

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