

Environmental data in towns - Urban environment quality

Year 2012

In 2012, the motorization rate was about 609 cars per thousand inhabitants (-0.7% over the previous year); the number of motorcycles was almost stable at 131.6 per thousand inhabitants (+0.1%); which confirmed the slowdown in the growth trend that characterized the last decade.

For the first time, less polluting cars were more widespread than the most polluting ones: in provincial capitals, on average, cars up to class euro 3 were 303.9 per thousand inhabitants, compared to 305.3 class euro 4 or higher. The most polluting motorcycles (up to class euro 2) still represented two-thirds of the total.

In 2012, petrol-powered cars reduced by 1.2 percentage points in favor of the diesel (+0.9 percentage points) and bi-fuel ones, i.e. petrol/LPG- or petrol/methane-powered cars, (+0.3 percentage points).

The demand for public transport (number of passengers carried by all modes of public transport in a year) amounted to 208.9 passengers per capita: a 7.4% decrease over the previous year.

Compared to 2011, the situation of air quality, measured through all monitoring units (traffic, industrial and background type) improved: the number of provincial capitals where the PM10 limit value for the protection of human health was exceeded for more than 35 days, decreased from 59 to 52. Improvements were especially in the Centre (12 to 9) and in the South and Islands area (9 to 6).

Considering only the background type of air quality monitoring units, the PM10 limit was exceeded for more than 35 days in 33 provincial capitals.

In 16 cities, the average concentration of PM2.5 particulate matter exceeded the limit set for 2012.

At the end of 2012, the acoustical zoning of territory was officially adopted in more than 60% of the capitals (71); in 28 of these, it was necessary to draw specific Noise abatement plans (Piani di risanamento acustico).

In 2012, 9.3 noise monitoring activities (per 100,000 inhabitants) were carried out throughout the provincial capitals: 83.1% urged by citizens' complaints and 16.9% on the initiative of local governments. In 83 cities noise limits set by law were found to have been exceeded at least once.

If the source of noise pollution is considered, 9.2% of the controlled sources are road infrastructure, 13.8% are industrial activities and 63.5% commercial and service activities. The latter sector, in particular, showed the highest number of measurement interventions and the highest incidence of noise pollution limit excess (60.5%).

In 2012, urban green areas represented 2.8% of the territory of provincial capitals (more than 570 million m²) and the total area is growing by about 1% compared to 2011. 15.3% of the municipal territory is included in protected natural areas. The average availability of urban green areas is 31.4 m² per inhabitant (+0.5% compared to 2011).

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

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