Ljubljana, Slovenia
AN ECOLOGICAL ZONE TO TACKLE NOISE POLLUTION

ISSUE

**SIGNIFICANT HEALTH BURDEN**

At least 1 million healthy years lost in Europe each year, the bulk being from traffic noise

**AT LEAST 18 MILLION PEOPLE IN EU**

Are highly annoyed by exposure to noise from transport

**DIRECT EFFECTS**

Include hearing loss, tinnitus

**INDIRECT EFFECTS**

Caused by stress and inflammation are hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, cognitive impairment in children, mental ill-health

SOLUTION

Ljubljana’s ecological zone:

The city centre, covering 100,000 m² is closed for motorised traffic

Green space, as a nature-based solution, is key for noise reduction

Ranked greenest capital in Europe, with over 540 m² of green space per inhabitant

75% city’s surface is green coverage

OUTCOME

**100,000 preventable deaths**

The number of preventable deaths per 100,000 people in Ljubljana is half the average across 25 European capitals

**14% vs 30%**

There are fewer inhabitants affected by night noise above 55 dBA (14%) than in Europe (30%)

**5 vs 12**

Ljubljana has less than half as many preventable heart disease deaths as Bialystok, Poland, (with 5 and 12 respectively), despite similar population sizes

Noise curbing improves quality of sleep, physical and mental health

Sources can be found on the EPHA website