



# HOW LOW-COST AIR QUALITY MONITORING TOOLS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COMPLY WITH EUROPEAN DIRECTIVES ON AMBIENT AIR QUALITY AND CLEANER AIR FOR EUROPE

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# HOW AIR POLLUTION IS DESTROYING OUR HEALTH

## KEY FACTS:

91%

of the world population in 2016 was living in places where the WHO air quality guidelines levels were not met

4.2

million premature deaths worldwide in 2016 were estimated to be caused by outdoor air pollution in both cities and rural areas

400.000

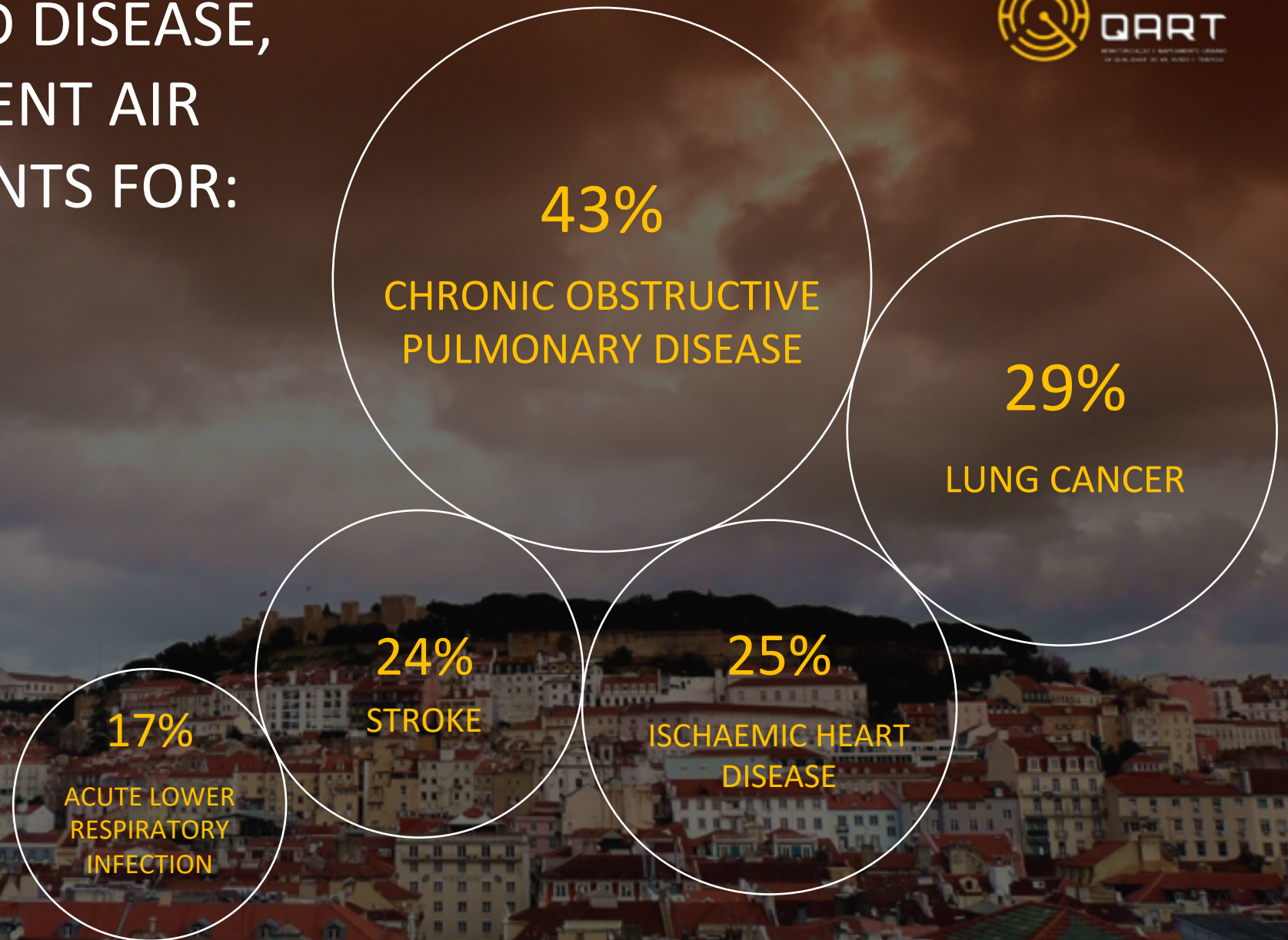
premature deaths every year in **Europe**.

Worse than for road traffic accidents, making it the number one environmental cause of premature death.



Fonte

# OF ALL DEATHS AND DISEASE, WORLDWIDE AMBIENT AIR POLLUTION ACCOUNTS FOR:

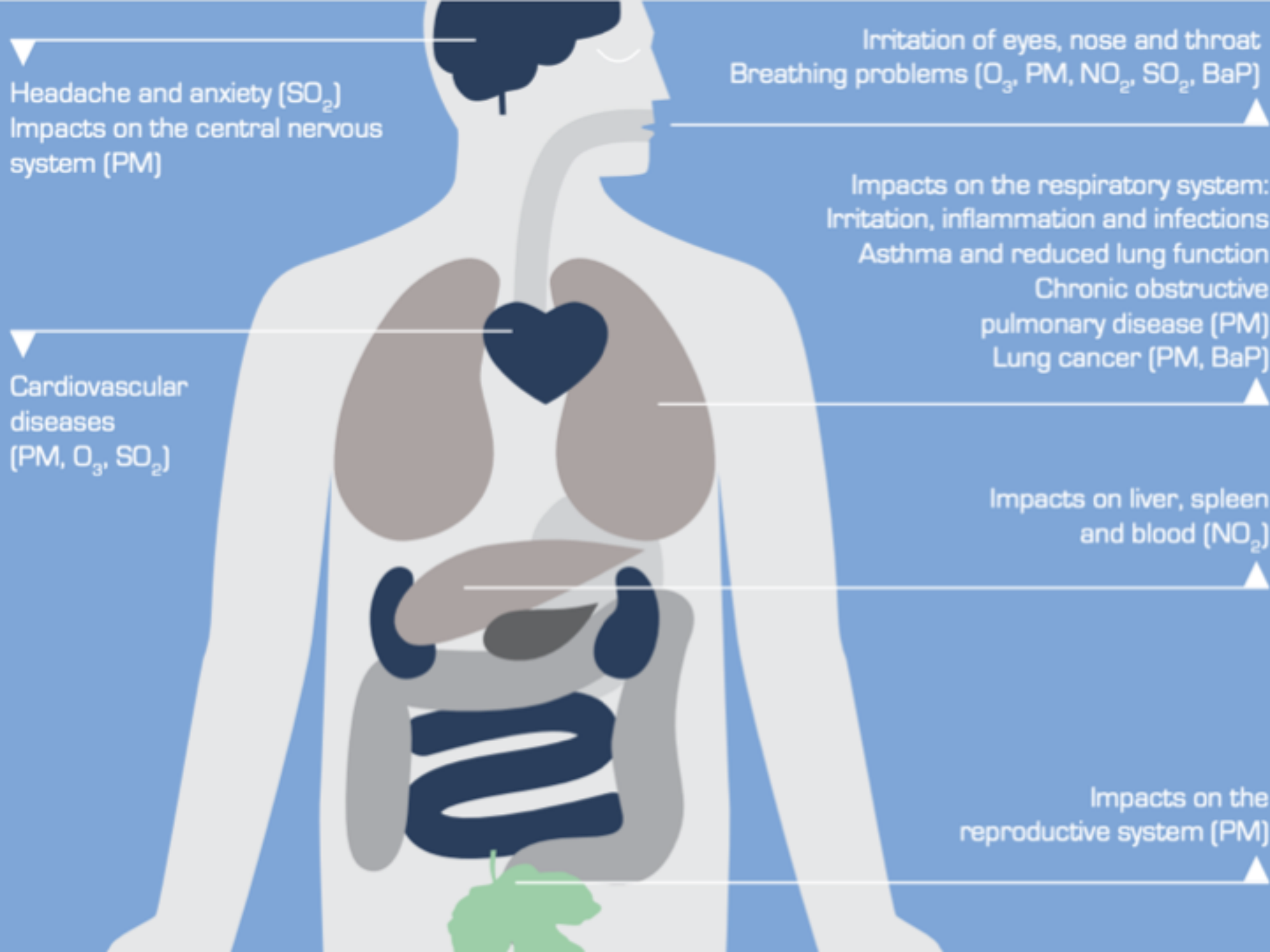


Fonte

World Health  
Organization



In 2013, the European Commission adopted a **Clean Air Policy Package** for Europe. This package of measures aims to achieve full compliance with existing air quality legislation by 2020 and further improve Europe's air quality by 2030 and thereafter.



Irritation of eyes, nose and throat  
Breathing problems ( $O_3$ , PM,  $NO_2$ ,  $SO_2$ , BaP)

Impacts on the respiratory system:  
Irritation, inflammation and infections  
Asthma and reduced lung function  
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (PM)  
Lung cancer (PM, BaP)

Headache and anxiety ( $SO_2$ )  
Impacts on the central nervous system (PM)

Cardiovascular diseases  
(PM,  $O_3$ ,  $SO_2$ )

Impacts on liver, spleen and blood ( $NO_2$ )

Impacts on the reproductive system (PM)



**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**



This Directive lays down measures aimed at the following:

1. defining and establishing **objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health** and the environment as a whole;
2. **assessing the ambient air quality in Member States** on the basis of common methods and criteria;
3. **obtaining information on ambient air quality** in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to **monitor long-term trends and improvements** resulting from national and Community measures;
4. **ensuring that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public;**
5. maintaining air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases;
6. promoting increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.

# 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



**Limit Value**



**Upper assessment threshold**



**Fixed measurements**

**combination of fixed measurements  
and modelling techniques and/or  
indicative measurements**

**Lower assessment threshold**



**modelling or objective-  
estimation techniques alone**



**Pollutants  
Concentrations**

# Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)

Limit Value **24h** 125 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

Upper assessment threshold

60% = 75 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

Lower assessment threshold

40% = 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

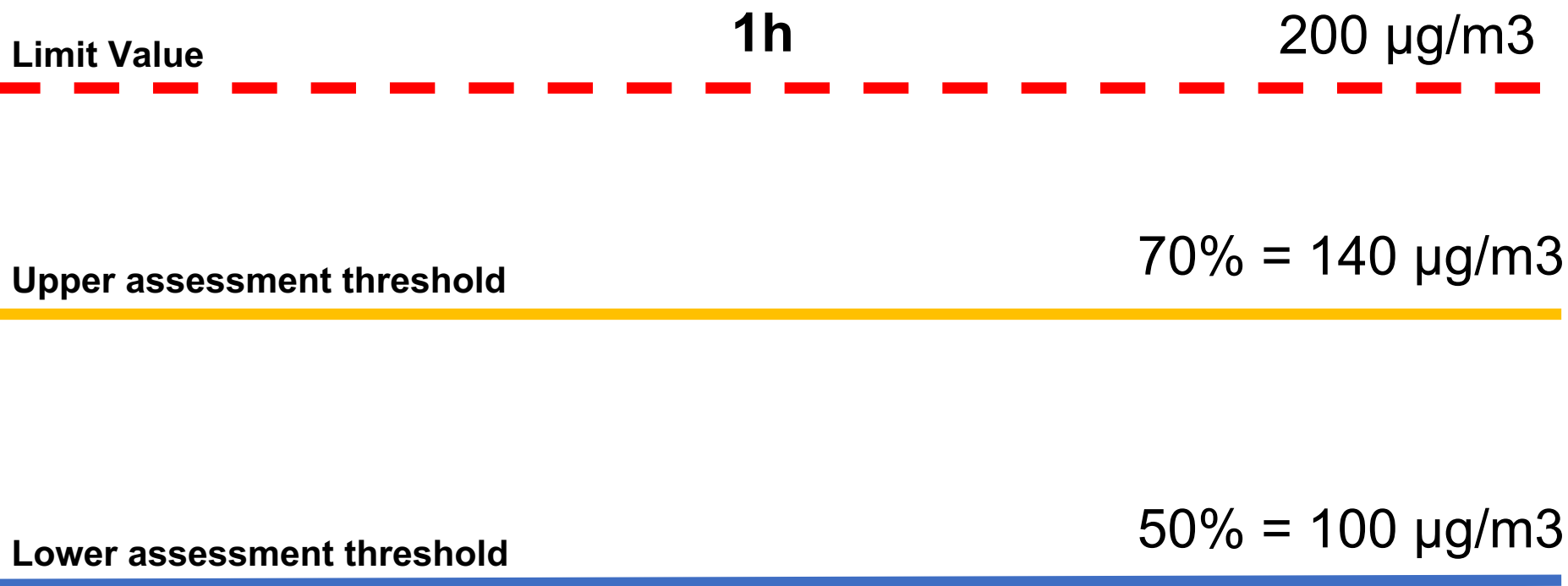
Pollutants  
Concentrations

Uncertainty:

- Fixed measurements: 15%
- Indicative measurements: 25%



# Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)



## Uncertainty:

- Fixed measurements: 15%
- Indicative measurements: 25%

# Particulate matter (PM10)

Limit Value **24h** **50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

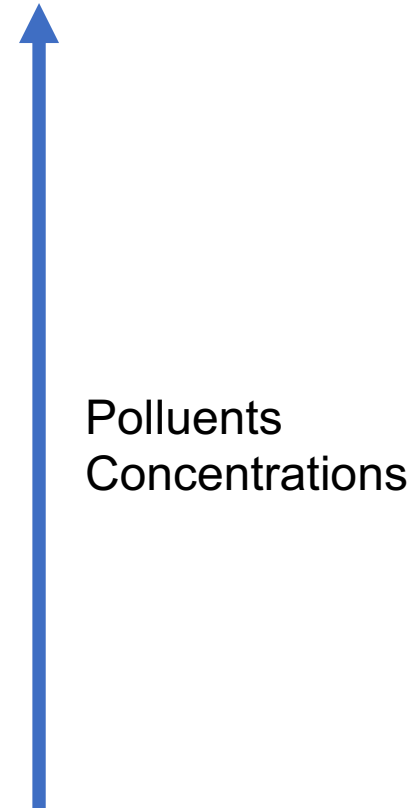
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Upper assessment threshold **70% = 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

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Lower assessment threshold **50% = 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

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## Uncertainty:

- Fixed measurements: 25%
- Indicative measurements: 50%

# Carbon Monoxide (CO)

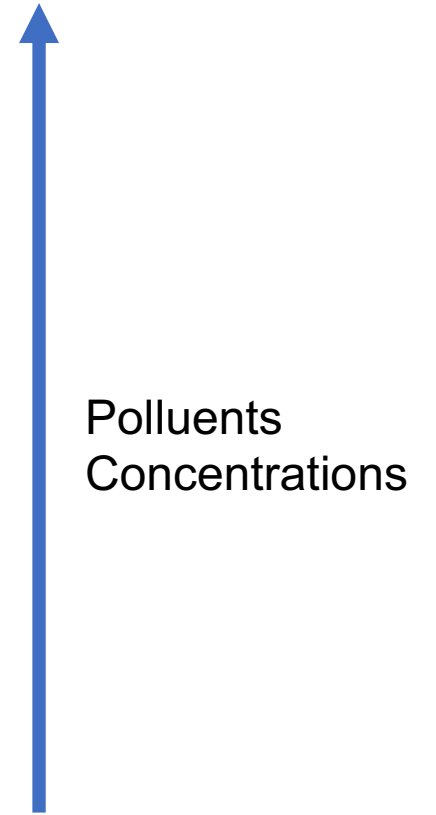
Limit Value **8h** **10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>**



Upper assessment threshold **70% = 7 mg/m<sup>3</sup>**



Lower assessment threshold **50% = 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>**



## Uncertainty:

- Fixed measurements: 15%
- Indicative measurements: 25%

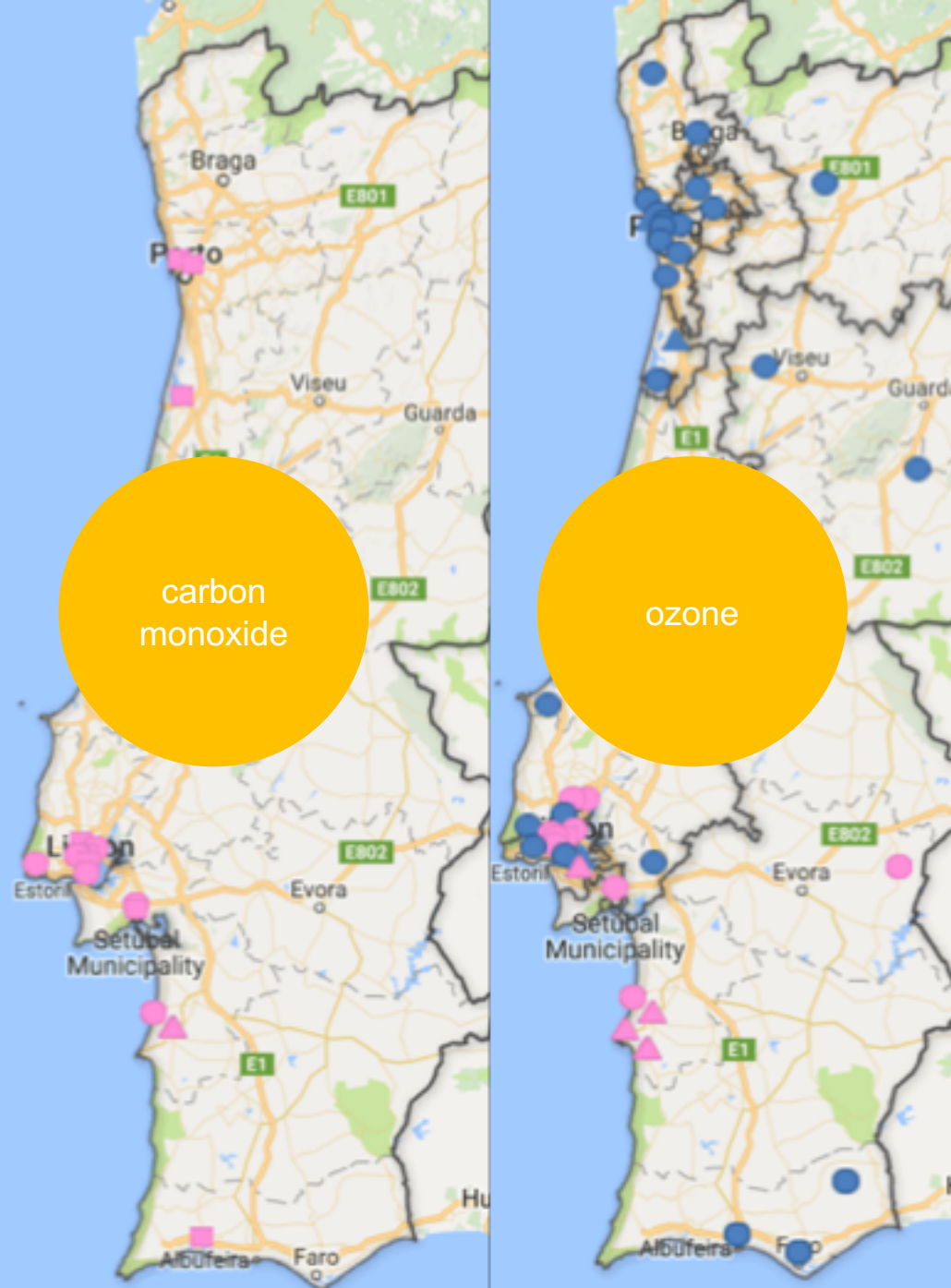
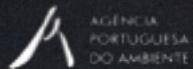
# WHAT'S BEING DONE?

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

# GEOGRAPHIC SELECTION BY POLLUTANT



Source



- Few measurement locations
- Low density outside Lisbon and Porto
- Not all pollutant are being measured in all stations

### STATIONS:

Influence / Type

	Fixed	Indicative
Traffic	■	■
Deep	●	●
Industrial	▲	▲

WHAT'S BEING DONE?

# REFERENCE STATIONS

- Large size stations
- High initial investment
- High maintenance
- Offline data
- Landscape impact
- Not very discreet (attracts attention and vandalism)
- The Portuguese territory has a total area of 92090 km<sup>2</sup>:
  - 80 Air Quality Stations,
  - 1 station at each 1200 km<sup>2</sup>,
  - Most located at Oporto/Lisbon,
  - Most territory is not covered (low level of time and space representability),
  - Data provided in the covered part of territory is not reliable,
  - A part of the working stations do not measure all parameters
- Ineffective in the communication and information of citizens, municipalities and companies.



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

# LOW-COST SENSORS

- Measure saturations (and not concentrations)
  - Frequent measurement errors
  - Don't take into account the specific air quality regulation (e.g. EU directives)
  - high or unknown uncertainty
- 
- Don't produce comparable data
  - Don't replace the reference stations (do not meet the objectives of data quality)



**IT'S NOT THE SOLUTION**

## COMMON PROBLEMS

# LOW-COST SENSORS

- Measures in ppm (not in ppb)
- Low resolution (ex: Arduino is 10bit)
- Noise (ex: Raspberry Pi clock frequency 1.2Ghz, power supply)
- Designed for high concentrations detection
- Ignore cross-sensitivity

The conversion assumes an ambient pressure of 1 atmosphere and a temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

- SO<sub>2</sub>                    1 ppb = 2.62 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- NO<sub>2</sub>                    1 ppb = 1.88 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- NO                      1 ppb = 1.25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- O<sub>3</sub>                      1 ppb = 2.00 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- CO                      1 ppb = 1.145 µg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Benzene                1 ppb = 3.19 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

**0.1 ppm of SO<sub>2</sub> = 262 µg/m<sup>3</sup>  
(limit value is 125 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)**

The general equation is

$$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 = (\text{ppb}) \cdot (12.187) \cdot (M) / (273.15 + \text{°C})$$

where M is the molecular weight of the gaseous pollutant.

An atmospheric pressure of 1 atmosphere is assumed.



# HOW CAN WE USE LOW-COST SENSORS ?

OUR PROPOSAL IS TO CREATE  
**A DENSE  
NETWORK**  
FILL THE GAP

Create a complementary network to the national network of reference stations for air quality measurement, using the indicative method according to Decree-Law No. 47/2017.

## MEASURES AT LEAST:

 CO

 PM10

 Humidity

 NO

 PM2.5

 Atmospheric pressure

 NO<sub>2</sub>

 PM1

 O<sub>3</sub>

 Noise

 SO<sub>2</sub>

 Temperature

With:  
CE Certification  
Calibration of sensors using  
reference stations

# KNOW THE UNCERTAINTY

## FIELDWORK

- Sensor validation (DL 47/2017)
- Laboratory tests
- Fieldwork
- Comparison with reference methods

### OBJECTIVES:

- Evaluate the adequacy of the gas sensors expected for QART in accordance with DL N.º 47/2017 as indicative method.
- Determine the uncertainty of the abovementioned QART sensors.



Meet the data quality objectives defined in annex II of DL 47/2017, July 7

Guide to the Demonstration of Equivalence of Ambient Air Quality Methods – EC working Group.

# METHODOLOGY

## SENSOR CALIBRATION

Explore different methods of calibrating sensors against reference measurements motivated by the known presence of complex nonlinear and cross-sensitive behavior of sensors.

Field normalization techniques that attempt to address these complex behaviors include:

- multi-linear regressions,
- non-linear multi-variate models,
- machine learning

# METHODOLOGY

TEST REPORT: RM\_QUALAR\_201709\_QART

- Response time evaluation
- Sensor calibration and linearity deviation evaluation
- Calculation of quantification limit

## INTERCOMPARATION DATA EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

A value pair evaluation procedure was used to verify compliance with the data quality objectives obtained by the sensors.

According to the directive, the relative expanded uncertainties allowed are 50% for PM10, 30% for O3 and 25% for CO, NO and NO2, in all cases in the respective limit value zone.

## DEVIATION

Nothing to report.

**SONDAR.LAB**

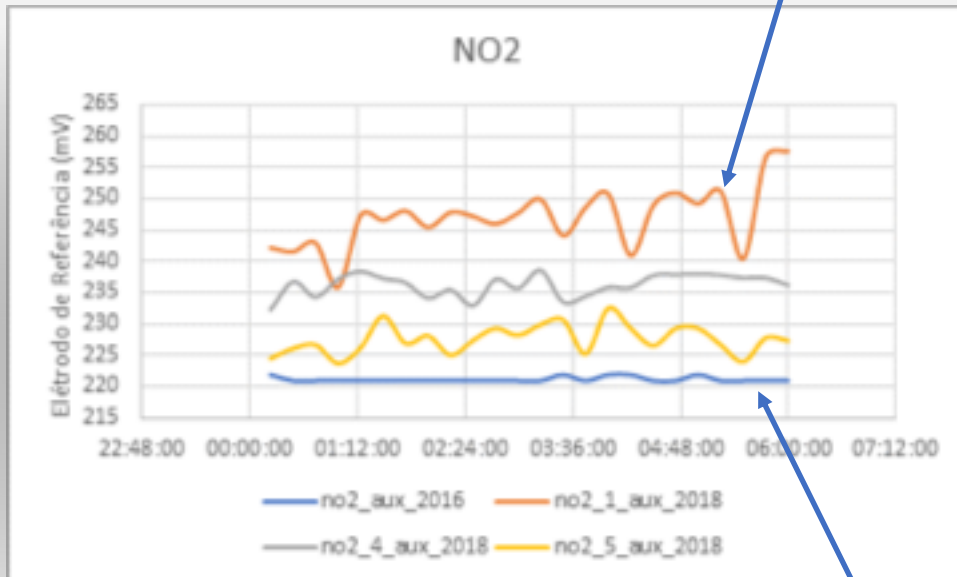
Certificado de acreditação para calibrações nº M0103 emitido em 2014-05-06 pelo IPAC ).  
Certificado de acreditação para ensaios nº L0353 emitido em 2005-09-02 pelo IPAC)

# METHODOLOGY

## NOISE EFFECT

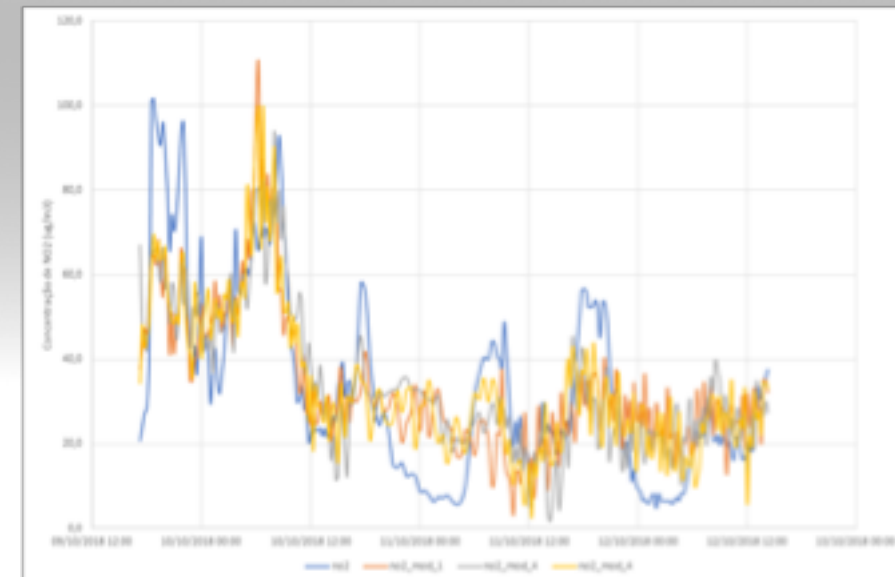
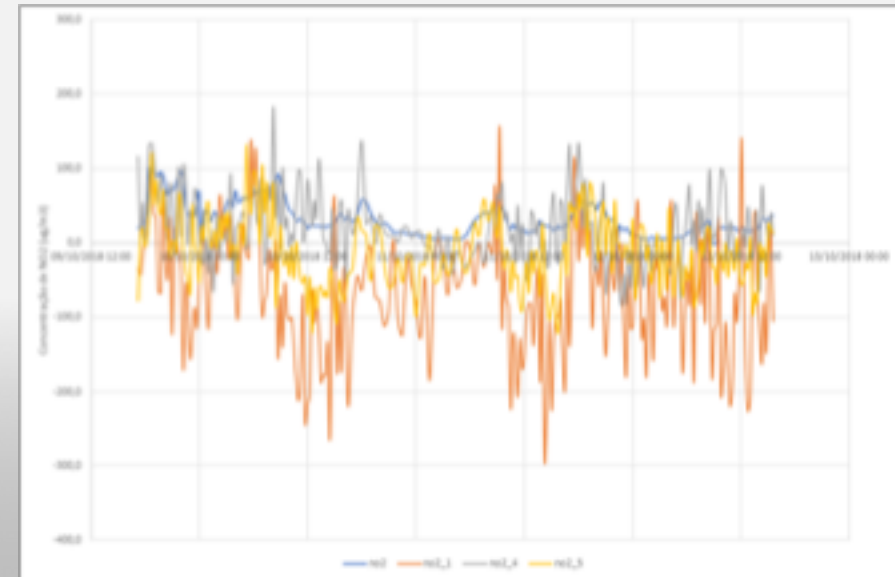
**Uncertainty 60% - 70%**

High noise



Low noise

**Uncertainty ~18%  
( < 25%)**



KNOW THE UNCERTAINTY

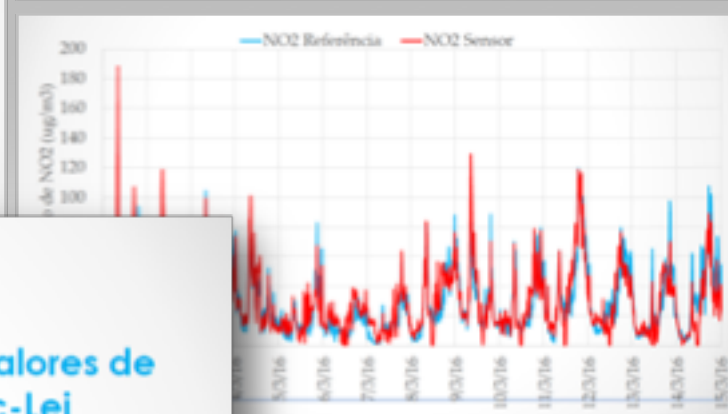
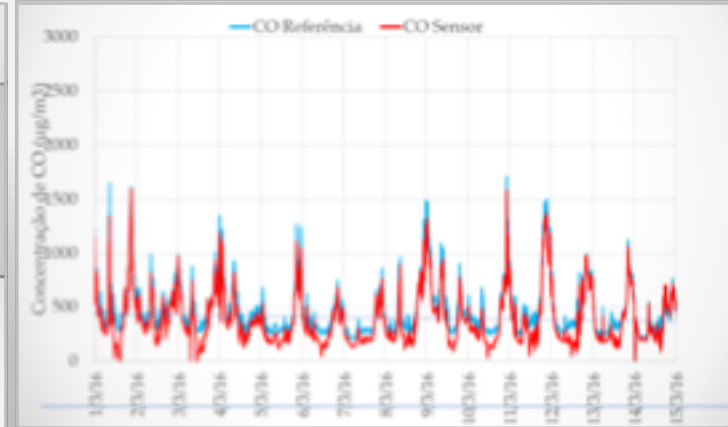
# TESTS AND VALIDATIONS

**SONDARLAB**  
LABORATÓRIO DE ANÁLISES E CONTROLO DE QUALIDADE

## RESUMO DA VALIDAÇÃO DOS SENSORES DE QUALIDADE DO AR PROJETO QART

### Metodologia

- Realização de Testes Laboratoriais
- Comparação dos sensores com o método de referência de acordo com o documento: **GUIDE TO THE DEMONSTRATION OF EQUIVALENCE OF AMBIENT AIR MONITORING METHODS**, Report by an EC Working Group on Guidance for the Demonstration of Equivalence.
- Realização de medições durante cerca de 3 meses (Viseu, Matosinhos e Maia)



## Conclusões Gerais

- Todos os sensores deram, na zona do valor limite, valores de incerteza expandida inferiores ao definido pelo Dec-Lei 102/2010 para medições indicativas.

## PRODUCT AND SERVICE PROVIDED

# QART BOX

QART BOX is a miniaturized air quality and noise monitoring instrument, with a custom made built-in multiple CPU board, QART BOX internal board is always making a self-diagnostic to ensure that the accuracy of the sensor data that will be collected is accurate and reliable.

### Sensors:

- CO (0.5 to 100 ppm)
- O<sub>3</sub> (10 to 200 ppb)
- NO<sub>2</sub> (5 to 500 ppb)
- SO<sub>2</sub> (5 to 500 ppb)
- O<sub>2</sub> (0 to 100%)
- H<sub>2</sub>S (0 to 10000 ppb)
- Air pressure sensor (300 – 1500 mbar)
- External temperature sensor (-60 to 60 °C)
- Internal temperature sensor (-60 to 60 °C)
- External humidity sensor (5 to 100%)
- Internal humidity sensor (5 to 100%)
- Noise sensor ( -30 to 120 dB)
- **Optical particulate sensor:**
  - PM0.5
  - PM0.7
  - PM1.0
  - PM2.5
  - PM10

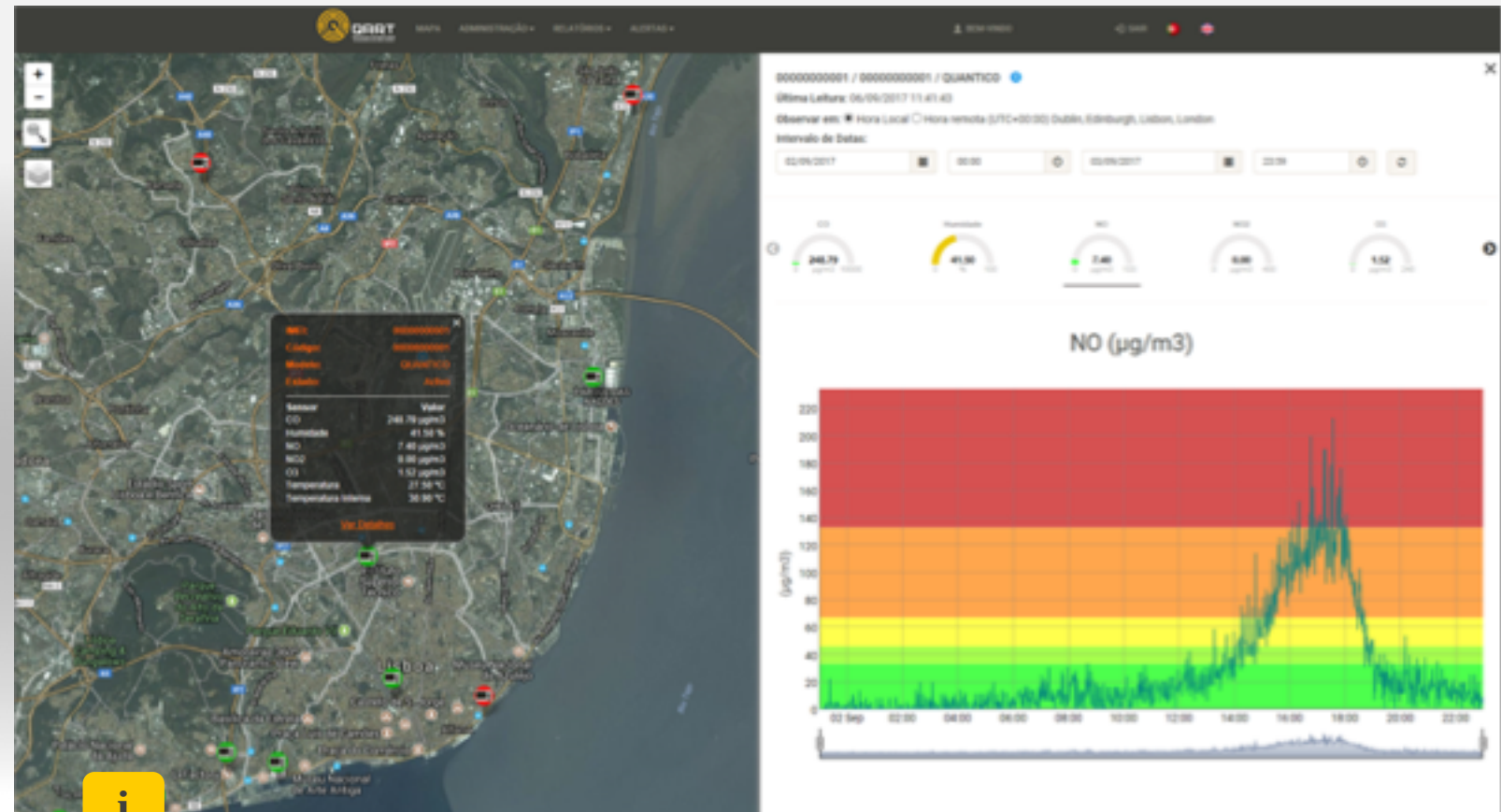




TECNOLOGIA

QART

PLATFORM



SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE INFORMATION  
INDIVIDUAL POINT'S MANAGEMENT  
ALERT CONFIGURATIONS



SMARTCITIES



TURISM



REAL ESTATE



INDUSTRY



## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

### AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The use of emerging technologies associated with indicative measurements, which are being subject to standardization (**Working Group 42 of CEN Technical Committee 264, “Air quality — Performance evaluation of sensors for the determination of concentrations of gaseous pollutants and particulate matter in ambient air”**) will complement the fixed measurements with data that are also continuous and that, despite being less accurate, increase the temporal and spatial representativeness of the monitoring.





**QART**

MONITORIZAÇÃO E MAPEAMENTO URBANO  
DA QUALIDADE DO AR, RUÍDO E TRÁFEGO

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