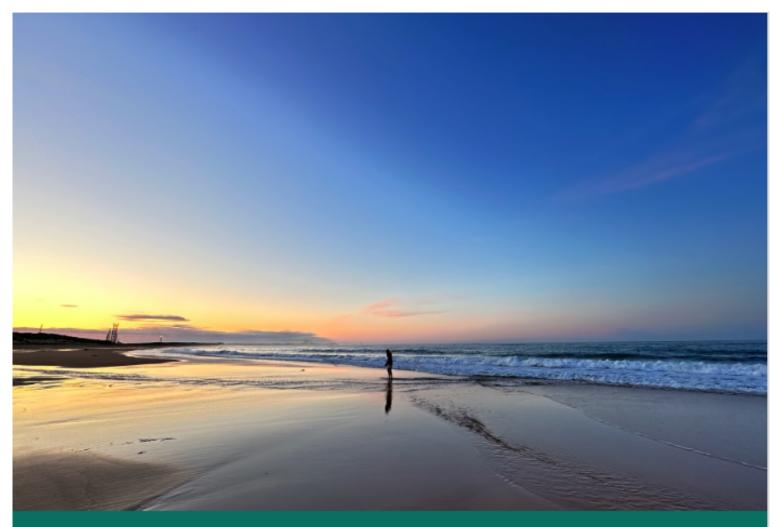
Status report of air quality in Europe for year 2023,

using validated and up-to-date data



Authors: Jaume Targa (4sfera Innova), María Colina (4sfera Innova), Lorena Banyuls (4sfera Innova), Alberto González Ortiz (EEA), Joana Soares (NILU)

> European Environment Agency European Topic Centre Human health and the environment



Cover design: EEA Cover image: © Jaume Targa Layout: EEA / ETC HE

Publication Date:

May 2024 ISBN 978-82-93970-45-3

Legal notice

Preparation of this report has been funded by the European Environment Agency (EEA) as part of a grant with the European Topic Centre on Human health and the environment (ETC-HE) and expresses the views of the authors. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission or other institutions of the European Union. Neither the European Environment Agency nor the European Topic Centre on Human health and the environment is liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of the information contained in this publication.

How to cite this report:

Targa, J., Colina, M., Banyuls, L., González Ortiz, A., Soares, J. (2024). Status report of air quality in *Europe for year 2023, using validated and up-to-date data* (ETC-HE Report 2024/5). European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment.

The report is available from https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/all-etc-reports and https:// zenodo.org/communities/eea-etc/?page=1&size=20.

EEA activity no. 3 Human health and the environment.

ETC-HE coordinator: Stiftelsen NILU, Kjeller, Norway (https://www.nilu.com/)

ETC-HE consortium partners: Federal Environment Agency/Umweltbundesamt (UBA), Aether Limited, Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI), Institut National de l'Environnement Industriel et des Risques (INERIS), Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO), 4sfera Innova S.L.U., klarFAKTe.U

Copyright notice

© European Topic Centre on Human health and the environment, 2024. Reproduction is authorized provided the source is acknowledged.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (http://europa.eu).

European Topic Centre on Human health and the environment (ETC-HE) https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-he

Acknowledgements

This report has been produced by the European Topic Centre on Human health and the Environment (ETC HE) in close cooperation with the EEA.

The ETC task manager was Jaume Targa, closely assisted by María Colina and Joana Soares, and the EEA project manager was Alberto González Ortiz closely assisted by Luca Liberti.

Additional EEA contributors were Artur Gsella. Additional ETC HE contributors were Michel Houssiau (under 4sfera Innova), Anna Ripoll (4sfera Innova), Laia Azcón (4sfera Innova) and Rune Ødegård (NILU).

Thanks are due to the air quality data suppliers in the reporting countries for collecting and providing the data on which this report is based, and for providing feedback and comments to the draft report.

Contents

1 Summary								
	1.1	Particulate matter	6					
	1.2	Ozone	6					
	1.3	Nitrogen dioxide	6					
	1.4	Sulphur dioxide	6					
	1.5	Editorial note	8					
2	2 Introduction							
3	Status of particulate matter ambient air concentrations							
	3.1	Status of PM_{10} concentrations $\ldots \ldots \ldots$	14					
	3.2	Status of $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations	24					
4	Status of ozone ambient air concentrations							
5	Status of nitrogen dioxide ambient air concentrations							
6	Status of sulphur dioxide ambient air concentrations							
7	Abbr	reviations, units and symbols	52					
8	Anne	ex	53					

1 Summary

The 2023 Status report of air quality in Europe presents summarized information on the air quality data for the protection of health reported in the previous years. The reported 2023 monitoring data used in this analysis was reported as up-to-date (UTD) data, prior to final quality control and validated data reporting by the countries (¹). It provides information on the following pollutants, regulated by the Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQD):

- PM_{10} : Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 μm or less
- $PM_{2.5}$: Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 μ m or less
- O₃: Tropospheric ozone
- NO₂: Nitrogen dioxide
- SO₂: Sulphur dioxide

It also offers a comparison with the situation in previous years. For those years, validated data are considered.

Data included in this report was received by 05 March 2024 from the reporting countries. By that date the reporting status of 2023 up-to-date data is summarized in Figure 1, where a green box indicates that the referred pollutant was reported by the referred country and a grey box indicates the contrary (that the referred pollutant was not reported by the referred country). Please see editorial notes at the end of this Chapter on additional information on the data used. The number of stations by country reporting each pollutant, with the minimum data coverage for at least one of the aggregations used in the report, is also included in Figure 1, while Table 3 in the Annex summarizes the number of stations, with the minimum data coverage for at least one of the aggregations used in the report, at different country aggregations. Data from stations that do not fulfil the criteria from Box 1.1 are excluded from this report. Please be aware that the number of stations presented in Figure 1 and Table 3, that corresponds to all reported stations fulfilling the minimum data coverage criteria for at least one of the aggregations used in Figure 1 and Table 3, that corresponds to all reported stations fulfilling the minimum data coverage criteria for at least one of the aggregations used in Figure 1 and Table 3, that corresponds to all reported stations fulfilling the minimum data coverage criteria for at least one of the aggregations used in the report, may be different to the one presented in the corresponding boxplots, as there could be some stations not fulfilling the minimum data coverage criteria for the corresponding boxplots, as there could be some stations not fulfilling the minimum data coverage criteria for the corresponding aggregation.

¹https://aqportal.discomap.eea.europa.eu/index.php/reporters-corner/

Figure 1: Number of stations, for each country and each pollutant, that in 2023 reported data with the minimum data coverage for at least one of the aggregations used in the report, by 05 March 2024

	PM10	PM2.5	O3	NO2	SO2
Albania -	1	1	1		
Andorra -	1	1	2	1	1
Austria -	120	55	106	142	63
Belgium -	67	69	38	83	20
Bosnia and Herzegovina -	15	4	16	12	18
Bulgaria -	22	2	18	19	22
Croatia -	6	7	14	13	7
Cyprus -	2	1	3	3	3
Czechia -	75	48	56	60	41
Denmark -	3	1	8	10	1
Estonia -	6	7	9	9	9
Finland -	32	17	16	33	14
France -	325	218	302	375	80
Germany -	376	295	274	580	95
Greece -	16	9	13	13	5
Hungary -	19	7	15	20	17
Iceland -	7	5		6	12
Ireland -	21	18	12	17	7
Italy_	355	175	228	405	111
Kosovo -	7	7	3	2	4
Latvia -	8	5	7	6	
Liechtenstein -					
Lithuania -	14	5	13	14	10
Luxembourg -	4	3	5	9	1
Malta -	4	4	5	5	4
Montenegro -					
Netherlands -	66	46	43	71	10
North Macedonia -	12	11	17	18	14
Norway -	51	49	12	39	5
Poland -	158	84	96	124	82
Portugal -	51	19	44	63	17
Romania -	50	12	34	30	50
Serbia -	13	13	8	16	16
Slovakia -	48	47	19	40	19
Slovenia -	18	18	11	11	3
Spain -	344	200	405	498	389
Sweden -	51	25	23	40	
Switzerland -	30	9	30	31	8
Türkiye -					

The countries included in this report and that, therefore, appear in Figure 1, are those with the obligation to report data under the AAQD or that have voluntary reported data. These countries are the EU-27 (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden); the five other member countries of the EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Türkiye) that, together with the EU-27 form the EEA-32; the six EEA's cooperating countries from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) that, together with the EEA-32 form the EEA-38; and the voluntary reporting country of Andorra.

The air quality data are stored at the EEA's e-reporting database (²). Therefore, this is the source for all maps and figures in the report. UTD data is stored temporarily until it is replaced by CDR data.

1.1 Particulate matter

For PM_{10} , concentrations above the EU daily limit value (50 µg/m³) were registered at 5 % of the reporting stations. These stations were in 12 countries in EU-27 and in 3 other reporting countries. For $PM_{2.5}$, concentrations above the EU annual limit value (25 µg/m³) were registered at 1 % of the reporting stations. These stations were in 2 countries in EU-27 and in 3 other reporting countries.

The long-term World Health Organization air quality guideline (WHO AQG) level for PM_{10} (15 $\mu g/m^3$) was exceeded at 58 % of the stations in 27 countries of the EU-27 and 8 other reporting countries. The long-term WHO AQG level for $PM_{2.5}$ (5 $\mu g/m^3$) was exceeded at 92 % of the stations located in 27 countries of the EU-27 and 7 other reporting countries.

1.2 Ozone

17 % of stations registered concentrations above the EU target value for O_3 (120 µg/m³) for the protection of human health. These stations were located in 16 countries of the EU-27 and 4 other reporting countries. The long-term EU objective (120 µg/m³) was met in only 14 % of the stations. The short-term WHO AQG level for O_3 (100 µg/m³) was exceeded in 94 % of all the reporting stations, and concentrations above the long-term WHO AQG level for O_3 (60 µg/m³) were registered in 98 % of all reporting stations.

1.3 Nitrogen dioxide

Around 1 % of all the reporting stations recorded concentrations above the EU annual limit value for NO₂ (40 μ g/m³). These stations were located in 8 countries of the EU-27 and 0 other reporting countries. 100 % of concentrations above this limit value were observed at traffic stations.

On the contrary, 68 % of stations, located in 27 countries of the EU-27 and 7 other reporting countries reported concentrations above the WHO AQG level of 10 μ g/m³.

1.4 Sulphur dioxide

For SO₂, concentrations above the EU daily limit value (125 μ g/m³) were registered at 1 % of the reporting stations. These stations were in O country of the EU-27 and 2 other reporting

²https://discomap.eea.europa.eu/map/fme/AirQualityExport.htm

countries. However, 4 % of all reporting SO_2 stations measured SO_2 concentrations above the daily WHO AQG level (40 μ g/m³). These stations were located in 8 countries of the EU-27 and 5 other reporting countries.

1.5 Editorial note

Values in Table 4 in the Annex are considered outliers and were not taken into account for the analysis presented in this report.

Due to a problem in the calculation of the aggregates, the figures for the daily limit value for PM10 (Figure 3 and Figure 4) and the daily WHO AQG level for PM10 (Figure 9 and Figure 10) do not show data for Switzerland for the year 2020. This situation is repeated in the figures for the daily WHO AQG level for PM2.5 (Figure 15 and Figure 16) where data for Switzerland and Estonia are also missing for the year 2020.

 NO_2 data from the station SE0100A in Sweden have not been included as it seems to have been reported invalidated data as validated.

Figures 23, 24 and 25 do not show the peak season O_3 concentration for Slovakia in 2023 due to a problem in calculating the data coverage of this statistic.

2 Introduction

The 2023 Status report of air quality in Europe presents summarized information on the air quality data reported up to 2023. The 2023 data was reported as up-to-date (UTD) data in a continuous basis prior to final quality control and official reporting of validated data by the countries, which will be done under the 2024 September reporting cycle (validated assessment data for 2023, deadline of submission 30 September 2024). This report aims at informing on the current status of ambient air quality in Europe, based on the most updated data available for the analysis of a complete calendar year. Furthermore, it informs on progress towards meeting the air quality standards established for the protection of health in the Ambient Air Quality Directives (EU, 2004, 2008) (Table 1) and the World Health Organization air quality guideline levels (WHO, 2000, 2006, 2021) (Table 2)(³).

This report builds on the former EEA "Air quality in Europe report" (EEA, 2020) content, figures and maps regarding the status of monitored air quality in Europe. The report focuses on the analysis of the main pollutants, to allow a meaningful preliminary analysis of their concentration status in Europe. It provides:

- a European overview of the monitoring stations that reported UTD 2023 data, and of their concentrations in relation to the EU legal standards and WHO AQG levels for each pollutant;
- a map with the 2023 UTD concentrations at station level for each pollutant;
- a boxplot graph summarizing for each country the range of concentrations (highlighting the lowest, highest, average and the 25 and 75 percentiles) for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂ and O₃.

Furthermore, it provides:

 maps with the situation at station level for the previous three years (using validated data). In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed (assuming the UTD stations dataset is complete);

³Nevertheless, in this report the following standards and guideline levels are not analysed: information and alert thresholds for O_3 , alert threshold for NO_2 , annual target value for BaP, alert threshold for SO_2 , limit value for CO maximum daily 8-hour mean, annual limit value for C_6H_6 , annual limit value for Pb, target value for As, target value for Cd, and target value for Ni in Table 1; and hourly air quality guideline level for NO_2 , reference level for annual mean of BaP, 10 minutes air quality guideline level for SO₂, air quality guideline level for CO, reference level for annual mean of C_6H_6 , air quality guideline level for Pb, reference level for annual mean of As, air quality guideline level for Cd, and reference level for annual mean of Ni in Table 2.

 heatmaps with the evolution of the mean and the maximum measured concentrations at country level since 2000 (or since when available, using validated data for all years up to 2022).

Please be aware that the number of stations can vary once the validated dataset for 2023 is received by 30 September 2024. In some figures like the boxplots, the final order of the countries may vary once the validated data are submitted.

Pollutant	Averaging period	Legal nature and concentration	Comments
PM ₁₀	1 day	Limit value: 50 μg/m ³	Not to be exceeded on more than 35 days per
			year
	Calendar year	Limit value: 40 µg/m ³	
PM _{2.5}	Calendar year	Limit value: 25 µg/m ³	Stage 1
		Indicative limit value: 20 μ g/m ³	Stage 2: indicative limit value to be reviewed by
			the Commission in 2013. It remained unchanged
			after that revision
		Exposure concentration	Average Exposure Indicator (AEI) (^a) in 2015
		obligation: 20 μ g/m ³	(2013-2015 average)
		National Exposure reduction target:	AEI (^a) in 2020, the percentage reduction
		0-20 percentage reduction in exposure	depends on the initial AEI
O ₃	Maximum daily	Target value: 120 μg/m ³	Not to be exceeded on more than 25 days/year,
	8-hour mean		averaged over 3 years (^b)
		Long term objective: 120 µg/m ³	
	1 hour	Information threshold: 180 μ g/m ³	
		Alert threshold: 240 $\mu\text{g/m}^3$	
NO ₂	1 hour	Limit value: 200 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded on more than 18 hours per
			year
		Alert threshold: 400 µg/m ³	To be measured over 3 consecutive hours over
			100 km ² or an entire zone
	Calendar year	Limit value: 40 µg/m ³	
BaP	Calendar year	Target value: 1 ng/m ³	Measured as content in PM ₁₀
SO ₂	1 hour	Limit value: 350 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded on more than 24 hours per
			year
		Alert threshold: 500 μ g/m ³	To be measured over 3 consecutive hours over
			100 km ² or an entire zone
	1 day	Limit value: 125 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded on more than 3 days per year
со	Maximum daily	Limit value: 10 mg/m ³	
	8-hour mean		
C ₆ H ₆	Calendar year	Limit value: 5 µg/m ³	
Pb	Calendar year	Limit value: 0.5 µg/m ³	Measured as content in PM ₁₀
As	Calendar year	Target value: 6 ng/m ³	Measured as content in PM ₁₀
Cd	Calendar year	Target value: 5 ng/m ³	Measured as content in PM ₁₀
Ni	Calendar year	Target value: 20 ng/m ³	Measured as content in PM ₁₀

Table 1: Air quality standards for the protection of health, as given in the EU Ambient Air Quality Directives

Notes:

^a AEI: based upon measurements in urban background locations established for this purpose by the Member States, assessed as a 3-year running annual mean.

^b In the context of this report, only the maximum daily 8-hour means in 2023 are considered, so no average over the period 2021 - 2023 is presented.

Sources:

EU (2004, 2008).

Pollutant	Averaging period	AQG	RL	Comments
PM ₁₀	1 day	45 μg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). Updated 2021 guideline
	Calendar year	15 μg/m ³		Updated 2021 guideline
PM _{2.5}	1 day	15 μg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). Updated 2021 guideline
	Calendar year	5 μg/m ³		Updated 2021 guideline
0 ₃	Maximum daily 8-hour mean	100 µg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). Updated 2021 guideline
	Peak season (^b)	60 μg/m ³		New 2021 guideline
NO ₂	1 hour	200 μg/m ³		
	1 day	25 μg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). New 2021 guideline
	Calendar year	10 µg/m ³		Updated 2021 guideline
BaP	Calendar year		0.12 ng/m ³	
SO ₂	10 minutes	500 μg/m ³		
	1 day	40 μg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). Updated 2021 guideline
со	1 hour	30 mg/m ³		
	Maximum daily 8-hour mean	10 mg/m ³		
	1 day	4 mg/m ³		99th percentile (3-4 exceedance days per
				year). New 2021 guideline
C ₆ H ₆	Calendar year		1.7 μg/m ³	
Pb	Calendar year	0.5 μg/m ³		
As	Calendar year		6.6 ng/m ³	
Cd	Calendar year	5 ng/m ³ (^c)		
Ni	Calendar year		25 ng/m ³	

Table 2: WHO air quality guideline (AQG) levels and estimated reference levels (RL) (^a)

Notes:

^a As WHO has not set an AQG level for BaP, C₆H₆, As and Ni, the RL was estimated assuming an acceptable risk of additional lifetime cancer risk of approximately 1 in 100 000.

^b Average of daily maximum 8-hour mean concentration in the six consecutive months with the highest six-month running average O_3 concentration.

^c AQG set to prevent any further increase of Cd in agricultural soil, likely to increase the dietary intake of future generations.

Sources:

WHO (2000, 2006, 2021).

Box 1.1 Classification of monitoring stations and criteria used for the assessment

Fixed sampling points in Europe are situated at different types of stations following rules for macroand micro-scale siting. Briefly, depending on the predominant emission sources, stations are classified as follows:

- traffic stations: located in close proximity to a single major road;
- industrial stations: located in close proximity to an industrial area or an industrial source;
- background stations: where pollution levels are representative of the average exposure of the general population or vegetation.

Depending on the distribution/density of buildings, the area surrounding the station is classified as follows:

- urban: continuously built-up urban area;
- suburban: largely built-up urban area;
- rural: all other areas.

For the pollutants considered in this report, monitoring stations have to fulfil the criterion of reporting more than 75 % of valid data out of all the possible data in a year to be included in this assessment. Reporting stations not fulfilling the minimum data coverage could be found at the Annual AQ statistics table.

Measurement data are rounded following the general recommendations under (EU, 2011). The number of considered decimals are indicated in the legend of the corresponding maps.

The assessments, in the cases of PM and SO_2 , do not account for the fact that the Ambient Air Quality Directive (EU, 2008) provides Member States with the possibility of subtracting contributions to the measured concentrations from natural sources and winter road sanding/salting under specific circumstances.

3 Status of particulate matter ambient air concentrations

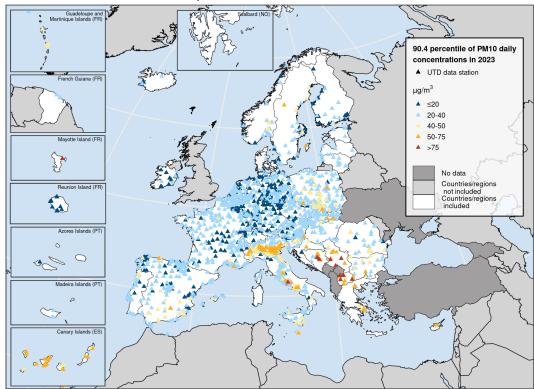
3.1 Status of PM₁₀ concentrations

The EEA received PM_{10} data for 2023, with sufficient valid measurements from 2396 stations for the calculation of annual mean concentrations and from 2365 stations in relation to the daily limit value. The stations were located in all the reporting countries shown in Figure 1.

Twelve countries in EU-27, and three other reporting countries reported PM_{10} concentrations above the EU daily limit value of 50 µg/m³ (Figure 2). This was the case for 5 % (120) of reporting stations. In total, 93 % of those stations were either urban (75 %) or suburban (18 %). The stricter value of the WHO AQG level for PM_{10} daily mean (45 µg/m³) was exceeded at 51 % (1206) of the stations in all the reporting countries, except in Luxembourg(Figure 8).

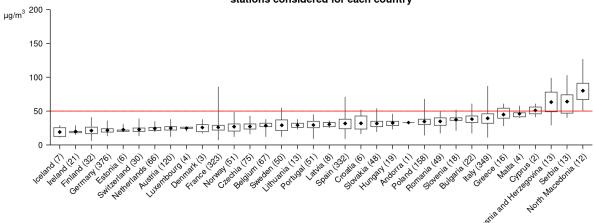
Concentrations above the PM_{10} annual limit value (40 µg/m³) were monitored in 1 % (17 stations) of all the reporting stations, located in 3 countries in EU-27, and 3 other reporting countries. The stricter value of the WHO AQG level for PM_{10} annual mean (15 µg/m³) was exceeded at 58 % (1383) of the stations in all the reporting countries (Figure 5).

Figure 2: UTD Map and boxplot of PM₁₀ concentrations in 2023 - daily limit value



Map concentrations of PM10 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of PM10 in 2023. The possibility of subtracting contributions to the measured concentrations from natural sources and winter road sanding/salting has not been considered. The map shows the 90.4 percentile of the PM10 daily mean concentrations, representing the 36th highest value in a complete series. It is related to the PM10 daily limit value, allowing 35 exceedances of the 50 µg/m³ threshold over 1 year. The last two colour categories indicate stations with concentrations above this daily limit value. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.

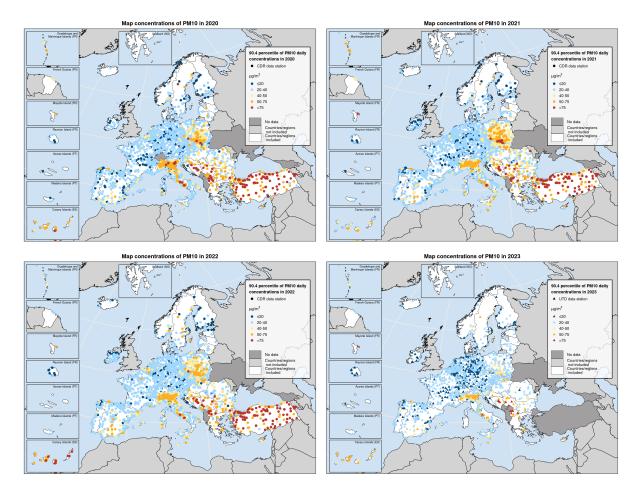


PM10 concentrations in relation to the daily limit value in 2023 and number of stations considered for each country

Note: The graph is based, for each country, on the 90.4 percentile of daily mean concentration values corresponding to the 36th highest daily mean in a complete time series. For each country, the number of stations considered for 2023 (in brackets) are given. The boxplot represents the lowest (bottom of the whisker), highest (top of the whisker) and average (black dot) 90.4 percentile values (in µg/m³). The rectangles mark the 25th and 75th percentiles. At 25 % of the stations, levels are below the 25th percentile; at 25 % of the stations, concentrations are above the 75th percentile. The daily limit value set by EU legislation is marked by the horizontal line. The graph should be read in relation to the above map, as a country's situation depends on the number of stations considered.

Figure 3 shows the maps of the 90.4 percentile of PM_{10} daily mean concentrations (equivalent to the PM_{10} daily limit value) for four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial

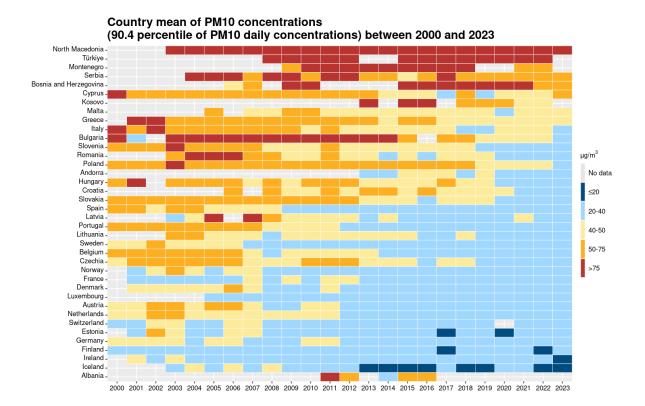
distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

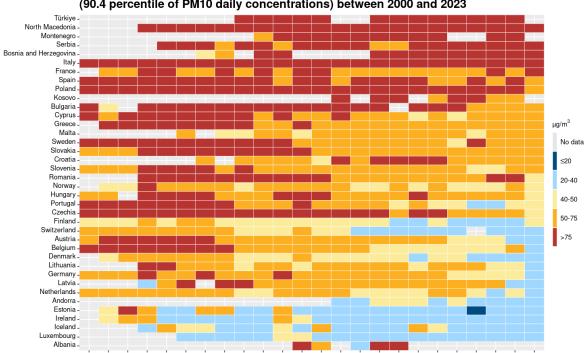




Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) 90.4 percentile of PM_{10} daily mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 4. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 4: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) 90.4 percentile of PM₁₀ daily mean concentrations (daily limit value) per country from 2000

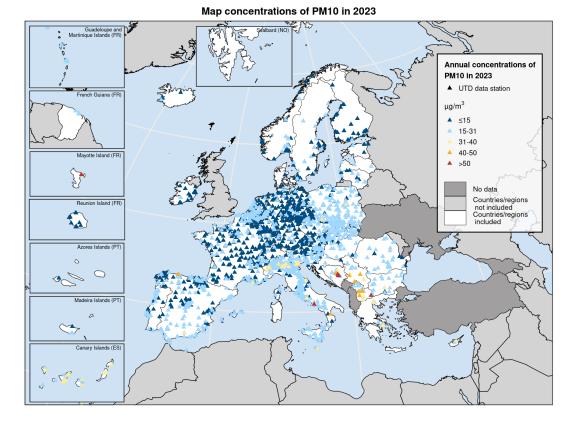




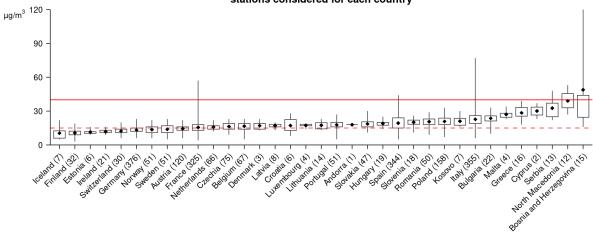
Country maximum of PM10 concentrations (90.4 percentile of PM10 daily concentrations) between 2000 and 2023

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Note: Observed concentrations of PM10 in 2023. The possibility of subtracting contributions to the measured concentrations from natural sources and winter road sanding/salting has not been considered. The last two colour categories indicate stations reporting concentrations above the EU annual limit value (40 µg/m³). The first colour category indicate stations reporting values below the WHO AQG level for PM10 (15 µg/m³). Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.



PM10 concentrations in relation to the annual limit value in 2023 and number of stations considered for each country

Note: The graph is based on annual mean concentration values. For each country, the number of stations considered for 2023 (in brackets) are given. The boxplot represents the lowest (bottom of the whisker), highest (top of the whisker) and average (black dot) annual mean values (in µg/m³). The rectangles mark the 25th and 75th percentiles. At 25 % of the stations, levels are below the 25th percentile; at 25 % of the stations, concentrations are above the 75th percentile. The annual limit value set by EU legislation is marked by the upper continuous horizontal line. The WHO AQG level is marked by the lower dashed horizontal line. The graph should be read in relation to the above map, as a country's situation depends on the number of stations considered.

The highest value in the boxplot, Bosnia and Herzegovina (267 μ g/m³), has not been included in the graph for representation purposes.

Figure 6 shows the maps of PM_{10} annual mean concentrations at station level for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

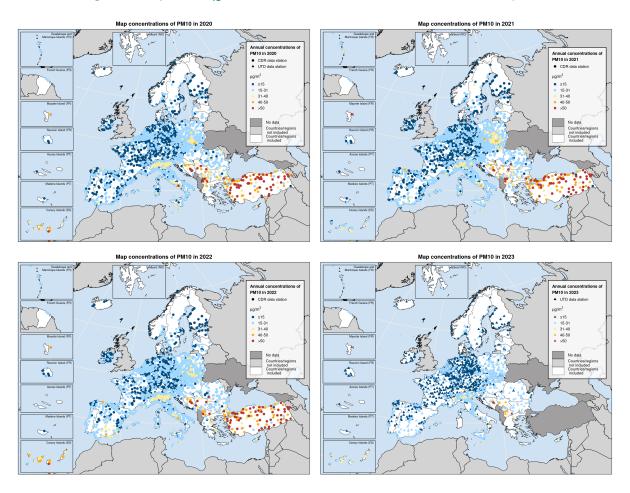
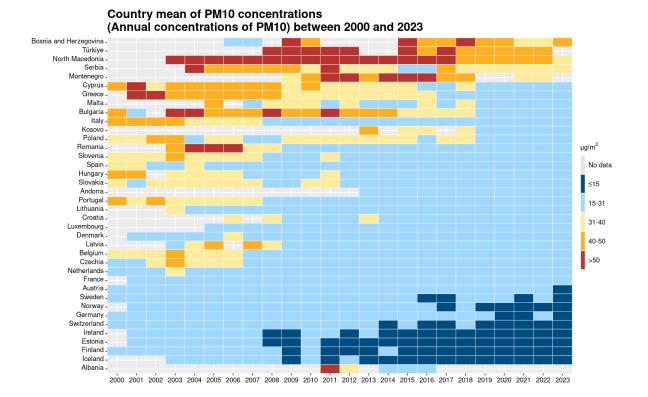


Figure 6: Maps of PM₁₀ concentrations (annual limit value) for the last 4 years

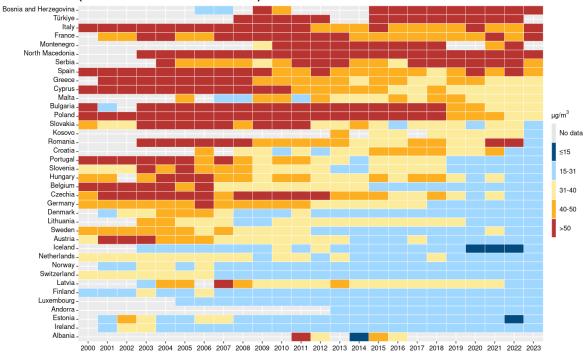
Maps for years before 2020 are different to the ones published in previous reports because the bands in the legend have been modified to accomodate the 2021 WHO AQG level.

Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) annual mean PM_{10} concentrations at country level are shown in figure 7. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

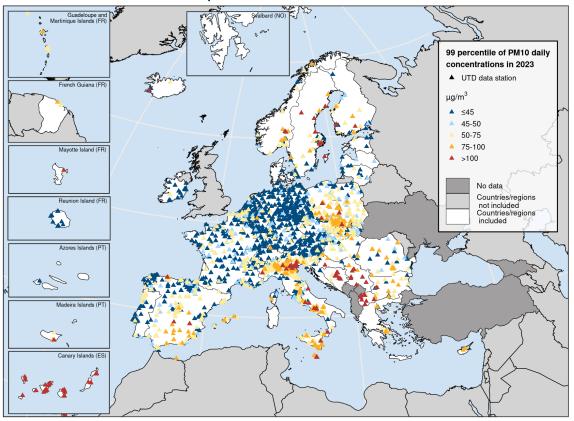
Figure 7: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) PM₁₀ annual mean concentrations (annual limit value) per country from 2000



Country maximum of PM10 concentrations (Annual concentrations of PM10) between 2000 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Map concentrations of PM10 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of PM10 in 2023. The map shows the 99 percentile of the PM10 daily mean concentrations, equivalent to 3–4 exceedance days per year, according to the definition of the daily WHO AQG level (45 µg/m³). The first colour category indicates stations with concentrations below this AQG level. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map. Figure 9 shows the maps of the 99 percentile of PM_{10} daily mean concentrations (equivalent to the WHO AQG level for PM_{10} daily mean level) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

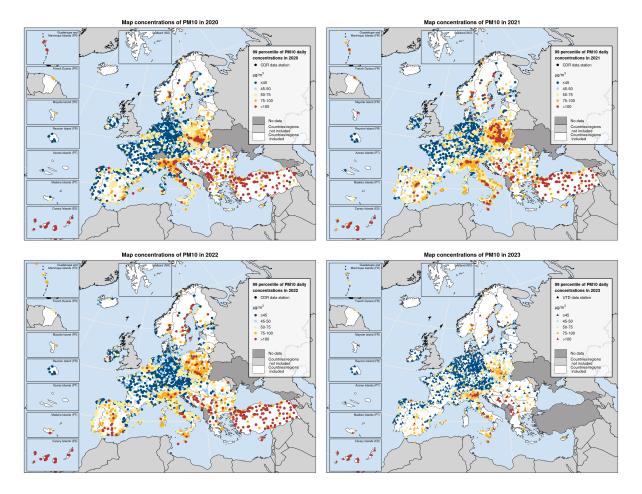
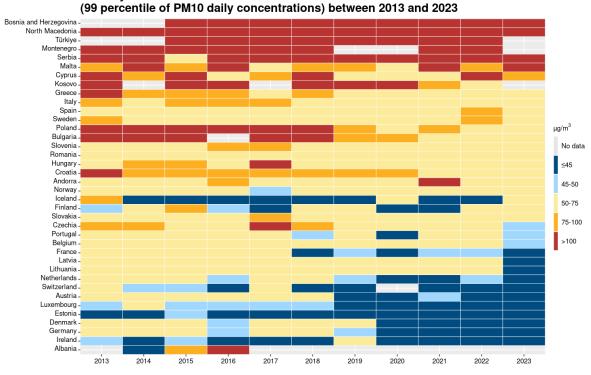


Figure 9: Maps of PM₁₀ concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) for the last 4 years

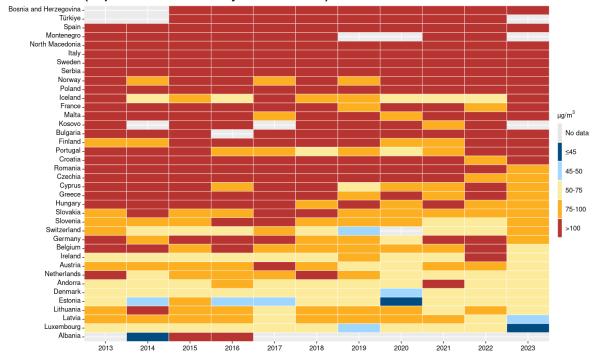
Heatmaps with the evolution from 2013 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of PM_{10} daily mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 10. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 10: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of PM₁₀ daily mean concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) per country from 2013



Country mean of PM10 concentrations

Country maximum of PM10 concentrations (99 percentile of PM10 daily concentrations) between 2013 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.

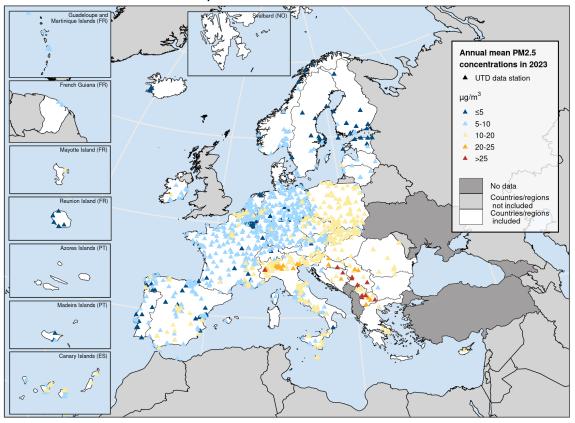
3.2 Status of PM_{2.5} concentrations

Regarding $PM_{2.5}$, data with sufficient valid measurements were received from 1495 stations for the calculation of annual mean concentrations and from 1474 stations in relation to the short-term WHO AQG level. These stations were located in all the reporting countries shown in Figure 1.

The $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations were higher than the EU annual limit value (25 µg/m³) in two countries in EU-27 and three other reporting countries (Figure 11). These concentrations above the limit value were registered in 1 % of all the reporting stations and occurred primarily (100 % of cases) in urban (83 %) or suburban (17 %) areas.

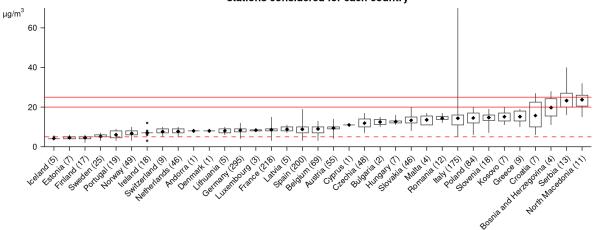
The WHO AQG level for $PM_{2.5}$ annual mean (5 μ g/m³) was exceeded at 92 % of the stations, located in 34 of the 35 countries reporting $PM_{2.5}$ data (Figure 11). Iceland did not report any concentrations above the WHO AQG level for $PM_{2.5}$.

Although the EU has not set any short-term standard for $PM_{2.5}$, the WHO defined in 2021 a daily AQG level of 15 µg/m³, expressed as percentile 99. It was exceeded at 95 % (1406 stations) of the stations in all the reporting countries (Figure 14).



Map concentrations of PM2.5 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of PM2.5 in 2023. The possibility of subtracting contributions to the measured concentrations from natural sources and winter road sanding/salting has not been considered. The last two colour categories indicate stations reporting concentrations above the EU indicative annual limit value (20 µg/m³) or the EU annual limit value (25 µg/m³). The first colour category indicates stations reporting values below the WHO AQG level for PM2.5 (5 µg/m³). Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.



PM2.5 concentrations in relation to the annual limit value in 2023 and number of stations considered for each country

Note: The graph is based on annual mean concentration values. For each country, the number of stations considered for 2023 (in brackets) are given. The boxplot represents the lowest (bottom of the whisker), highest (top of the whisker) and average (black dot) annual mean values (in µg/m³). The rectangles mark the 25th and 75th percentiles. At 25 % of the stations, levels are below the 25th percentile; at 25 % of the stations, concentrations are above the 75th percentile. The annual limit value and the indicative annual limit value set by EU legislation are marked by the upper continuous horizontal lines at 25 and 20, respectively. The WHO AQG level is marked by the lower dashed horizontal line. The graph should be read in relation to the above map, as a country's situation depends on the number of stations considered.

The highest value in the boxplot, Italy (156 μ g/m³), has not been included in the graph for representation purposes.

Figure 12 shows the maps of measured $PM_{2.5}$ annual mean concentrations for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

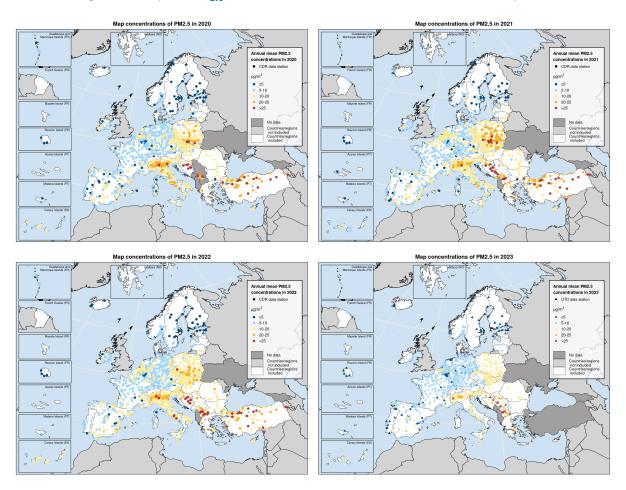
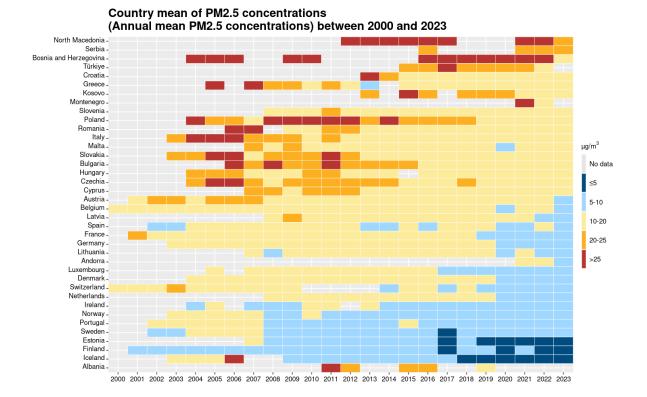


Figure 12: Maps of PM_{2.5} concentrations (annual limit value) for the last 4 years

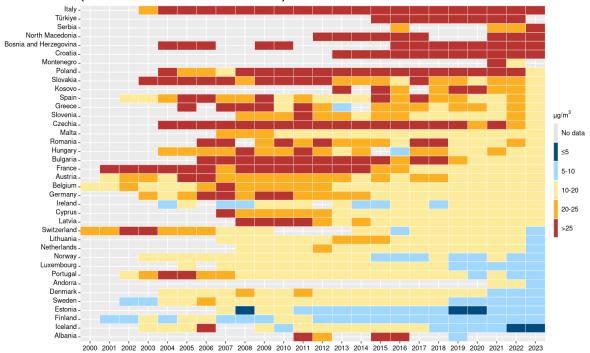
Maps for years before 2020 are different to the ones published in previous reports because the bands in the legend have been modified to accomodate the 2021 WHO AQG level.

Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) $PM_{2.5}$ annual mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 13. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

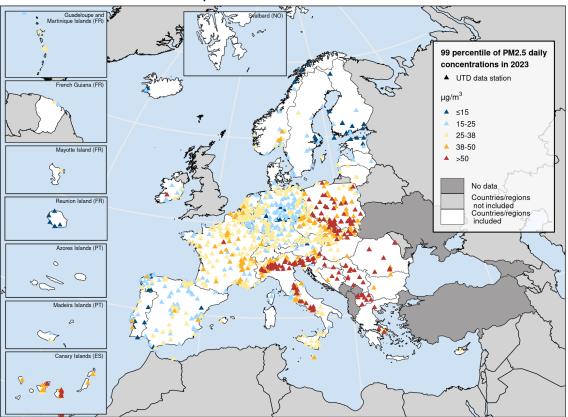
Figure 13: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) PM_{2.5} annual mean concentrations (annual limit value) per country from 2000



Country maximum of PM2.5 concentrations (Annual mean PM2.5 concentrations) between 2000 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Map concentrations of PM2.5 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of PM2.5 in 2023. The map shows the 99 percentile of the PM2.5 daily mean concentrations, equivalent to 3–4 exceedance days per year, according to the definition of the daily WHO AQG level (15 µg/m³). The first colour category indicates stations with concentrations below this AQG level. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map. Figure 15 shows the maps of the 99 percentile of $PM_{2.5}$ daily mean concentrations (equivalent to the WHO AQG level for $PM_{2.5}$ daily mean level) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

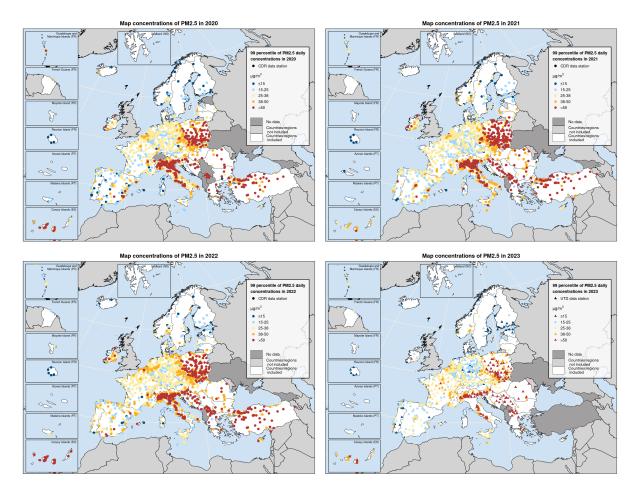
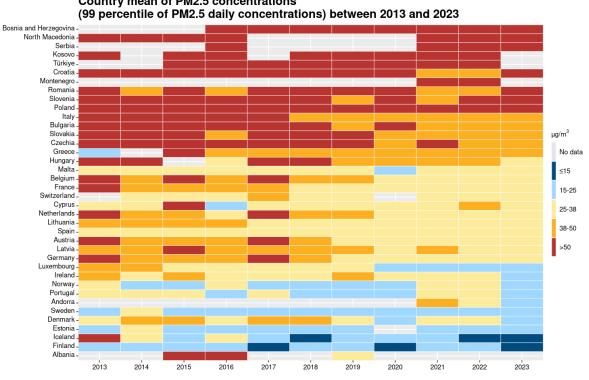


Figure 15: Maps of $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) for the last 4 years

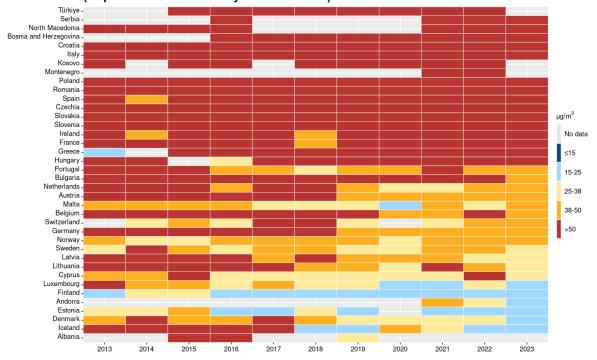
Heatmaps with the evolution from 2013 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of PM_{2.5} daily mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 16. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 16: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of PM_{2.5} daily mean concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) per country from 2013



Country mean of PM2.5 concentrations

Country maximum of PM2.5 concentrations (99 percentile of PM2.5 daily concentrations) between 2013 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.

4 Status of ozone ambient air concentrations

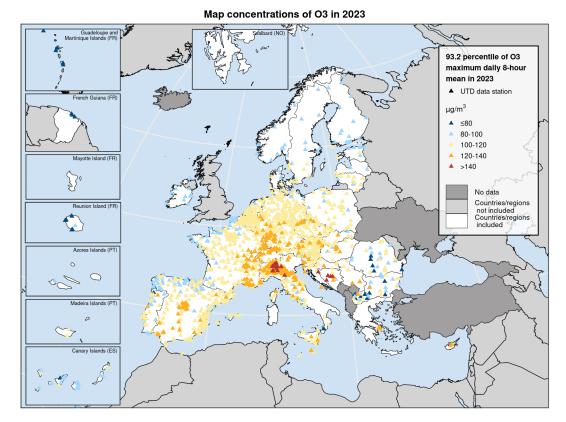
Data for O_3 were reported from 1770 stations for the calculation of EU standards, from 1770 stations in relation to the short-term WHO AQG level, and from 1662 stations for the long-term WHO AQG level. These stations were located in all the reporting countries shown in Figure 1.

16 countries in EU-27 and 4 other reporting countries registered concentrations above the O_3 target value threshold (120 µg/m³) more than 25 times this year (Figure 17). In total, 17 % of all stations reporting O_3 showed concentrations above the target value threshold for the protection of human health. In addition, only 14 % (256) of all stations fulfilled the long-term objective (120 µg/m³). 87 % of the stations with values above the long-term objective were background stations.

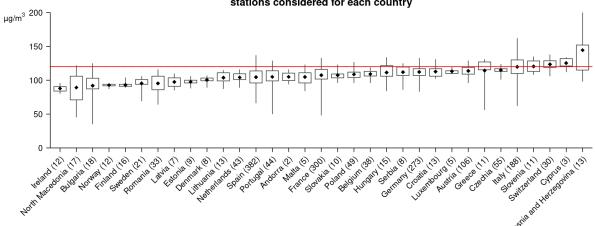
6 % (110) of all stations and only 6 of the 472 reported rural background stations had values below the short-term WHO AQG value for O_3 (100 µg/m³) (Figure 20), set for the protection of human health. The long-term, peak season(⁴), WHO AQG level (60 µg/m³) was exceeded in 98 % (1629) of all stations located in 26 countries in EU-27 and 6 other reporting countries. Only 2 of the 451 reported rural background stations had values below this AQG level (Figure 23).

⁴The peak season is calculated for each station as the average of daily maximum 8-hour mean O3 concentration in the six consecutive months with the highest six-month running-average O_3 concentration. That means that, for each station, twelve 6-months running averages of the daily 8-h max are calculated (1 August YY-1 to 31 January YY, ..., 1 January YY to 30 June YY, ..., 1 July YY to 31 December YY) and the maximum of those 12 values is selected as the peak season concentration. Please check also Data Dictionary - Vocabulary (https: //dd.eionet.europa.eu/vocabularyconcept/aq/aggregationprocess/P1Y-maxP6M-P8H-dmax/view?vocabularyFo Ider.workingCopy=false&facet=HTML+Representation).

Figure 17: UTD Map and boxplot of O_3 concentrations in 2023



Note: Observed concentrations of O3 in 2023. The map shows the 93.2 percentile of the O3 maximum daily 8–hour mean, representing the 26th highest value in a complete series. It is related to the O3 target value. At sites marked with the last two colour categories, the 26th highest daily O3 concentrations were above the 120 µg/m³ threshold, implying values above the target value threshold. Please note that the legal definition of the target value considers not only 1 year but the average over 3 years. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.



O3 concentrations in relation to the target value in 2023 and number of stations considered for each country

Note: The graph is based, for each country, on the 93.2 percentile of the maximum daily 8-hour mean concentration values, corresponding to the 26th highest daily maximum of the running 8-hour mean in a complete time series. For each country, the number of stations considered for 2023 (in brackets) are given. The boxplot represents the lowest (bottom of the whisker), highest (top of the whisker) and average (black dot) values (in µg/m³). The rectangles mark the 25th and 75th percentiles. At 25 % of the stations, levels are below the 25th percentile; at 25 % of the stations, concentrations are above the 75th percentile. The target value threshold set by the EU legislation is marked by the horizontal line. Please note that the legal definition of the target value considers not only 1 year but the average over 3 years. The graph should be read in relation to the above map, as a country's situation depends on the number of stations considered.

The highest value in the boxplot, Bosnia and Herzegovina (213 μ g/m³), has not been included in the graph for representation purposes.

Figure 18 shows the maps of the observed 93.2 percentile of the O_3 maximum daily 8-hour mean concentrations (O_3 target value) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

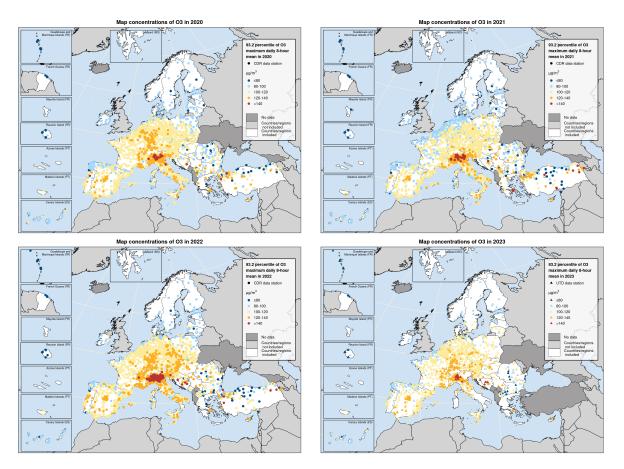
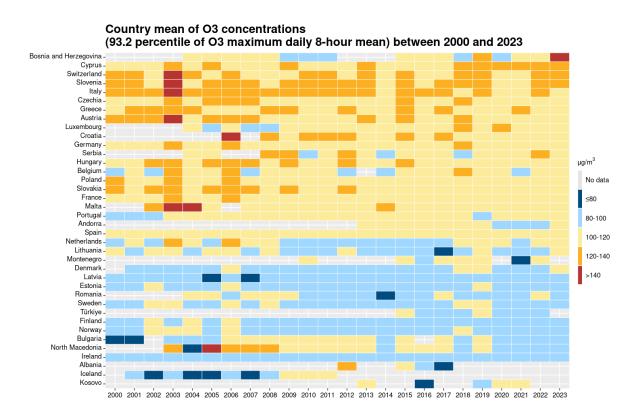


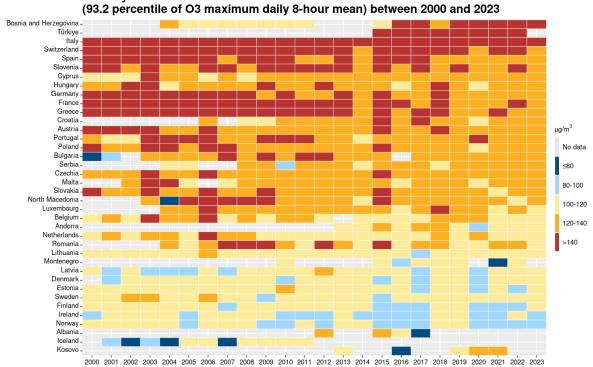
Figure 18: Maps of O_3 concentrations (related to the target value) for the last 4 years

Note: Please be aware that the TV considers the average over 3 years and the maps only show the situation for one specific year.

Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) O_3 concentrations (93.2 percentile of the maximum daily 8-hour mean concentration, target value) at country level are shown in figure 19. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), especially for O_3 as higher ambient air temperature leads to enhanced photochemical reactions and O_3 formation. The last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

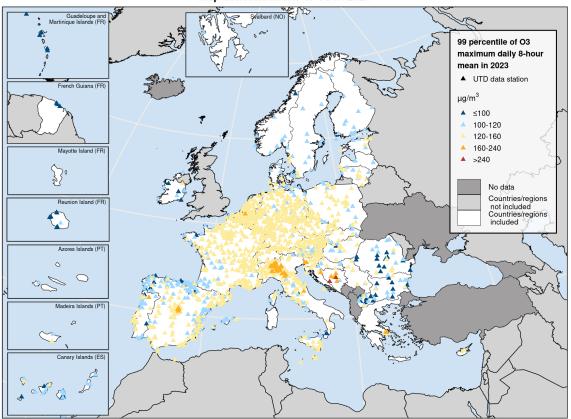
Figure 19: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) O₃ concentrations (93.2 percentile of the maximum daily 8-hour mean concentration, related to the target value) per country from 2000





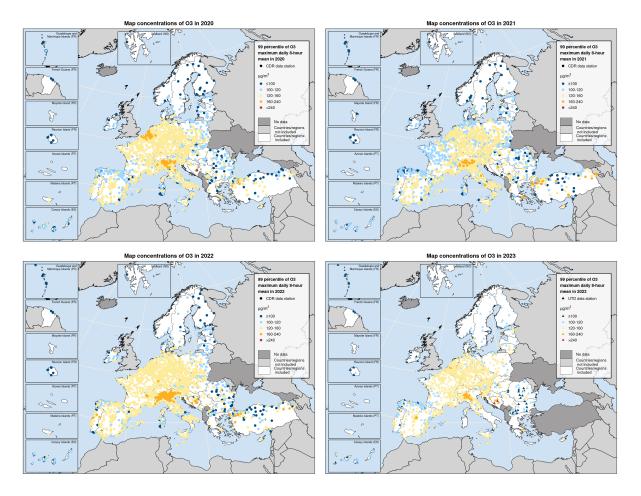
Country maximum of O3 concentrations (93.2 percentile of O3 maximum daily 8-hour mean) between 2000 and 2023

Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Map concentrations of O3 in 2023

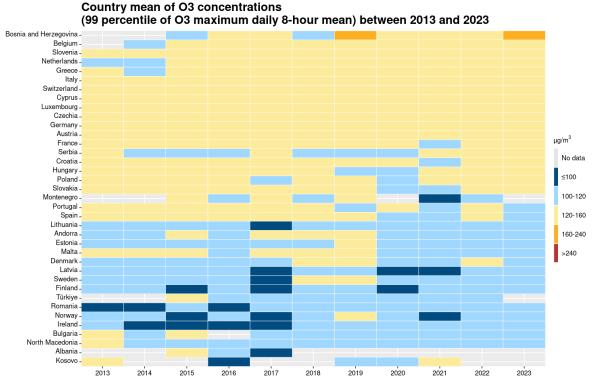
Note: Observed concentrations of O3 in 2023. The map shows the 99 percentile of the O3 maximum daily 8–hour mean concentrations, equivalent to 3–4 exceedance days per year, according to the definition of the short–term WHO AQG level (100 μg/m³). The first colour category indicates stations with concentrations below this AQG level. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map. Figure 21 shows the maps of the 99 percentile of the O_3 maximum daily 8-hour mean concentrations (equivalent to the short-term WHO AQG level) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).





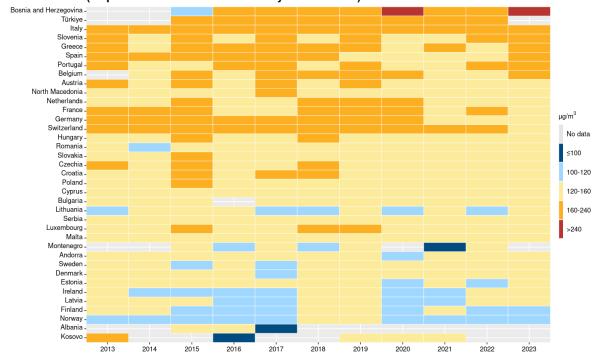
Heatmaps with the evolution from 2013 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of the O_3 maximum daily 8-hour mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 22. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 22: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of the O₃ maximum daily 8-hour mean concentrations per country from 2013

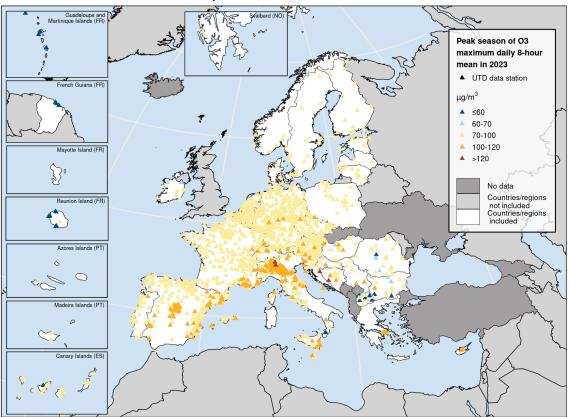


.

Country maximum of O3 concentrations (99 percentile of O3 maximum daily 8-hour mean) between 2013 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Map concentrations of O3 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of O3 in 2023. The map shows the average of the daily maximum 8-hour mean O3 concentration in the six consecutive months with the highest six-month running-average O3 concentration. The first colour category represents stations fulfilling the peak season O3 AQG level. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map. Figure 24 shows the maps of the peak season O_3 concentrations (equivalent to the long-term WHO AQG level) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

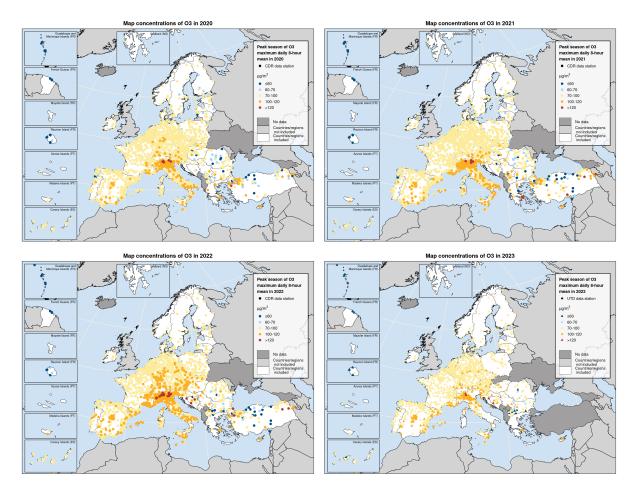
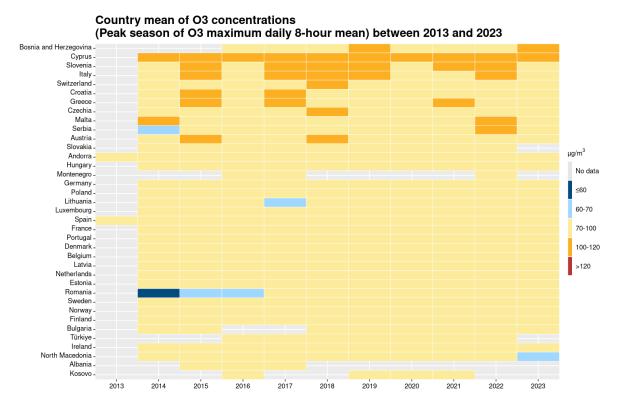


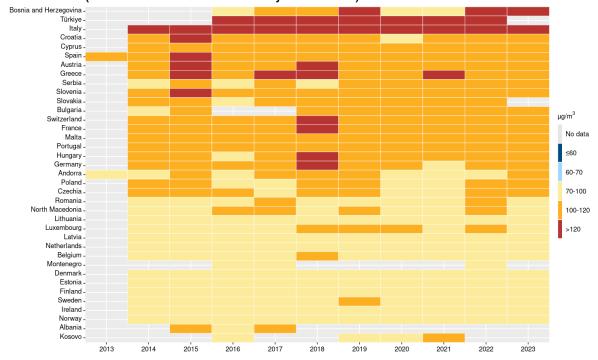
Figure 24: Maps of peak season O_3 concentrations for the last 4 years

Heatmaps with the evolution from 2013 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) peak season O_3 concentrations at country level are shown in figure 25. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 25: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) peak season O₃ concentrations per country from 2013



Country maximum of O3 concentrations (Peak season of O3 maximum daily 8-hour mean) between 2013 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.

5 Status of nitrogen dioxide ambient air concentrations

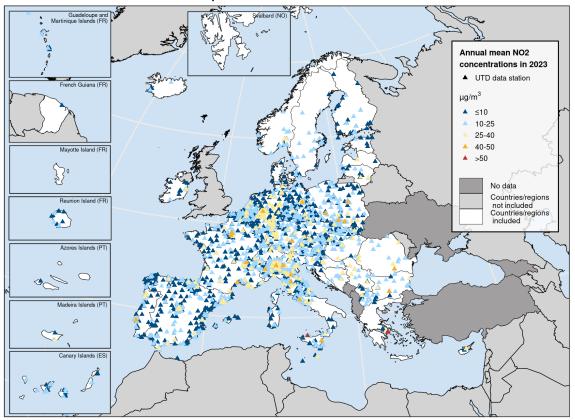
The reporting countries shown in Figure 1 submitted NO_2 data from 2814 stations for the annual limit value, 2636 stations for the hourly limit value, and 2594 stations for the daily WHO AQG level.

8 of the countries in EU-27 and 0 other reporting countries (Figure 26) recorded concentrations above the annual limit value (40 μ g/m³). This happened in 1 % of all the stations measuring NO₂. On the contrary, 68 % of stations, located in 27 of the countries in EU-27 and 7 other reporting countries reported concentrations above the WHO AQG level of 10 μ g/m³. Figure 26 shows the measured annual mean NO₂ concentrations.

100 % of all values above the annual limit value were observed at traffic stations. Furthermore, 100 % of the stations with concentrations above the annual limit value were located in urban or suburban areas.

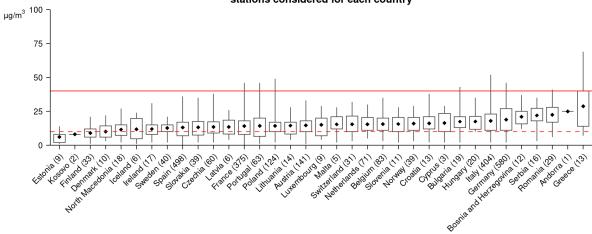
Concentrations above the hourly limit value (200 μ g/m³) were observed in 0.1 % (2 stations) of all reporting stations, mostly at urban traffic stations. They were observed in two countries (number stations): Hungary (one) and Iceland (one).

Finally, concentrations above the daily NO₂ WHO AQG level (25 μ g/m³) were registered in 74 % (1917 stations) of all the reporting stations in 27 of the countries in EU-27 and 7 other reporting countries (Figure 29).



Map concentrations of NO2 in 2023

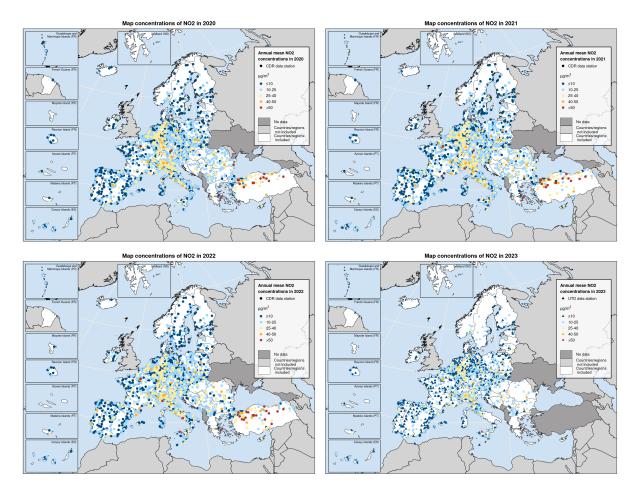
Note: Observed concentrations of NO2 in 2023. The last two colour categories correspond to values above the EU annual limit value (40 µg/m³), while the first colour category indicates stations reporting values below the WHO AQG level for NO2 (10 µg/m³). Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.



NO2 concentrations in relation to the annual limit value in 2023 and number of stations considered for each country

Note: The graph is based on the annual mean concentration values. For each country, the number of stations considered for 2023 (in brackets) are given. The boxplot represents the lowest (bottom of the whisker), highest (top of the whisker) and average (black dot) annual mean values (in µg/m³). The rectangles mark the 25th and 75th percentiles. At 25 % of the stations, levels are below the 25th percentile; at 25 % of the stations, concentrations are above the 75th percentile. The limit value set by EU legislation is marked by the horizontal line. The WHO AQG level is marked by the lower dashed horizontal line. The graph should be read in relation to the above map, as a country's situation depends on the number of stations considered.

Figure 27 shows the maps of the observed NO_2 annual mean concentrations for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

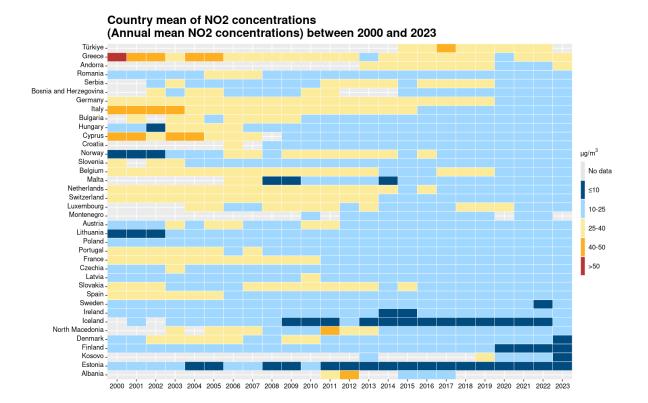


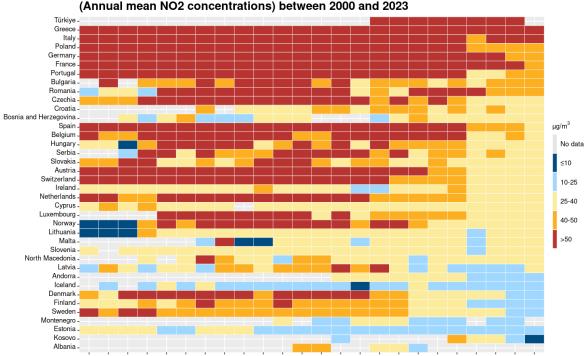


Maps for years before 2020 are different to the ones published in previous reports because the bands in the legend have been modified to accomodate the 2021 WHO AQG level.

Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) NO₂ annual mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 28. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 28: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) NO₂ annual mean concentrations (annual limit value) per country from 2000

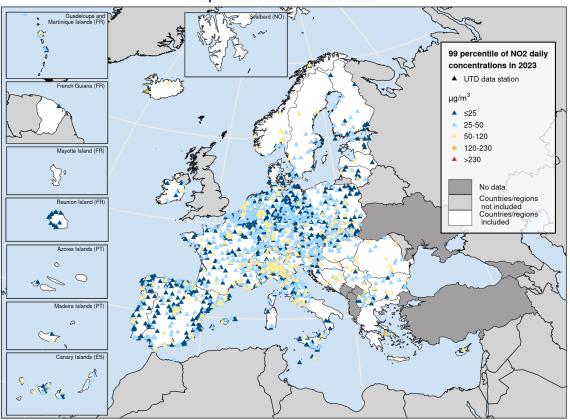




Country maximum of NO2 concentrations (Annual mean NO2 concentrations) between 2000 and 2023

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.



Map concentrations of NO2 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of NO2 in 2023. The map shows the 99 percentile of the NO2 daily mean concentrations, equivalent to 3–4 exceedance days per year, according to the definition of the daily WHO AQG level (25 μg/m³). The first colour category indicates stations with concentrations below this AQG level. Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map. Figure 30 shows the maps of the 99 percentile of NO_2 daily mean concentrations (equivalent to the WHO AQG level for NO_2 daily mean level) for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

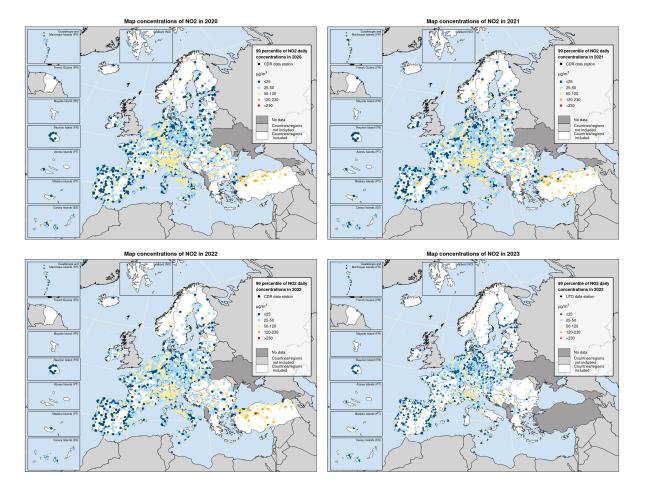
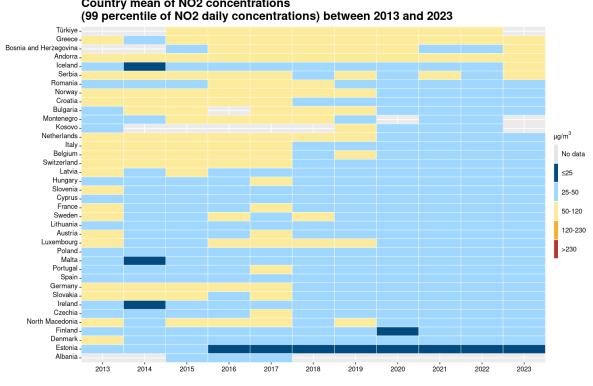


Figure 30: Maps of NO₂ concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) for the last 4 years

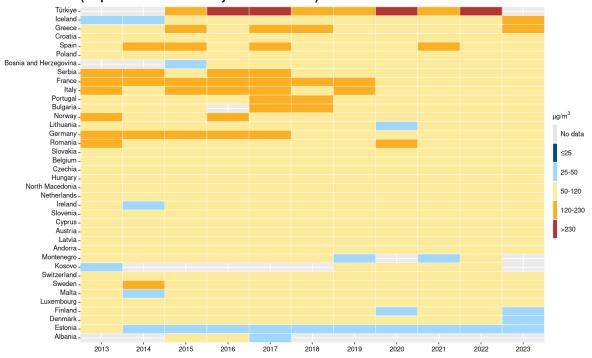
Heatmaps with the evolution from 2013 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of NO_2 daily mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 31. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 31: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) 99 percentile of NO₂ daily mean concentrations (daily WHO AQG level) per country from 2013



Country mean of NO2 concentrations

Country maximum of NO2 concentrations (99 percentile of NO2 daily concentrations) between 2013 and 2023



Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.

6 Status of sulphur dioxide ambient air concentrations

The reporting countries shown in Figure 1 reported measurements of SO_2 from 1157 stations for the hourly limit value and 1134 stations for the daily limit value.

11 stations (⁵) registered concentrations above the hourly limit value (350 μ g/m³); and 11 stations (⁶) registered concentrations above the daily limit of 125 μ g/m³ for SO₂ (Figure 32).

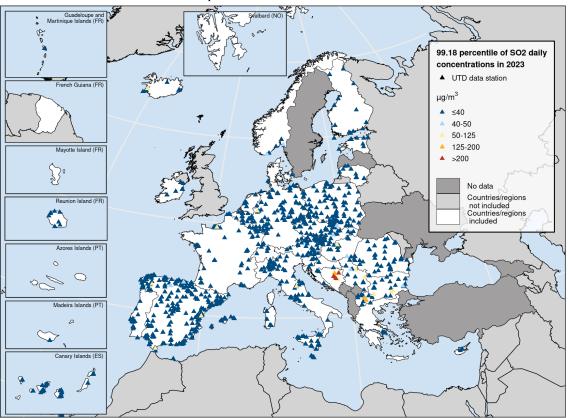
On the contrary, 40 (4 %) of all the stations reporting SO_2 levels, located in 13 reporting countries (⁷), measured SO_2 concentrations above the WHO AQG level of 40 μ g/m³ for daily mean concentrations (⁸).

⁵Bosnia and Herzegovina (nine), Italy (one) and North Macedonia (one)

⁶Bosnia and Herzegovina (nine) and North Macedonia (two).

⁷All reporting countries except Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland.

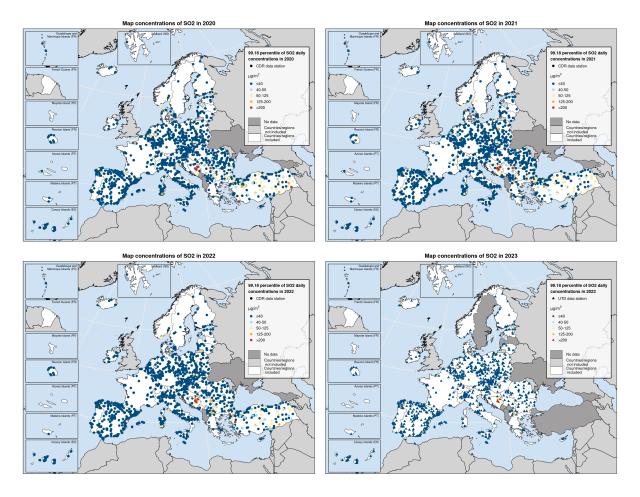
⁸Although the WHO AQG level for daily means refers to the percentile 99 (3-4 exceedance days), here we have used the percentile 99.18 (3 exceedance days), so the daily WHO AQG level can be directly compared with the EU daily LV.



Map concentrations of SO2 in 2023

Note: Observed concentrations of SO2 in 2023. The map shows the percentile 99.18 of SO2 daily means, indicating 3 exceedance days. It relates to the EU daily limit value (125 µg/m³) and to the WHO daily AQG level (40 µg/m³). Only stations with more than 75 % of valid data have been included in the map.

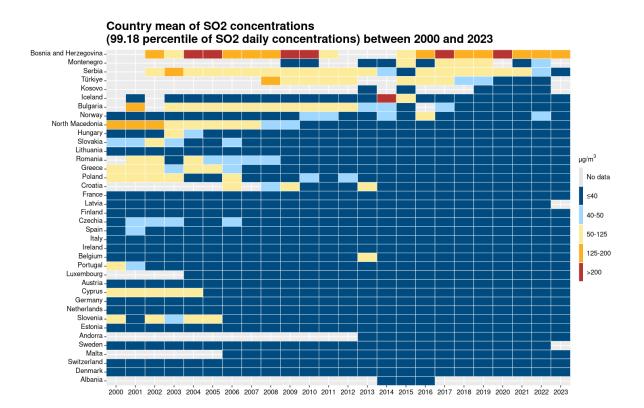
Figure 33 shows the maps of the observed SO_2 daily mean concentrations for the last four years. In this way, any significant change in the spatial distribution of the values above the set thresholds in the legends can be observed. Note that only the last year's map (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous three years are based on officially reported validated data (CDR).

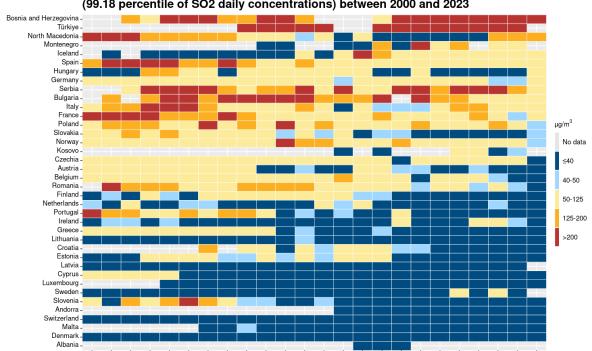




Heatmaps with the evolution from 2000 of the mean (top) and the maximum (bottom) SO_2 daily mean concentrations at country level are shown in figure 34. In this way, the evolution along years of the average and maximum measured concentration levels can be seen for each country. Note that meteorological variability has a considerable impact on year-to-year changes in ambient air concentrations of air pollutants (EEA, 2020), and the last year (2023) is based on UTD data, while the previous years are based on officially reported validated data.

Figure 34: Evolution of mean (top) and maximum (bottom) SO₂ 99.18 percentile of daily mean concentrations (EU LV (125 μg/m³) and WHO AQG level (40 μg/m³)) per country from 2000





Country maximum of SO2 concentrations (99.18 percentile of SO2 daily concentrations) between 2000 and 2023

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Note: It is important to note that the figure is not based on a consistent set of stations. The number, location and classification of the stations included may vary from year to year.

7 Abbreviations, units and symbols $\mu g/m^3$: microgram(s) per cubic metre AAQD: Ambient Air Quality Directives AQG: Air quality guideline CDR: Central data repository **EEA:** European Environment Agency ETC HE: European Topic Centre on Human health and the Environment EU: European Union LV: limit value NO₂: Nitrogen dioxide O₃: Ozone PM: Particulate matter $PM_{2.5}{:}$ Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 μm or less $\text{PM}_{10}\text{:}$ Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 μm or less **RL:** Reference level SO₂: Sulphur dioxide TV: target value UTD: up-to-date

WHO: World Health Organization

8 Annex

Data included in this report was received by 05 March 2024 from the reporting countries. By that date the number of stations by country aggregation reporting each pollutant is summarized in Table 3. Data from stations that do not fulfil the criteria from Box 1.1 are excluded from this report.

Countries	PM10	PM2.5	O3	NO2	SO2
EU27	2261	1397	1817	2693	1080
EEA32	2349	1460	1859	2769	1105
Total	2397	1496	1905	2818	1158

Table 3: Reporting status of 2023 air quality data by 05 March 2024

Data not included in this report is summarized in Table 4:

lable 4: Reporting outliers of 2023 air quality data by 05 March 2024												
Country	Station Eol	Pollutant Aggregation(*) Year		Value	Units	Data						
	Code						Coverage					
Austria	AT60142	со	P1Y-dx-max	2023	127	mg/m3	99					
Bosnia and	BA0029A	СО	P1Y-P1D-	2023	1536	mg/m3	78					
Herzegov-			per99									
ina												
Bosnia and	BA0038A	CO	P1Y-dx-max	2023	3454	mg/m3	83					
Herzegov-												
ina												
Bosnia and	BA0044A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	3601	mg/m3	82					
Herzegov-												
ina												
Bosnia and	BA0058A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	7371	mg/m3	84					
Herzegov-												
ina												

Table 4: Reporting outliers of 2023 air quality data by 05 March 2024

Country	Station Eol	Pollutant	Aggregation(*) Year	Value	Units	Data
	Code						Coverage
Bosnia and	BA0058A	CO	P1Y-P1D-	2023	3258	mg/m3	84
Herzegov-			per99				
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0029A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	4370	mg/m3	78
Herzegov-							
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0049A	CO	P1Y-P1D-	2023	1510	mg/m3	77
Herzegov-			per99				
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0052A	PM10	P1Y-P1D-	2023	9999	ug/m3	80
Herzegov-			per99				
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0052A	CO	P1Y-dx-max	2023	1736	mg/m3	81
Herzegov-							
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0057A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	2036	mg/m3	83
Herzegov-							
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0057A	СО	P1Y-P1D-	2023	898	mg/m3	84
Herzegov-			per99				
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0049A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	3308	mg/m3	77
Herzegov-							
ina							
Bosnia and	BA0052A	СО	P1Y-P1D-	2023	1073	mg/m3	83
Herzegov-			per99				
ina							

Table 4: Reporting outliers of 2023 air quality data by 05 March 2024 (continued)

Country	Station Eol	Pollutant	Aggregation(*) Year	Value	Units	Data		
	Code						Coverage		
Bosnia and	BA0038A	СО	P1Y-P1D-	2023	3016	mg/m3	84		
Herzegov-			per99						
ina									
Bosnia and	BA0044A	CO	P1Y-P1D-	2023	2050	mg/m3	83		
Herzegov-			per99						
ina									
Ireland	IE0028A	C6H6	P1Y	2023	2535	ug/m3	39		
Italy	IT2090A	PM10	P1Y-P1D-	2023 992		P1Y-P1D- 2023 99		ug/m3	75
			per99						
Spain	ES1038A	СО	P1Y-dx-max	2023	63	mg/m3	85		

Table 4: Reporting outliers of 2023 air quality data by 05 March 2024 (continued)

(*) https://dd.eionet.europa.eu/vocabulary/aq/aggregationprocess/view

Table 5 summarizes the number of sampling points per country with air quality levels above specific air quality objectives summarized through out this report. Sampling points that do not fulfil the criteria from Box 1.1 are excluded.

Levels/Objectives	_			Bosnia and Herzegovina					*				~								a	ourg		ands	North Macedonia			_				_			and
Levels/C	Andorra	Austria	Belgium	Bosnia a	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czechia	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Kosovo	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	North N	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
PM ₁₀ daily LV (50 μg/m ³)	0	0	0	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	0	3	0	0	9	2	1	22	2	0
PM_{10} daily WHO AQG level (45 $\mu\text{g/m}^3)$	1	10	36	12	18	2	2	43	1	1	19	135	25	14	16	3	1	297	0	5	4	0	4	5	12	29	134	21	39	13	32	15	220	31	6
PM ₁₀ annual LV (40 μg/m ³)	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
PM_{10} annual WHO AQG level (15 $\mu\text{g/m}^3)$	1	41	46	15	21	2	2	46	1	1	2	135	62	16	17	1	1	324	7	7	9	3	4	36	12	15	144	39	44	13	38	17	239	19	3
PM _{2.5} annual LV (25 μg/m ³)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
$PM_{2.5}$ annual WHO AQG level (5 μ g/m ³)	1	54	62	4	2	7	1	48	1	1	4	205	286	9	7	0	17	174	7	5	5	3	4	41	11	40	84	9	12	13	46	18	178	8	8
$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ daily WHO AQG level (15 $\mu\text{g/m}^3)$	1	54	69	4	2	7	1	48	1	3	4	211	285	9	7	1	17	168	0	5	4	3	4	46	11	42	83	13	12	13	47	18	187	17	9
O ₃ max daily 8h mean TV (120 μg/m ³)	0	15	0	9	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	44	35	5	5	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	1	4	40	0	22
O_3 long-term objective (120 μ g/m ³)	1	105	38	13	10	13	3	55	6	9	6	276	264	9	13	0	8	172	0	5	9	5	4	43	7	3	49	33	13	7	10	11	270	14	30
O $_3$ short-term WHO AQG level (100 μ g/m 3)	2	106	38	13	12	13	3	55	8	9	16	283	272	10	14	0	7	184	0	5	12	5	4	43	10	11	49	42	20	7	10	11	338	18	30
O ₃ peak season WHO AQG level (60 μg/m ³)	2	106	38	10	15	13	3	56	8	9	15	278	273	9	14	0	10	176	0	5	12	5	4	42	9	9	30	37	25	8	0	11	348	19	30
NO_2 annual LV (40 $\mu g/m^3$)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
NO_2 annual WHO AQG level (10 $\mu\text{g/m}^3)$	1	102	65	12	16	10	2	37	3	1	11	226	436	11	18	2	8	310	0	3	9	6	4	55	11	32	86	42	28	15	20	7	282	29	23
NO ₂ hourly LV (200 μg/m ³)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NO_2 daily WHO AQG level (25 $\mu g/m^3)$	1	112	71	10	15	10	2	42	3	3	20	279	293	12	17	3	12	304	0	3	8	6	4	65	13	34	90	41	28	14	27	9	309	32	25
BaP annual LV (1 ng/m ³)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BaP annual WHO AQG level (0.12 ng/m ³)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO_2 hourly LV (350 $\mu g/m^3)$	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO_2 daily LV (125 μ g/m ³)	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO_2 daily WHO AQG level (40 $\mu\text{g/m}^3)$	0	0	0	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	5	0	0
CO daily LV (10 mg/m ³)	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
CO daily WHO AQG level (4 mg/m 3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
C ₆ H ₆ annual LV (5 μg/m ³)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Number of sampling points above air quality levels/objectives per reporting country

0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 5 3 0 0 12 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 4 0 6 0 0 0 2 0 0

 C_6H_6 annual WHO RL (1.7 μ g/m³)

References

- EEA (2020). Air quality in Europe-2020 report. EEA Report No 9/2020, https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2020.
- EU (2004). Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmiu, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. *OJ L 23, 26.1.2005, p. 3–16.*
- EU (2008). Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. *OJ L 152*, *11.6.2008*, *pp.* 1–44.
- EU (2011). Commission Implementing Decision No 2011/850/EU of 12 December 2011 laying down rules for Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the reciprocal exchange of information and reporting on ambient air quality. *OJ L 335*, *17.12.2011*, *pp.* 86–106.
- WHO (2000). Air quality guidelines for Europe, World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen.
- WHO (2006). Air quality guidelines: Global update 2005 Particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, *World Health Organization*, *Regional Office for Europe*, *Copenhagen*.
- WHO (2021). WHO global air quality guidelines. Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. *World Health Organization, Geneva*.

European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment https://www.eionet.europa.eu/etcs/etc-he The European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment (ETC HE) is a consortium of European institutes under contract of the European Environment Agency.



