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Materials and Methods

More info at:
<http://www.arpat.toscana.it/documentazione/catalogo-pubblicazioni-arpat/verifica-della-rappresentativita-spaziale-dei-dati-di-pm10-della-stazione-di-monitoraggio-della-qualita-dell'aria-di-montale-pt?searchterm=montale>

The methodology allows an useful and quick assessment of spatial representativeness of a monitoring site. The resulting spatial representativeness of a site is given by a circular area around it. The application of circular buffers appears to be one of the most relevant limits of the method.

More info at:
<http://www.lamma.rete.toscana.it/meteo/qualita-dell'aria>

Fig.1 – PM10 background sites

3. For the other monitoring stations: **a)** the representative area of each site of measure was determined both with M2 and with M3; **b)** the percentage of each single municipality covered by the representative area of a site was calculated for both M2 and M3 representative area; **c)** a site of measure was considered representative of a municipality if the resulting percentage from at least one method was over a defined threshold; two different thresholds were applied: a lower threshold of 5% and an upper threshold of 15%. Resulting municipalities were calculated for the two hypothesis; 4. For municipalities represented by more than one site of measure, a choice was made on the basis of: proximity, higher coverage, accordance between methods, spatial continuity and zone consistency (see tab.1). In few cases multiple attribution was maintained because of equivalence or complementarity of sites.

Several examples from the six homogeneous air quality zones, in which Toscana has been divided, are shown below.

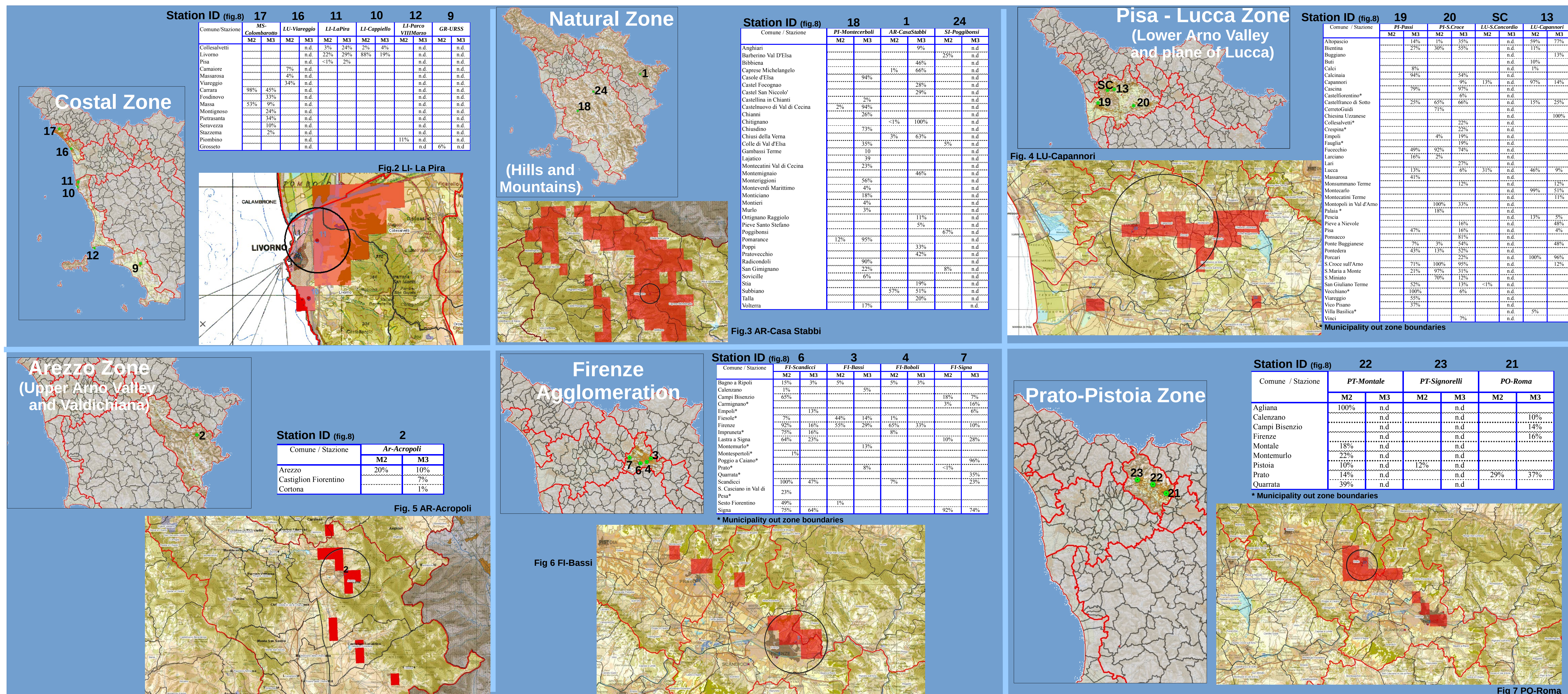
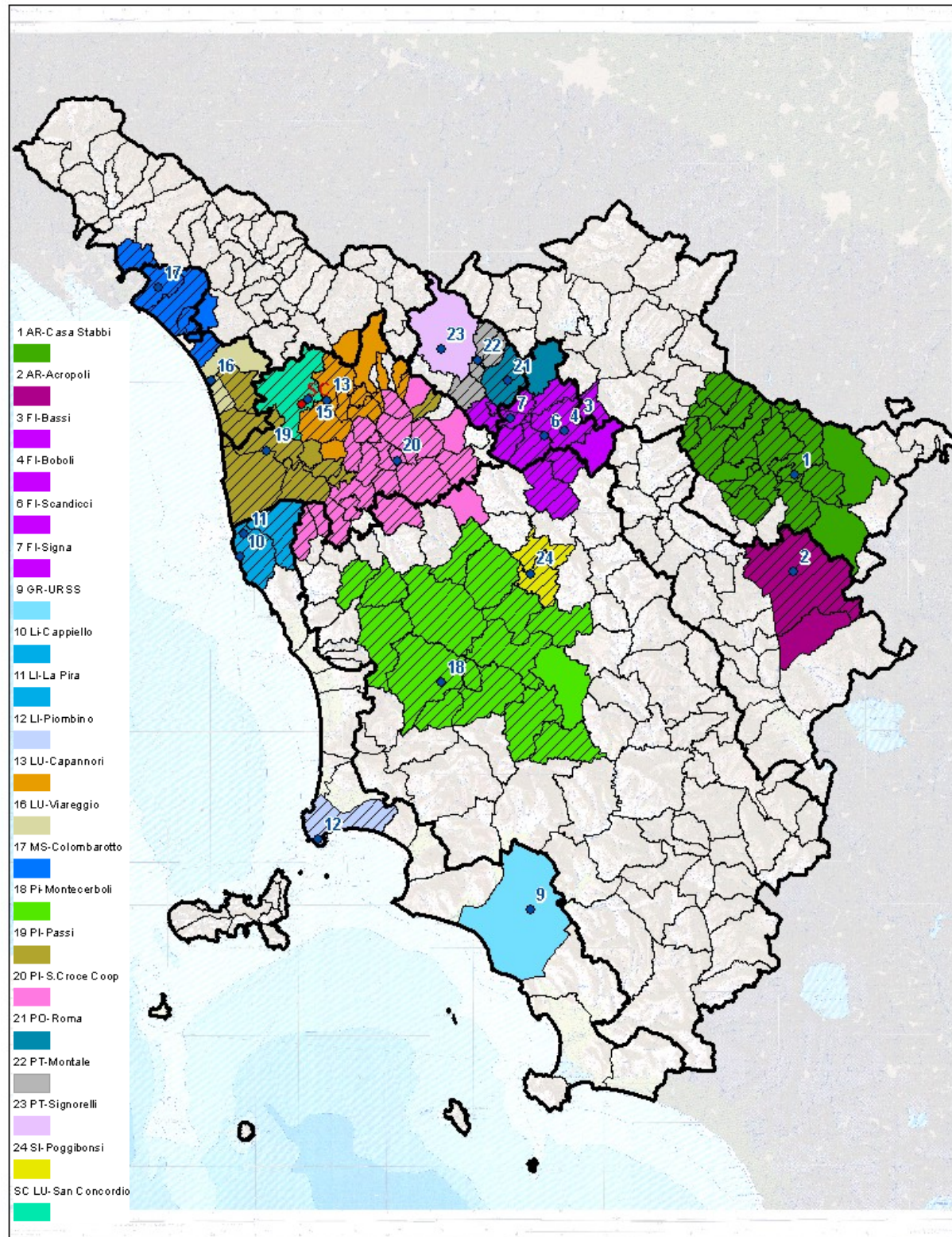


Figure 8 – municipalities represented by each station (threshold 5% continuous, threshold 15% hatched)



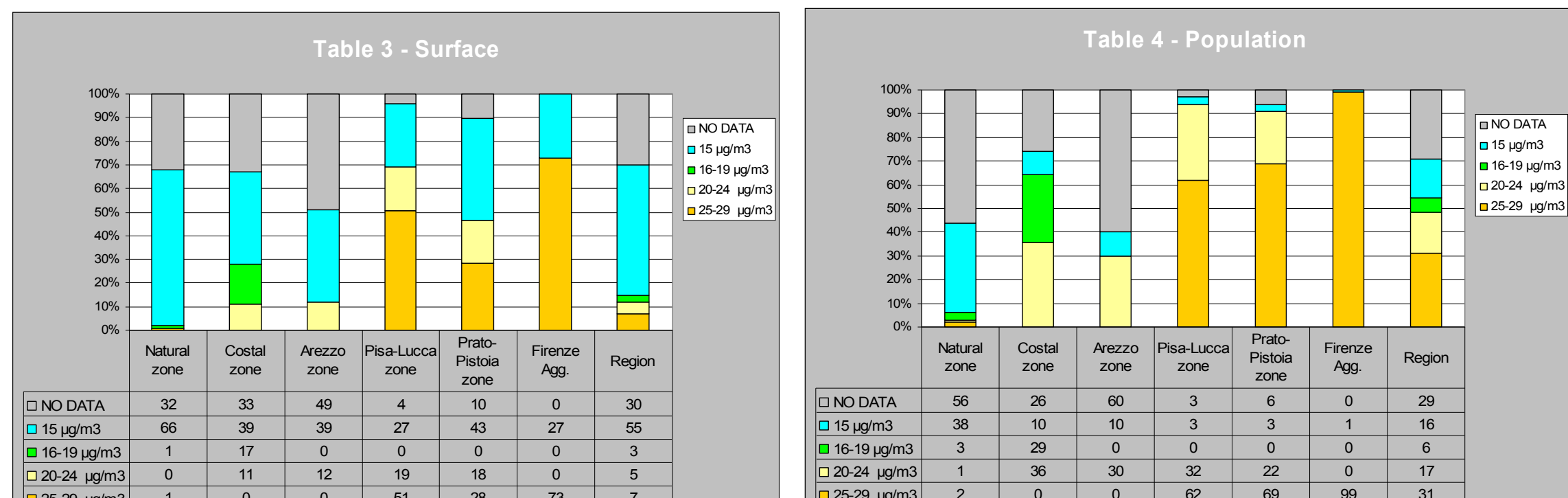
On the basis of 2014 annual means (fig.9) and population census (ISTAT 2001) exposure of population to PM10 levels was estimated.

Results are shown in table 4.

Through the application of models, M2 and M3, 70% of regional surface and 71% of regional population result represented by monitoring data.

It is remarkable that the legal limit of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was nowhere exceeded in 2014, as it is also significant that only 22% of population is resident in areas under the OMS reference value of 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as annual mean.

It must also be reminded that only background stations are considered in this representativeness study, and traffic levels in urban areas may be considerably higher.



The combined application of different methods to characterize spatial representativeness of PM₁₀ lead to some interesting results. Models (M2 and M3), being developed independently, in many cases fit to the same result. The most relevant example is given by the site of Casa Stabbi. This monitoring station is the reference for PM₁₀ regional background. It is classified as Rural and its representativeness was expected to be wide. Method 2 (β indicator) gave a very small area (2 km radius), while method 3 gave a wide land coverage (see Fig. 3). The reason why the β indicator fails concerns the circularity of buffers: increasing radius buffer, the percentage of natural area (almost 100% in the nearest surroundings) slightly decrease as the circle includes an urban area. This suggests that the site can be assumed representative of the entire regional land use classified as natural (CORINE classes:311 to 521). The shape area resulting from method 3 confirms this assumption; in fact as it is clearly evident from fig.3 all urban areas are cut out of the resulting representativeness. The representativeness of the monitoring station of Casa Stabbi has been extended to the all natural areas. The attribution of spatial representativeness of investigated sites to the whole municipal surfaces is clearly an approximation; this choice was made to simplify air quality management, necessarily made at an administrative level.

[1] Janssen, S., Dumont, G., Fierendis, F. and Mehsink, C. (2008), Spatial interpolation of air pollution measurements using CORINE Land Cover data. *Atmospheric Environment* 42, 4884-4903.

[2] Piersanti A., Ciancarella L., Cremona G., Righini G., Vitali L. (2013), Rappresentatività spaziale di misure di qualità dell'aria. Valutazione di un metodo stima basato su fattori oggettivi. Rapporto Tecnico RT/2013/1/ENEA, ENEA. <http://openarchive.enea.it/handle/10840/4475>

[1] Vitali L., Ciancarella L., Cionni G., Cremona G., Piersanti A., Righini G., Viani L. (2002). *Rapporto tecnico su uno studio di qualità dell'aria in un'area urbana: Valutazione di un metodo di stima basato su dati meteorologici*. Rapporto Tecnico RT/2002/3/ENEA. ENEA.