



### Air quality: the bright side of COVID pandemic

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### The AQ problems in Portugal

Exceedances to legislation urban areas





### The AQ problems in Portugal

#### Exceedances to legislation rural/urban areas



### Air quality in Portugal media



#### Q 0 14



traffic contribution

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### The scientific answer

Impact of COVID lockdown on air quality Assessing traffic contribution Estimating health benefits



tenic caused by coronavirus COVID-19 is having a worldwide impact that affects health, the economy in cities. In Portugal, the number of cases increased continually (32700 health system and caused movement restrictions foct produced by this





#### Article Tourism and Air Quality during COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons

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Abstract: The pandemic caused by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (associated to the disease named COVID-19) is having a global impact that affects health, the economy and the environment. These impacts are negative in most of the sectors but benefits also occurred in specific fields. Tourism was one of the most negatively affected economic sectors, and in terms of benefits, the improvement of air quality can be highlighted, with positive health implications. This paper aims to evaluate the impacts on these two particular fields-tourism and air quality-focusing on Portugal due to the relevance of tourism in the country. The research carried out in this paper enables us to find the most critical areas and identifies lessons learnt and recommendations for the post-COVID period. Tourism and air quality data were collected for both 2019 and 2020 and compared in terms of quantitative and spatial analysis. The Lisbon metropolitan area—the geographical area where the capital of the country is located—was the area that suffered the most negative impacts in terms of tourism activity but was also the one where highest benefits in terms of air pollution reduction and human exposure were felt.



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## Air quality in Portugal before & after COVID lockdown



# Air quality in Portugal the all 2020 year



### Methodology

- 1. Impact on the different pollutants
- 2. Impact on the different environments (rural/urban)
- 3. Estimating traffic contribution to NO<sub>2</sub>
- 4. Estimating health benefits & economic outcomes





### Impact on different pollutants

**PM10** 

Other emission sources besides traffic Domestic heating!

NO<sub>2</sub>

The highest impact of COVID lockdown: NO<sub>2</sub> (reductions >50%)





### Impact on different environments



Estação trafego

# AQI comparison

Lisbon AQ stations

2019

#### Estação **fundo**



### Av Liberdade main avenue Lisbon







#### NO<sub>2</sub> exceedances to hourly LV

### Health impacts from air pollution

#### AirQ+ tool (version 2.0; WHO)

**Pollutants:** NO2, PM2.5 (short-term effects) Period: 1 Jan - 30 Sep (2020 & average 2015-2019) Note: considered all-cause mortality in people +30 years old

### N cases,i,p

N<sup>o</sup> cases of the disease, deaths over all health indicators (i = 1, ..., n) avoided, due to pollutant exposure



### Health benefits N° avoided deaths

AirQ+ tool (version 2.0; WHO)

Pollutants: NO2, PM2.5 (short-term effects)Period: 1 Jan - 30 Sep (2020 & average 2015–2019)Note: considered all-cause mortality in people +30 years old

0

10

#### Number of avoided deaths



### Economic outcomes From health benefits

#### value of statistical life (VSL)

indicates how much individuals are willing to pay to reduce the risk of death)

For each avoided death VSL (OECD): USD 2.798 M ||| EUR 2.370 M



### Past & Present -> any lesson to the future?



March 2020



#### NO<sub>2</sub> satellite images

#### March 2021



### Final notes



The comparison with 5-years data **allow to include meteorological variability** and to estimate mean concentration values representative of each specific period



Reductions higher for  $NO_2$  (traffic-related pollutant) with ranges between 50-65% (contribution of traffic sector). Impact more expressive in urban areas, particular in traffic areas.



This improvement on air quality already change this year...back to normal. **Lessons should be learned** to better manage air quality and rethinking mobility strategies.



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