

# AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## Elements for a national prevention strategy

[POSTER CATEGORY 1]

Daniela Galeone, Fabrizio Anatra, Sonia Mele  
Ministry of Health - Italy - (on behalf of GARD-Italy)

### BACKGROUND

- According to the GBD country profile for Italy, air pollution is the first environmental risk factor in terms of Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY) for the health of the population, particularly in urban areas
- The estimates developed according to the WHO's methodology, attribute to PM2.5 more than thirty thousand deaths a year, equal to 7% of all deaths (excluding road accidents)
- According to the WHO, the expected effects on health due to climate change, especially those related to the progressive warming of the planet, will be among the most significant problems that health systems will have to solve in coming decades
- The most vulnerable groups of the population that will be particularly affected are children, elderly, people with chronic diseases (COPD, asthma, cardiovascular diseases, etc.) and disadvantaged social groups

### ACTION

GARD-Italy\* has developed a guidance document for policy makers providing the main elements to develop an integrated strategy to:

- mitigate the impact of atmospheric pollution and climate change on health
- protect the health of the most vulnerable population groups
- reduce health costs related to Non-Communicable Diseases



- The document "Air pollution and Climate change" promotes intersectoral policies to protect public health from pollution and other environmental factors
- In Italy, the first epidemic outbreaks of CoVid-19 developed in some areas of Northern Italy where there is a greater presence of atmospheric particulate pollution
- Therefore, it has been assumed that the transmissibility, contagiousness and aggressiveness of SaRS-CoV-2 may be related to atmospheric pollution (acute or chronic)
- GARD Italy and the Italian Ministry of Health will update the document with a paper on the relationship between air pollution and CoVid-19



\*working group "Environment and Health": G. D'Amato, A. De Martino, S. La Grutta, G. Bruno, L. Cecchi, V. Cilenti, S. D'Antonio, C.F. Donner, F. Franchi, G. Adamo, S. Romano, S. Frateiacci, CM. Sanguinetti, C. Mereu, MT. Ventura, G. Viegi, L. Indinnimeo



*Ministero della Salute*