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REHVA Supporters Seminar

Brussels 12 February 2009

**Indoor Air Quality
EU activities and possible future
developments**

Giulio Gallo

**European Commission-
DG SANCO**



Significance of Indoor Environments

Time Spent Indoor

Intake Fraction

Possible Combination + Mix

Number of Sources



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Significance of Health Effects

🌐 **Radon: 9% deaths lung cancer**

🌐 **ETS: 79.000 deaths/yr in EU**

🌐 **Benzene: Leukemia**

🌐 **PM: cardiovascular diseases**

🌐 **VOC \biological pollutants: Respiratory illness, asthma and allergies**

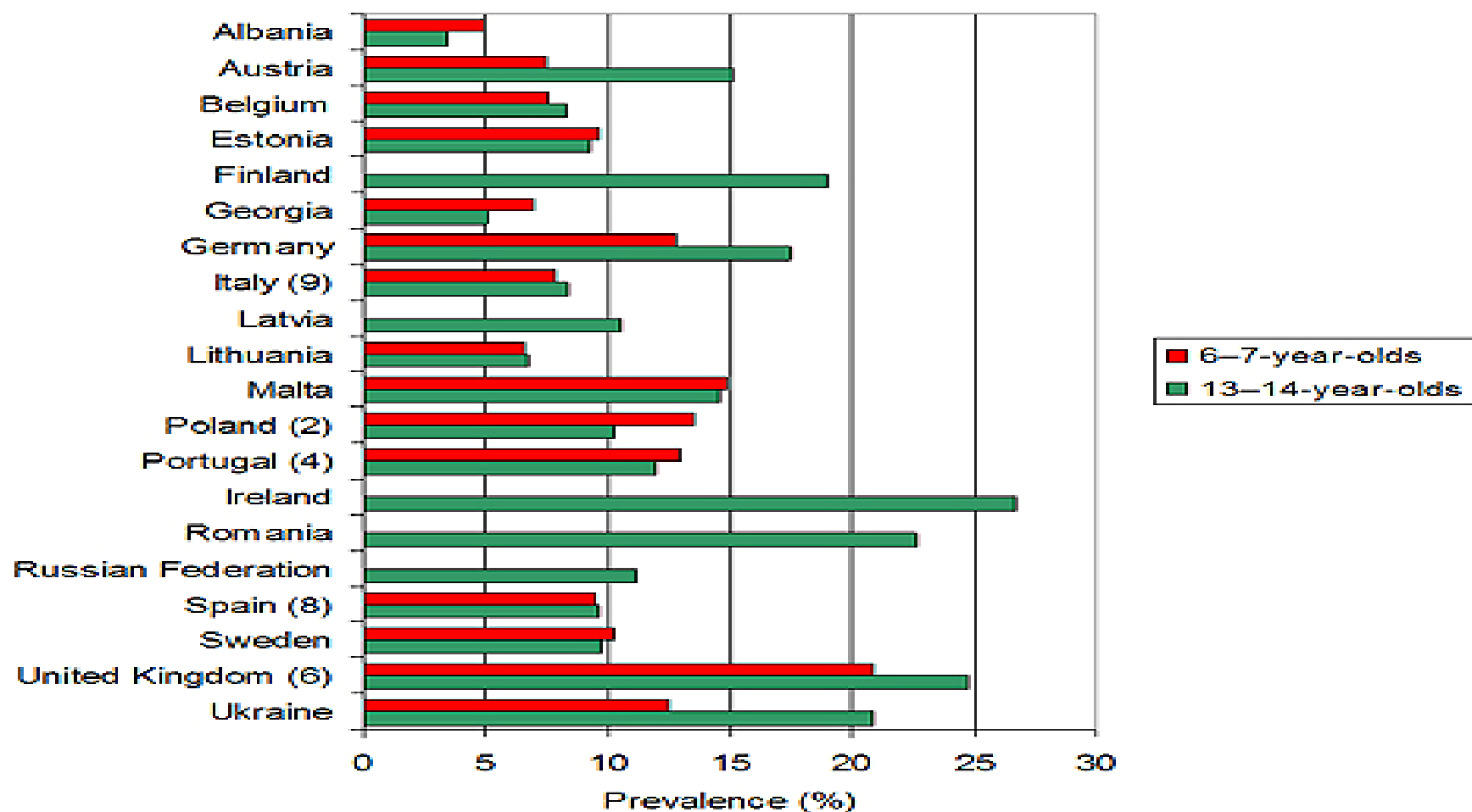


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Significance of Health Effects

Prevalence of Asthma Symptoms



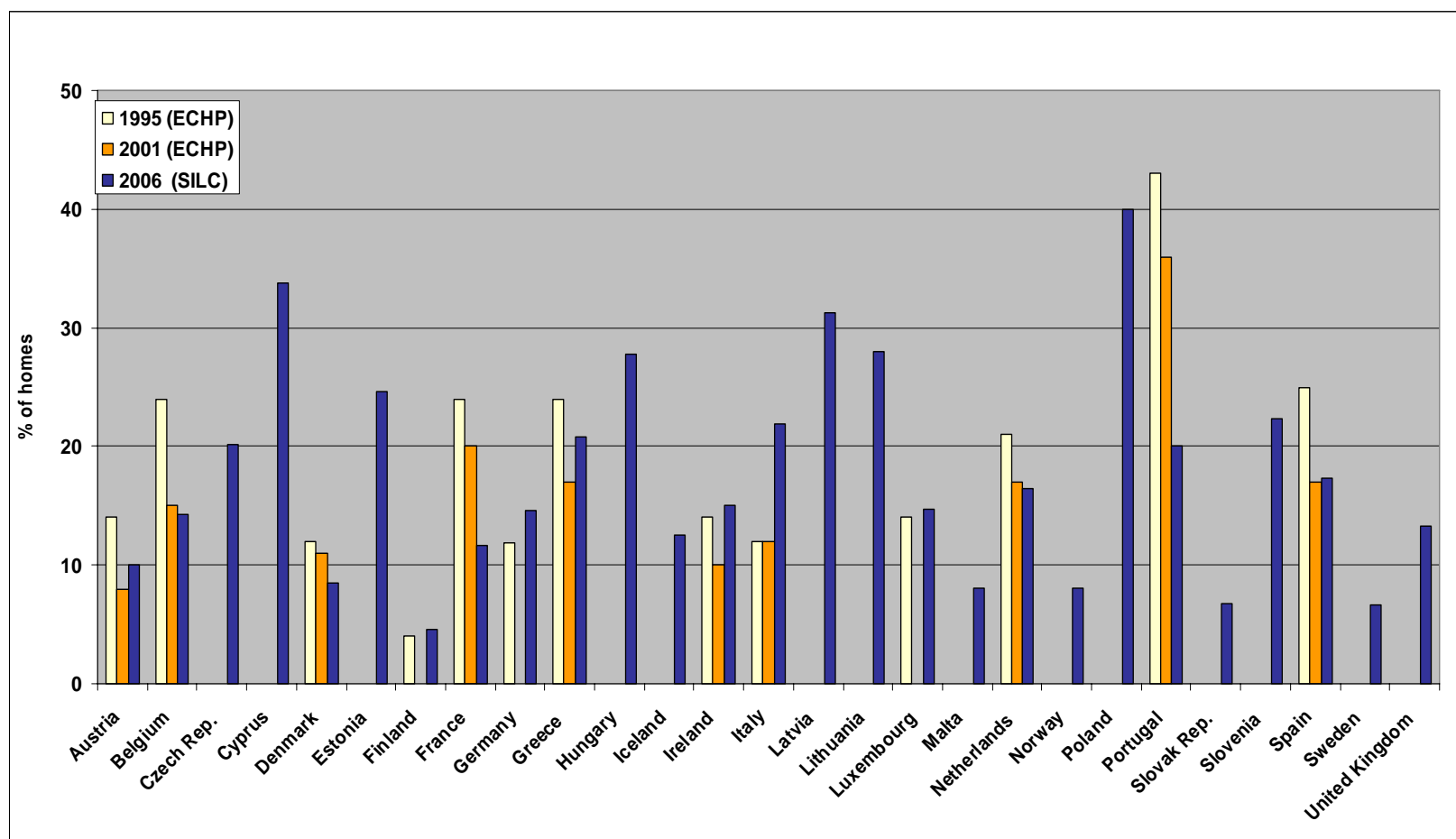
Source: ENHIS May 2007



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Homes with dampness problems in European countries



Source: ENHIS May 2007



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Public Health Programme projects related to IAQ

- BUMA:** Prioritization of Building Materials as indoor pollution sources
- HealthyAir:** Network for actions and activities that address the effect of construction product on indoor air
- HESEINT:** Interventions on Health Effects of Health Environments
- GERI:** Geriatric study in Europe on health effects of air quality in nursing homes
- RADPAR:** Radon prevention and remediation
- Indoor-Expo:** update of index priority compounds, PM inclusion, criteria for monitoring requirements



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Planned priorities for 2009

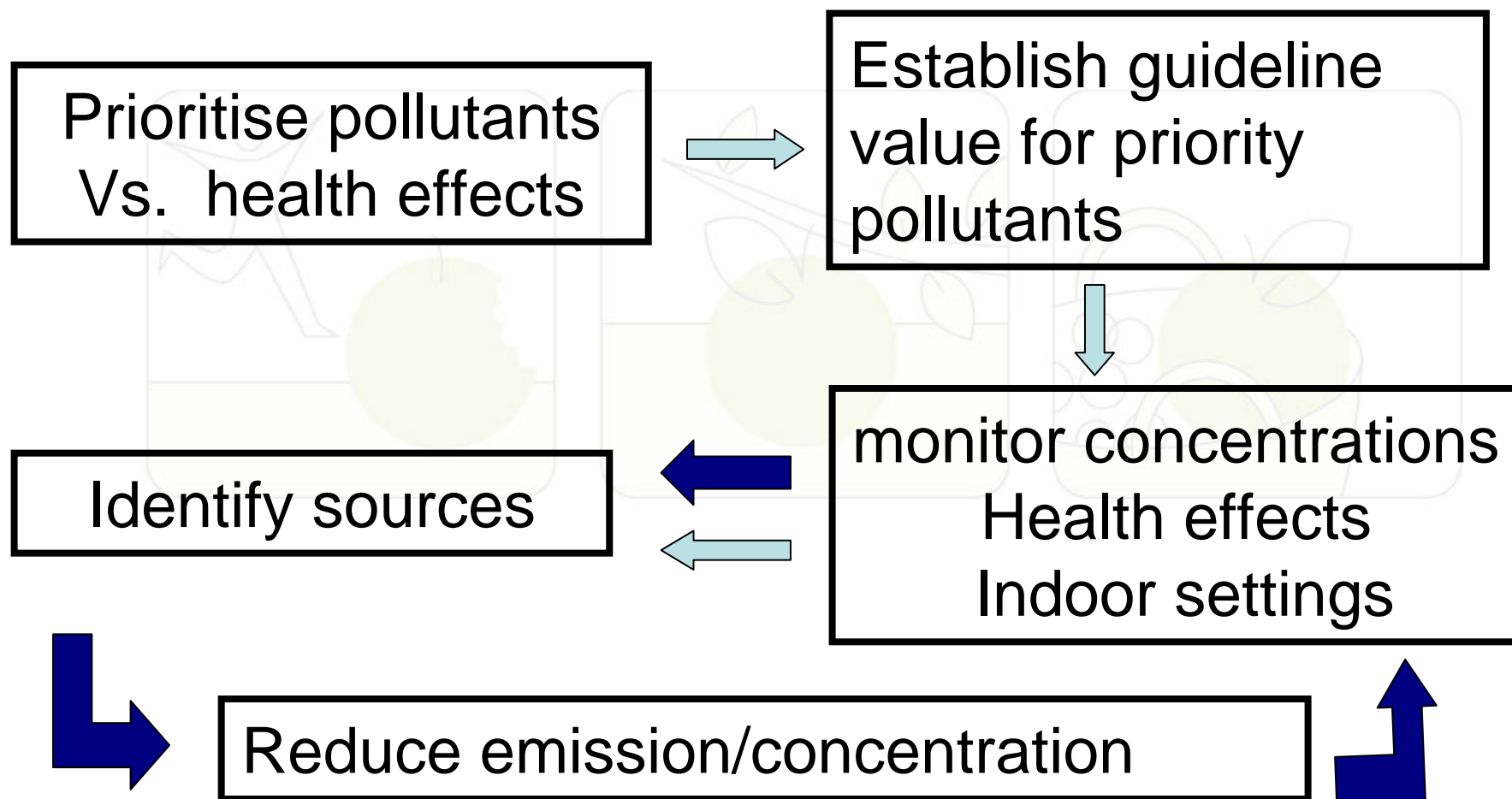
- Overview on emissions of key pollutants from consumer products & use pattern in EU MS
- Development of European health based ventilation guidelines for homes, public places and nursery homes in the light of the energy performance requirements
- Assessment of actions on indoor air quality



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Implementation process





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IAQ Expert Group

✓ Work plan: building & equipments and occupants

✓ Thematic meetings on: constructions, damp and moisture

✓ Design and construction of a website for public and professional



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Main achievements:

- ✓ **International agreement on Key pollutants based on health effects**
- ✓ **Health based guidelines on key pollutants (WHO)**
- ✓ **Criteria for monitoring indoor air Vs health effects (JRC)**
- ✓ **Tool for awareness increasing public and professionals (Website)**
- ✓ **Feasibility of common criteria for existing labelling schemes in EU**
- ✓ **Construction material emission database and guidance**
- ✓ **Studies targeted to most vulnerable groups (children, elderly)**
- ✓ **MS support (e.g. radon, ventilation, moisture and dampness)**
- ✓ **Identification of source and recommendation for actions (ENVIE)**



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How to Translate achievements into actions? !

Exploring link to existing policies
(CPD, GPP, REACH, EPBD etc)?!

Need for new policies?!

What is still needed?!