



# AIR QUALITY PLANNING

SOME THOUGHTS

# GENERAL CHALLENGE – GREEN DEAL, COVID RECOVERY

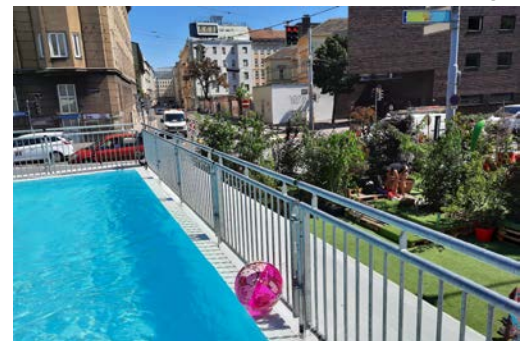
- Green Deal and its Zero Pollution strategy are major policy instruments in the next few years (see [roadmap](#))
  - The economy recovery plans for Europe to deal with COVID crisis will direct enormous amounts of money to industry, consumers, cities etc. (see also 6 pillars from [WHO manifesto](#))
  - However, possible economic recession could lead to prolonged use of old vehicles, use of dirty fuels / waste in poor households for heating etc.
- ➔ It will be crucial to think about how to contribute best to these processes to ensure a “green recovery”
  - ➔ Highlight co-benefits of air quality measures for energy savings, public health, quality of life
  - ➔ Avoid lock-in effects on old technologies and infrastructures
  - ➔ Technological solutions not sufficient
  - ➔ Measures are most often not only introduced to improve air quality (but climate change, transport,...)
  - ➔ Decrease in pollutant levels in recent years: discussion about abandoning measures ➔ criteria?

# KEY CHALLENGE - USING COVID-19 MOMENTUM / AVOIDING BACKLASH

- Large (motorized and air) traffic reduction during COVID-19 pandemic lock-down
- Air quality improved substantially in many cities in Europe
- New traffic modes emerged
- Pop-up bike lanes have been installed
- Discussion about redistribution of public space are ongoing
- However, due to fear of infection, use of [public transport went down](#) and did not fully recover yet, whereas private car use is almost back to “normal” (at least in Austrian cities)
- Lock-down has shown that far-reaching measures are possible



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