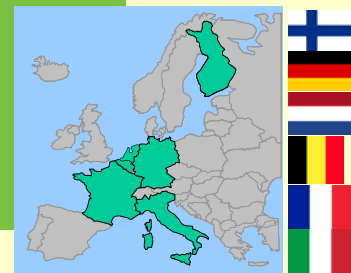


Environmental factors contribute significantly to disease burden in Europe – EBoDE project

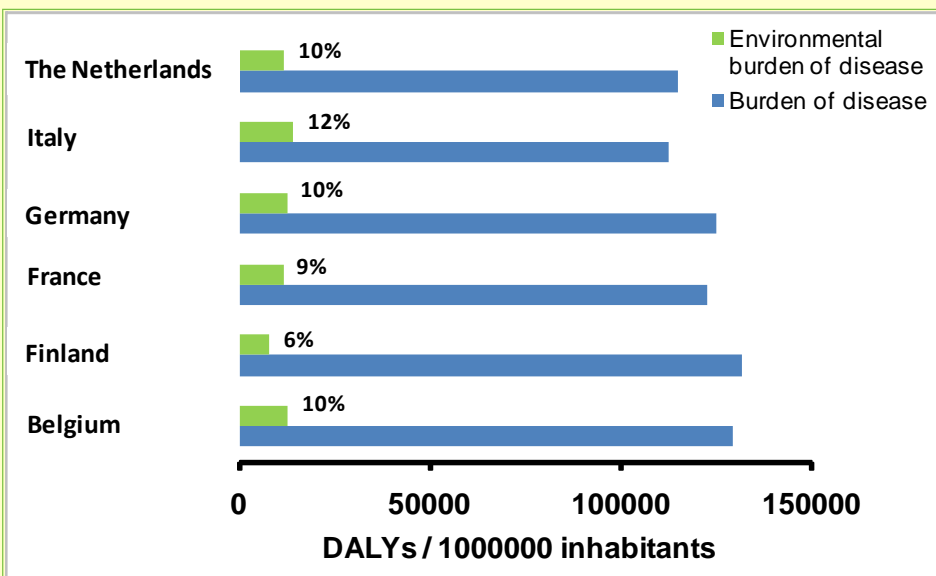


VITO, Belgium - THL, Finland - RIVM, Netherlands - InVS, France - UBA, LIGA.NRW, University of Bielefeld, Germany - ISS, University of Milan, Italy - WHO ECEH, Germany - WHO, Switzerland

Environmental factors contribute to the burden of disease also in Europe.

The EBoDE-project, applying WHO methodology for quantification and ranking of health impacts caused by environmental stressors estimated that 6-12% of the total national burden of disease in the participating six countries was caused by the studied nine environmental stressors (Figure 1; see Poster 1 for the list of the stressors).

In absolute numbers Finland had the largest BOD & smallest EBD, while for Italy this was vice versa.



Burden of Disease in the participating countries (blue; WHO, 2008) and the estimated fraction explained by the studied environmental factors.

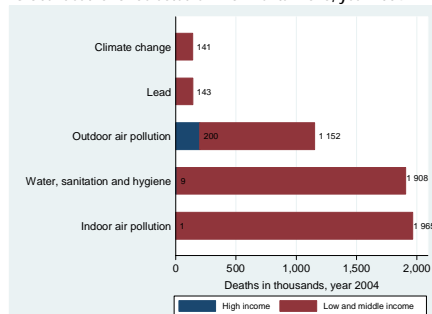
WHO Environmental Burden of Disease (EBD) –Programme

The current work utilized WHO EBD methods and burden of disease data.

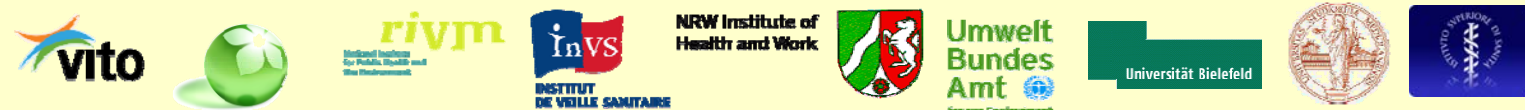
- The disease burden from in- and outdoor air pollution, lead exposure, unsafe water conditions & injuries accounted for one third of the total burden of disease in European children and adolescents (Valent *et al.*, 2004).
- Almost a quarter of all disease worldwide was caused by environmental exposure (Prüss-Üstün and Corvalán, 2006). In industrial sub-regions this estimate was about 16% (15-18%). This estimate does not include certain health impacts supported by limited evidence.
- WHO has estimated the environmental burden of disease in its 193 Member States. At the global level, the data highlight significant inequalities but also demonstrate - in every country - that people's health could be improved by reducing environmental risks.
- The current EBoDE project aims at assessing the EBD in the European Region based on consistent data of participating countries and a uniform methodology.

More information World Health Organization http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/en/

Global deaths for selected environmental risks, year 2004



Source: World Health Organization. Global health risks: mortality and burden of diseases attributable to selected major risks. Geneva: WHO; 2009.



The EBoDE project was implemented with the participation and support of WHO Geneva and Bonn offices.