

AIR QUALITY IN PORTUGAL: 1995-2013 ASSESSMENT

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Current EU Directive on air quality (2008/50/EC) sets out a number of targets framed within the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution [COM(2005)446] to improve human health and environmental quality, establishing target dates for reducing atmospheric concentrations of several pollutants. In this context, each Member State must evaluate and predict air quality, as well as to estimate human exposure to inform the public and protect their health by conducting emission inventories, action plans, monitoring systems and air quality modeling. During the study period 1995-2013 the temporal and spatial evolution of several air pollutant concentrations (CO, NO, NO₂, O₃, SO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) was analyzed in the most populated areas of Portugal, where the density of the air quality monitoring network is higher. Exceedances of the limit values for several pollutants such as PM₁₀ (Fig. 1) were very frequent during this period in Lisbon, Oporto and the south coastal area.

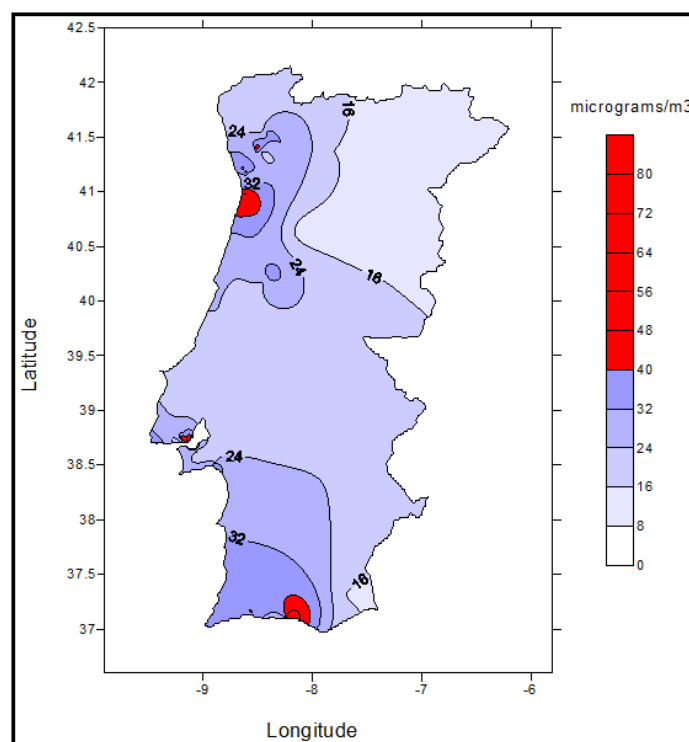


Figure 1. Portugal areas where PM₁₀ limit value was exceeded during the study period.