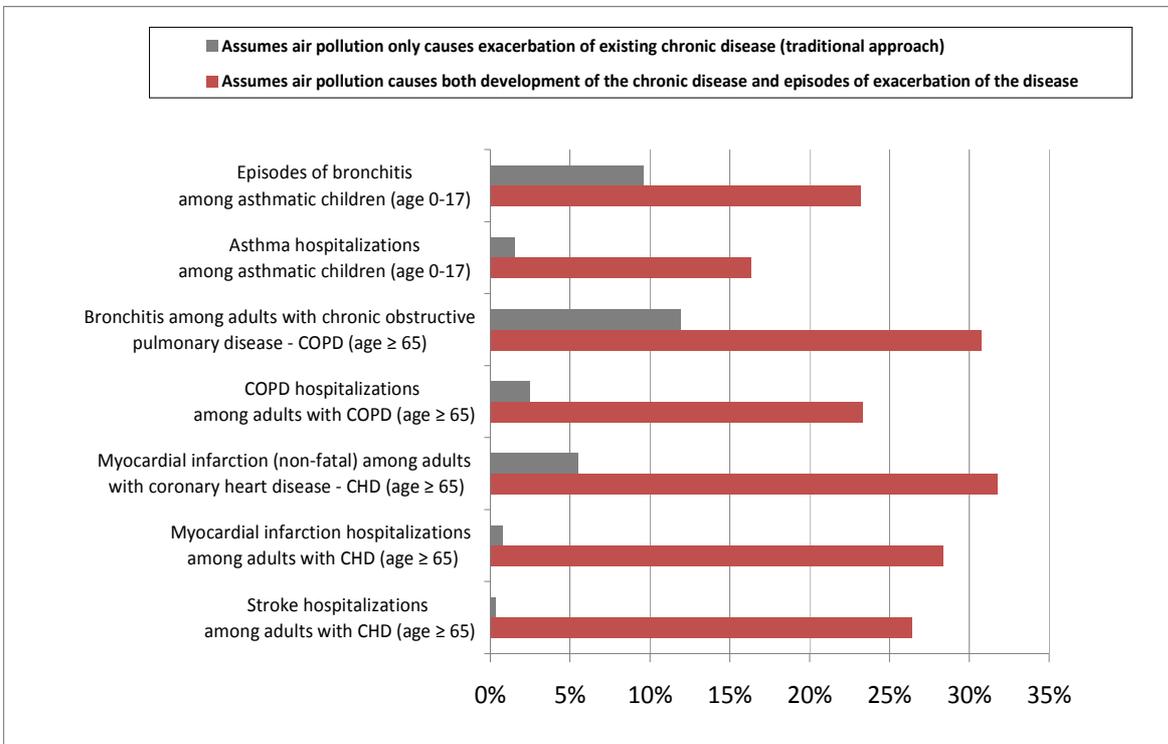


Figure 13 – Comparison of impact of air pollution on chronic diseases calculated using two different HIA approaches in Aphekom

In addition, for the population studied Aphekom estimated an economic burden of more than € 300 million every year attributable to chronic diseases caused by living near heavy traffic. This burden is to be added to some € 10 millions attributable to exacerbations of these diseases.

The economic valuation is not sufficiently robust at the city level from a HIA as well as an economic perspective to allow for local computations.

Section 3. Health Impacts of Implemented Policies in Air Pollution

As part of the work of the Aphekom project an extensive review of the scientific literature on interventions, both legislative and coincidental which have resulted in reductions in air pollution, was conducted. This review shows that air pollution interventions have been successful at reducing air pollution levels. It has also shown that there is consistent (significant) published evidence that most of these interventions have been associated with health benefits, mostly by way of reduced cardiovascular or respiratory mortality and or morbidity. Throughout the majority of reviewed interventions the found decrease in mortality exceeded by far the expected predicted figures based on observations European multicity studies. This provides an informed scientific basis for decision and policy makers.

In addition to that, Aphekom investigated the effects of EU legislation to reduce the sulphur content of fuels (mainly diesel oil used by diesel vehicles, shipping and home heating). In detail the effect on air pollution levels of the implementation of the Council Directive 93/12/EEC and its amended version Council Directive 1999/32/EC including marine oils were analysed. The implementation of the two Council Directives encompassed three stages of implementation gradually reducing the sulphur content in certain fuels in the EU member states with stage (I) being implemented as laid down in the directive on 1st Oct. 1994, stage (II) on 1st Oct. 1996 and stage (III) on 1st July 2000.

Overall, for 20 European cities involved in the Aphekom project, this analysis showed not only a marked, sustained reduction in ambient SO₂ levels, but also saved 2212 lives from all-cause mortality, 153 lives from respiratory-cause and 1312 lives from cardiovascular-cause mortality per year attributable to reduced ambient SO₂ in the cities studied spread all across Europe, from the year 2000 onwards compared to the baseline period with no directive being implemented.

Air quality analysis

The general decreasing trend in daily urban background (UB) SO₂ concentrations that has been observed across all centres (except the French centres excluding Lyon) over the time period of the study is illustrated in Figure 14. Overall there was no clear step change in SO₂ concentrations after implementation of the Directives; rather a gradual decline in SO₂ levels was observed.

Furthermore city specific observations for Strasbourg are presented in Figure 15 showing seasonal averages of UB SO₂ (please note change in scaling compared to Fig. 14).

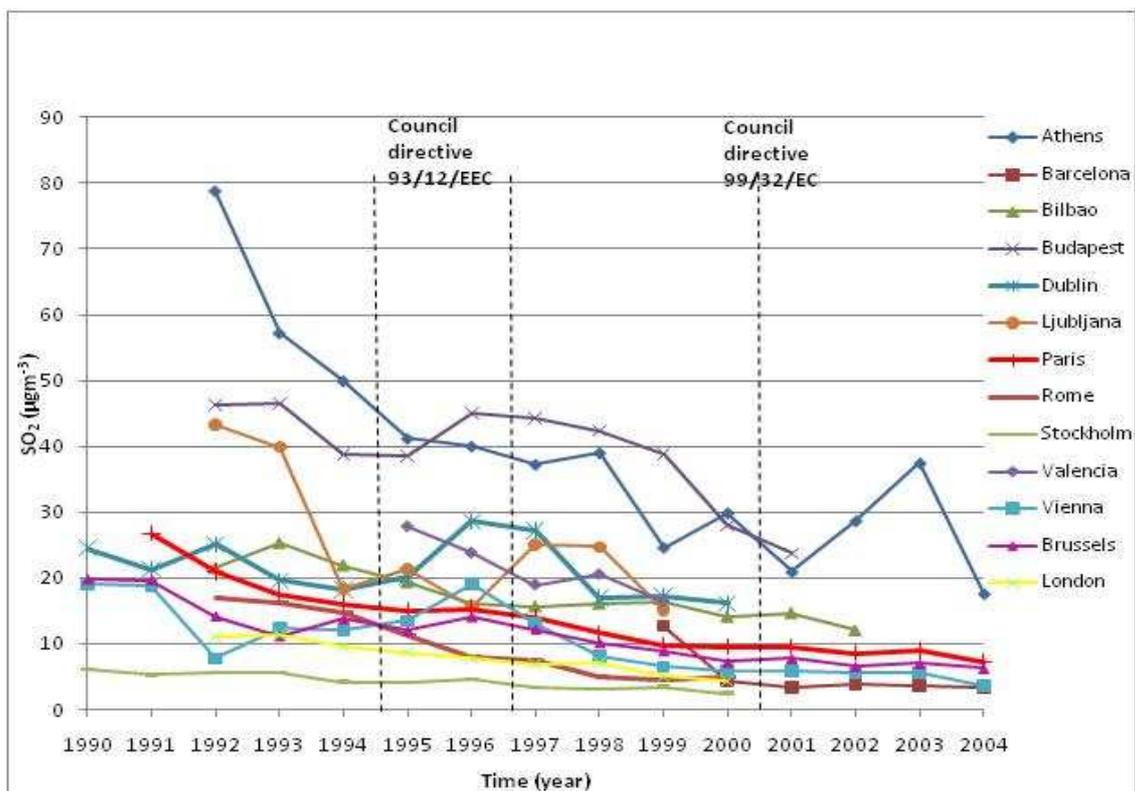


Figure 14 – Plot of yearly urban background SO₂ averages for 13 Aphekom cities from 1990 to 2004

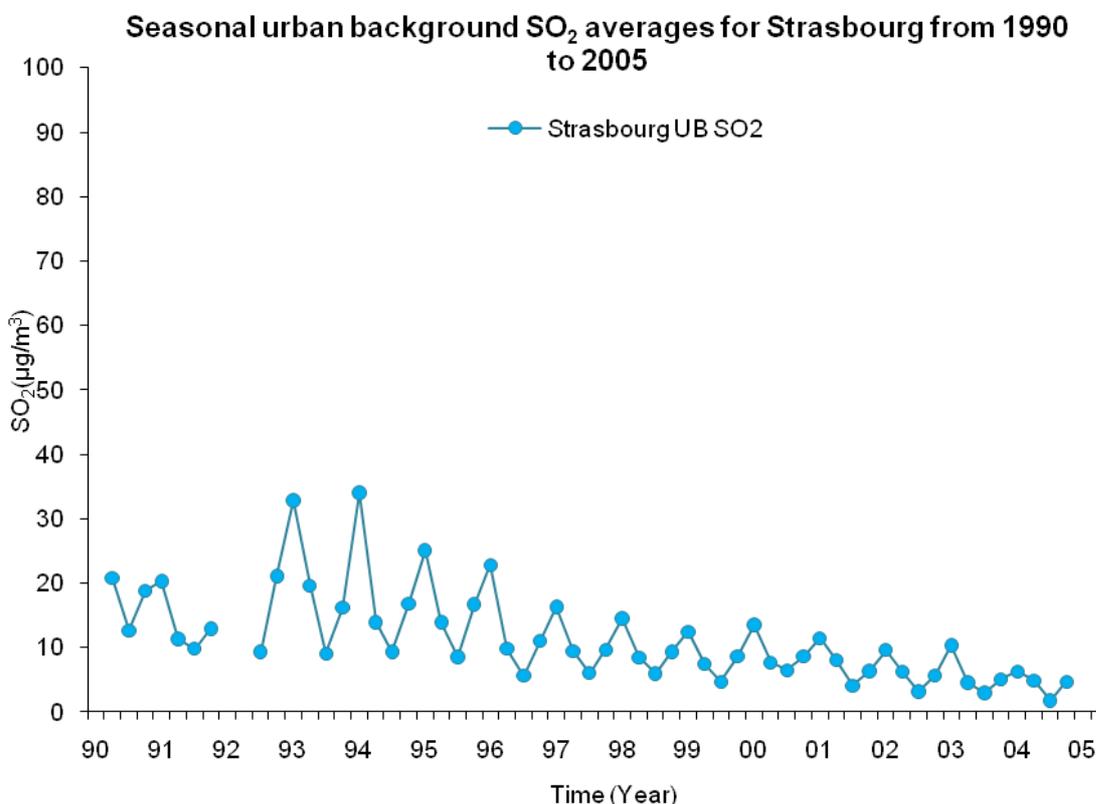


Figure 15: Plot of seasonal urban background SO₂ averages for Strasbourg from 1990 – 2004

A rather abnormal peak of very high urban background SO₂ levels was observed simultaneously in a number of centres in the winters of 1995/6 and 1996/7. This does not mean that there are no outlying Aphekom - Improving Knowledge and Communication for Decision Making on Air Pollution and Health in Europe

peaks now and then during the studied period in SO₂ levels for individual centres. The fact that those peaks were observed in many centres simultaneously and that individual levels were quite high compared to years before and after the observed peaks caught the attention of the Aphekcom team. Strasbourg observed slight peaks in the winter of 1993/4.

Based on the feedback received from the individual centres the most likely reason for the observed peaks happening simultaneously in a number of cities was cold wave in the winter months with peaking SO₂ levels. This coincided with observation made for a number of cities analysing daily averaged temperature data that showed prolonged periods with peaks in minimum temperatures reached in this time period. These observed cold waves went with increased fuel usage due to the increased space heating and electricity usage and as well as inversion. Another possible factor contributing to the observed SO₂ peaks could be that countries used up old stockpiles of fuel that did not comply with the directives. That might have happened independently from the cold wave or due to the fuel shortage during the prolonged cold weather.

Time-series analysis

It has to be noted that not all countries with collaborating cities have complied with the implementation dates laid down in the Council Directives due to various reasons, e.g. local derogations sought etc., and thus the implementation dates and the number of stages implemented are not all the same. Therefore the 14 centres including Athens, Bordeaux, Brussels, Dublin, Le Havre, Lille, London, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Rome, Rouen, Stockholm and Strasbourg that implemented all three stages of the Council Directives were analysed separately. The results of these 14 centres are describing below.

The health data analysis showed no evidence of change of slope in the dose-response curve after implementation of the legislations and hence observed effects were related to level changes.

For these 14 cities, the implementation of:

- the first stage in 1994 reduced annual deaths by 639 deaths from all causes, by 47 deaths from respiratory and by 361 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period prior to October 1994 with no directive being implemented.
- the 2nd stage in 1996 reduced annual deaths by 1093 deaths from all causes, by 83 deaths from respiratory and by 610 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period with no directive being implemented.
- the 3rd stage in 2000 reduced annual deaths by 1616 deaths from all causes, by 127 deaths from respiratory and by 889 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period with no directive being implemented.

On a city specific level for Strasbourg, the implementation of:

- the first stage in 1994 reduced annual deaths by 5 deaths from all causes, by 0 death from respiratory and by 3 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period prior to October 1994 with no directive being implemented.
- the 2nd stage in 1996 reduced annual deaths by 13 deaths from all causes, by 1 death from respiratory and by 7 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period with no directive being implemented.
- the 3rd stage in 2000 reduced annual deaths by 19 deaths from all causes, by 1 death from respiratory and by 9 deaths from cardiovascular causes compared to the baseline period with no directive being implemented.

As a result on a city specific level for Strasbourg (summarized in Table 10) and overall for the 14 cities that implemented all 3 stages of the fuel legislation it was found that the efficiency/effectiveness/impact of the legislation based on lives saved, if we didn't apply any regulation, increased throughout the different stages of implementation overtime with more lives being saved after implementation of the 2nd stage of implementation compared to the first stage and with more lives being saved after implementation of the 3rd stage of implementation compared to the 2nd one.

Table 9 – Summary of lives saved per implementation stage (1-3)/intervention (and 95% Confidence Intervals) per year in Strasbourg for different mortality groups compared the baseline period (<01.10.1994) with no legislation implemented

Time period	All cause mortality		Respiratory mortality		Cardiovascular Mortality	
	cases per year	CI 95%	cases per year	CI 95%	cases per year	CI 95%
Stage 1 [≥ 01.10.1994 and <01.10.1996]	5	[2-8]	0	[0-1]	3	[1-4]
Stage 2 [≥ 01.10.1996 and <01.07.2000]	13	[5-22]	1	[0-2]	7	[2-11]
Stage 3 [≥ 01.07.2000]	19	[7-31]	1	[0-3]	9	[3-6]

Section 4. Sharing Knowledge and Uncertainties with Stakeholders

To help decision makers draft policies on air quality and related environmental-health issues, Aphekom has developed a process, based on a deliberation-support tool, that helps frame and structure exchanges between stakeholders involved in developing policy options. Using this process enables them to propose and discuss multiple criteria for evaluating, prioritising and aligning their various needs, and for choosing actions that match their objectives and preferences.

This type of multi-criteria assessment enables highlighting divergences of opinion, focusing discussions on critical points and bridging differences among stakeholders from differing backgrounds. As a result, this process facilitates both communication and decision making.

To test use of the process and tool, Aphekom conducted two case studies in Brussels and in Paris during the development of local air-quality action plans. The case studies demonstrated the ability of the method and tools to structure discussions and highlight differing views, as confirmed by participants' satisfaction with their use.

We also developed an online tool to familiarize users with the deliberation-support process used in the case studies and to enable them to create their own deliberative forums
<http://aphekom.kertechno.net/>.

Section 5. Overview of findings and local recommendations

The specific HIA for Strasbourg found that a significant health gain would be achieved by lowering annual mean levels of PM. The compliance with the WHO-AQG for PM₁₀ (20µg/m³) would induce a moderate benefit on mortality and hospital admissions (8 deaths and 32 hospital admissions avoided per year). The associated monetary gain would be of more than 800 000 €.

Lowering PM_{2.5} would have a greater impact. Compliance with the WHO-AQG of 10 µg/m³ would postpone 113 deaths, corresponding to a gain in life expectancy of 0.5 years per inhabitant. This gain in life expectancy would be valued at more than 260 millions €.

In addition, the Aphekom project was able to show that living near streets and roads carrying heavy traffic may have serious health effects, particularly on the development of chronic diseases. And Aphekom investigated the effects of EU legislation to reduce the sulphur content of fuels (mainly diesel oil used by diesel vehicles, shipping and home heating) showing in 20 cities not only a marked, sustained reduction in ambient SO₂ levels but also the resulting prevention of some 2,200 premature deaths valued at €192 million.

Together these findings show that policies aiming at reducing air pollution would be associated with a significant improvement in the health status and quality of life of European citizens.

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Appendix 1 – Health impact assessment

For each specific relationship between health outcomes and pollutants, the health impact function was

$$\Delta y = y_0(1 - e^{-\beta\Delta x})$$

Where Δy is the outcome of the HIA

y_0 is the baseline health data

Δx is the decrease of the concentration defined by the scenario

β is the coefficient of the concentration response function ($\beta = \log(\text{RR per } 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3)/10$)

The impact of a decrease of the pollutant concentration on the life expectancy was computed using standard abridged (5-year age groups) life table methodology, using the mortality data for each age group. We applied a reduction factor to the mortality rate, noted ${}_n D_x$, according to

$${}_n D_x^{\text{impacted}} = {}_n D_x * e^{-\beta\Delta x}$$

Δx is the decrease of the concentration defined by the scenario

β is the coefficient of the concentration response function.

Concentration response functions (CRFs) were selected from the literature, favouring multi-cities studies located in Europe (Table 10).

Table 10 – Health outcome and relative risks used in the HIA

HIA	Health outcome	Ages	RR per 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Ref
Short-term impacts of PM_{10}	Non-external mortality	All	1.006 [1.004-1.008]	(4)
	Respiratory hospitalisations	All	1.0114 [1.0062-1.0167]	(5)
	Cardiac hospitalisations	All	1.006 [1.003-1.009]	(5)
Short-term impacts of O_3	Non-external mortality	All	1.0031 [1.0017-1.0052]	(6)
	Respiratory hospitalisations	15-64	1.001 [0.991-1.012]	(4)
	Respiratory hospitalisations	≥ 65	1.005 [0.998-1.012]	(4)
Long-term impacts of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	Total mortality	>30	1.06 [1.02-1.11]	(7)
	Cardiovascular mortality	>30	1.12 [1.08-1.15]	(8)

PM₁₀

For PM₁₀, we first considered a scenario where the annual mean of PM₁₀ is decreased by 5 µg/m³, and then a scenario where the same PM₁₀ annual mean is decreased to 20 µg/m³, the WHO air quality guideline (WHO-AQG).

The exposure indicator of PM₁₀ was the annual mean, calculated as the arithmetic mean of the daily concentrations of the selected stations. The corresponding Δx for the two scenarios are:

- Scenario 1, Δx = 5 µg/m³
- Scenario 2, Δx = ([PM₁₀]_{mean} - 20 µg/m³).
Δx = 0 if [PM₁₀]_{mean} < 20

Ozone

For ozone, WHO set two values for the daily maximum 8-hours mean. The interim target value (WHO-IT1) is set at 160 µg/m³. The purpose of the interim value is to define steps in the progressive reduction of air pollution in the most polluted areas. The air quality guideline value (WHO-AQG) is set at 100 µg/m³.

We first considered a scenario where all daily values above 160 µg/m³ were reduced to WHO-IT (160 µg/m³), then a scenario where all daily values above 100 µg/m³ were reduced to WHO-AQG (100 µg/m³), and lastly a scenario where the daily mean is decreased by 5 µg/m³.

The exposure indicator of ozone was the cumulated sum over defined thresholds, calculated using 8hours-daily values.

$$\Delta x = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N O_i}{N}$$

The corresponding Δx for the two scenarios are;

- Scenario 1, if [O₃]_i ≥ 160 µg/m³, O_i = ([O₃]_i - 160)
if [O₃]_i < 160 µg/m³, O_i = 0
- Scenario 2, if [O₃]_i ≥ 100 µg/m³, O_i = ([O₃]_i - 100)
if [O₃]_i < 100 µg/m³, O_i = 0
- Scenario 3, where the ozone yearly mean is decreased by 5 µg/m³. Δx = 5 µg/m³

PM_{2.5}

For PM_{2.5}, we first considered a scenario where the PM_{2.5} annual mean is decreased by 5 µg/m³, and then a scenario where the PM_{2.5} annual mean is decreased to 10 µg/m³ (WHO annual AQG).

The exposure indicator of PM_{2.5} was the yearly mean, calculated as the arithmetic mean of the daily concentrations of the selected stations. The corresponding Δx for the two scenarios are;

- Scenario 1, Δx = 5 µg/m³
- Scenario 2, Δx = ([PM_{2.5}]_{mean} - 10 µg/m³)
Δx = 0 if [PM_{2.5}]_{mean} < 10

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Appendix 2 – Economic valuation

Because the air pollution measures as well as epidemiologic data cover the 2004-2006 period for most of the cities, all costs are consequently expressed in **Euros 2005**. Similarly, the average lengths of stay in hospital required for the benefits computations are for 2005.

Valuation of mortality benefits

Regarding mortality, we follow the standard valuation procedure adopted in Cafe (2005), NexExt (2003), ExternE (2000), which consists in **using a Value of a Statistical Life (VSL) and a Value of a Life Year (VOLY) derived from stated preferences surveys**, hence relying on preference-derived values rather than market-derived values. We chose to rely on values obtained in recent European studies (see final Aphekom report for more details).

The choice of the monetary value to assess mortality benefits associated to a decrease in air pollution level depends on the type of impact.

- **For short-term mortality calculations**, the annual number of deaths postponed per year is used. Because the gains in life expectancy corresponding to each of these postponed deaths can be considered in the range of a few months, certainly lower than one year (Cafe 2005, Vol 2, p. 46), a VOLY of €86,600 is applied to each deaths postponed to compute annual benefits.
- **For long-term mortality calculations**, the magnitude of the gain in life expectancy related to the deaths postponed is considered as higher than a year (see Ezzati et al., 2002; Hurley et al. 2005; Watkiss et al. 2005; or Janke et al., 2009). A VSL of €1,655,000 is applied to each deaths postponed to compute annual benefits.
- **For long-term life expectancy calculations**, an average gain in life expectancy for persons 30 years of age is also computed using life tables and following a cohort until complete extinction. The annual corresponding benefits are obtained by multiplying the average gain in life expectancy by the number of 30-year-old individuals in the city, and by the VOLY. This corresponds to the benefits (in terms of life expectancy) 30 year-old people would gain over their lifetime if exposed to the 10 µg/m³ average annual level of PM2.5 (WHO's Air Quality Guideline) instead of the current existing air pollution level in the city.

Valuation of hospitalisations benefits

The standard cost of illness approach is used for acute hospitalisations, and consists in applying unit economic values approach to each case, including direct medical and indirect costs.

The direct medical costs related to cardiac and respiratory hospitalisations are computed as the cost per inpatient day times the average length of stay in hospital. These cost data are taken from CEC (2008) for all twelve countries where the cities analysed in Aphekom are located (see Table 11). The average lengths of stay in days are obtained from the OECD Health Database (2010) for all countries except Romania (which is imputed from the population weighted average lengths of the 11 other countries).

The indirect costs are computed as the average gross loss of production per day times twice the average length of stay in hospital. Since we cannot control whether these days were actual working days, we then compute the daily loss of production as the average gross earnings in industry and services (full employment) obtained from Eurostat (2003) for each country, expressed in 2005 and divided by 365 days.

The total medical costs for cardiac and respiratory hospitalisations are obtained by adding together the direct and indirect components.

Table 11 – Average lengths of stay, daily hospitalisation costs and work loss, and total hospitalisations cost per patient.

Country	Average length of stay in days ^(a)		Average cost per day (€ 2005)		Total costs related to hospitalisation (€ 2005)	
	Circulatory system	Respiratory system	Hosp. all causes ^(b)	Work loss ^(c)	Circulatory system	Respiratory system
Austria	8.2	6.6	319	83	3,977	3,201
Belgium	9.2	8.8	351	98	5,032	4,814
France	7.1	7.1	366	83	3,777	3,777
Greece	7.0	5.0	389	48	3,395	2,425
Hungary	7.4	6.5	59	18	703	618
Ireland	10.5	6.9	349	81	5,366	3,526
Italy	7.7	8.0	379	62	3,873	4,024
Romania	8.5 ^(d)	7.4 ^(d)	57	6	587	511
Slovenia	8.6	7.3	240	34	2,649	2,248
Spain	8.5	7.4	321	55	3,664	3,189
Sweden	6	5.2	427	92	3,666	3,177
United Kingdom	11.4	8.0	581	116	9,268	6,504
Mean^(d)	8.5	7.4	373	73	4,411	3,840

Sources: ^(a) OECD Health Data (2010); ^(b) CEC (2008), annex 7, cost/bed/day corr; ^(c) Eurostat (2003); ^(d) population-weighted average, 2005 population data from OECD Health Data (2010).

For instance, based on Table 1, the average direct cost of a cardiac hospital admission is:

$$8.5 \text{ days} \times \text{€ } 373 = \text{€ } 3,171$$

and the corresponding indirect cost related to work loss is:

$$2 \times 8.5 \text{ days} \times \text{€ } 73 = \text{€ } 1,241.$$

Overall, the unit economic value related to a cardiac hospital admission is € 4,412.

For city-specific valuation, the last two columns of Table 1 provide average hospitalisation costs computed following the same rationale but using country-specific average lengths of stay, cost per day of hospitalisation and daily work loss.

Valuation of the benefits of EU legislation to reduce the sulphur content of fuels

The legislation has two potential effects on mortality: short-term and long-term. It has been decided that, to take a conservative standpoint, mortality effects will be considered as short-term effects. Consequently, a VOLY of € 86,600 is applied to each premature death to compute the benefits of the legislation. The economic evaluation thus constitutes a lower bound of the mortality benefits of the legislation.

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