

Statistics for the SDGs - indicators for national priorities



Name of the indicator	3.5.b Number of premature deaths due to exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) per 100 thous. inhabitants
Sustainable Development Goal	Goal 3. Good health and well-being
Priority	Comprehensive improvement of air quality reaching the state of no risk to health and environment in accordance with EU legislation and, in a longer-term perspective, WHO guidelines by reducing emissions of pollutants into the air
Definition	The number of premature deaths in a given population that can be attributed to exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), expressed per 100 thous. inhabitants.
Unit	persons
Available dimensions	total
Methodological explanations	<p>The indicator is used to estimate the impact of air pollution on population health and to monitor progress in reducing environmental risk.</p> <p>The numerator is the number of premature deaths attributable to long-term exposure to concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) above 5 µg/m³, corresponding to the reference level specified in the 2021 World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines. The denominator is the total population. The indicator is expressed per 100 000 population.</p> <p>Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) consists of particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres that can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing inflammation and deterioration in the health status of persons with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.</p> <p>The number of premature deaths was calculated on the basis of data and methodology provided by the European Environment Agency (EEA) - the European Union agency responsible for monitoring the state of the environment.</p>
Data source	Eurostat
Data availability	Annual data, since 2010
Notes	
Data updated on	07-07-2026
Metadata updated on	07-07-2026