



TITLE OF THE ABSTRACT: The Italian situation – Short-term effects of air pollution in Italian cities

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Outdoor air pollution represents one of the main risk factors for human health, and one of the main challenges to be addressed at the policy level. The Air Quality is on the top of the agenda at the European policy level, and a “Thematic Strategy” aimed at revising the current EU limit values is ongoing. Finally, 2013 has been defined by the WHO the “Year of the Air”, further increasing the attention of the public opinion and the policy makers on the Air Quality issue.

At the Italian level, the problem of air pollution is further enhanced by the co-existence of multiple factors, including: the presence of many densely populated urban areas, the mild meteorological conditions favoring outdoor activities, the high levels of shipping emissions due to Mediterranean transports, the desert dust intrusions from North Africa, the formation of secondary pollutants due to solar radiation, among others.

This presentation will provide an overview of the main short-term health effects of outdoor air pollution in Italy and the Mediterranean area, with special attention to particulate matter (PM), and will report the final results of two main projects: MED-PARTICLES and EPIAIR.

The project MED-PARTICLES is a European-funded project, involving Italy, Spain, Greece and France. Final results will be presented with regards to the short-term effects of fine particles, coarse particles, Saharan dust, forest fires and PM components and sources in the Med area.

The project EpiAir is an Italian project, funded by the Ministry of Health, involving 25 Italian cities, and aimed at establishing a surveillance program of the short-term effects of particles and gases on human health in Italian cities. The final results will be shown, with regards to the short-term effects of PM, NO₂ and ozone on cause-specific mortality and hospital admissions in Italy.