Air Pollution in the Western Balkans
Key messages for policymakers and the public

Pollutants and sources

- 7 million deaths per year globally due to air pollution
- 5,000 deaths per year in Western Balkan target cities

Impact on human health

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and premature death from heart disease, stroke, immune system defences
- Premature aging; asthma attacks; blood and lung irritation and inflammation; cell damage;
- Neuro-degenerative illness; increase in strokes, brain ischemia

Solutions

- Introduce stricter standards for emissions from large- and small-scale industry;
- Prioritize the reduction of fossil fuel use through technologies.
- Support the renewable energy technologies.
- Monitor data and promote awareness.

Key cities:

- Zagreb, Split, Croatia
- Belgrade, Serbia
- Sofia, Bulgaria
- Athens, Greece
- Barcelona, Spain

Emission sources:

- Transport
- Households
- Power generation and transport
- Agriculture

Air quality and health in Western Balkans

- Map produced by Zoï Environment Network, February 2021

References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Resolution 1244 (1999)


Acknowledgments

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- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)