

1. 40% of the rooms have bad indoor air quality

What did we test?

Where? 4 countries (FR, DE, GR, NL)

Who? 15 to 20 participants in each country

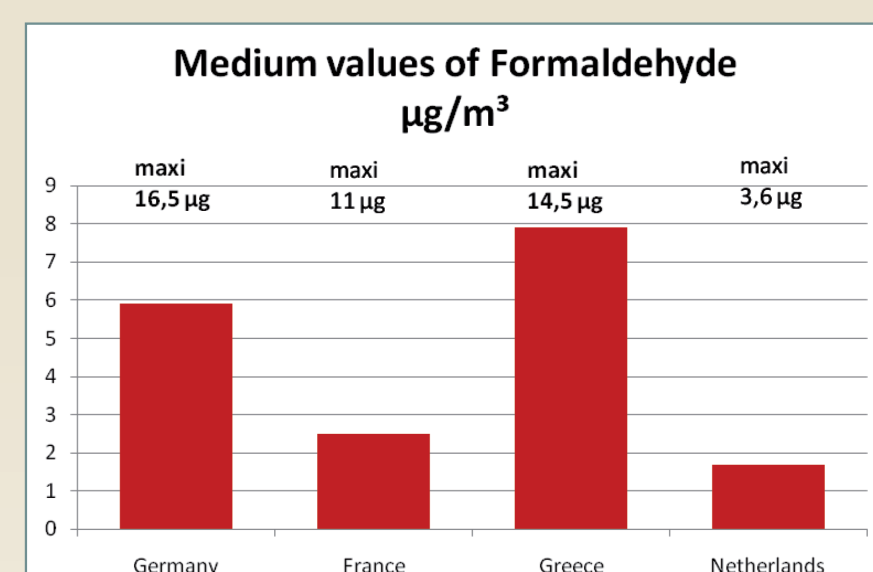
What? Newly renovated and furnished baby rooms

How? Two air samplers per baby room

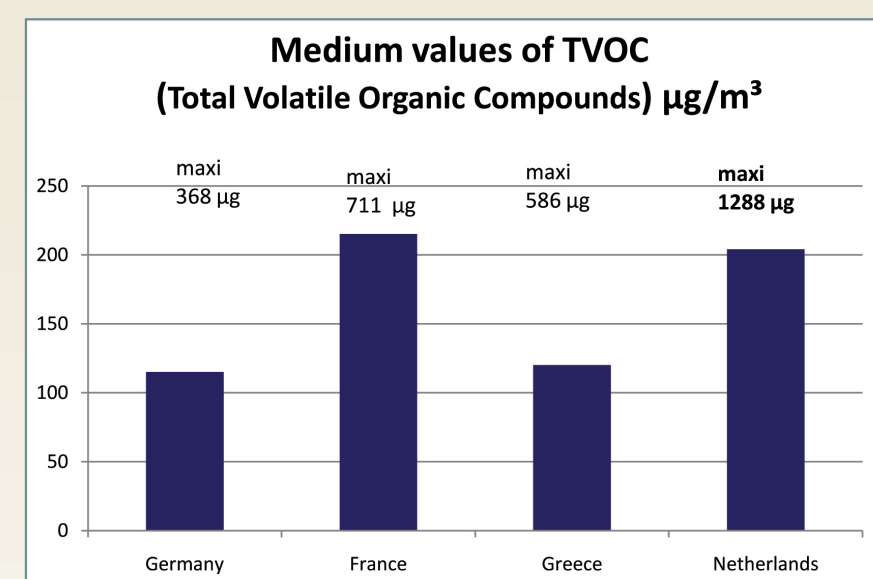
Which pollutants? Formaldehyde and total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

What did we find?

40% of the baby rooms had formaldehyde or VOC levels above the guidelines (10µg/m³ formaldehyde and 200 µg/m³ total VOC).



Source: 10 µg guideline for long term exposure in Guidelines for indoor air quality for formaldehyde long term exposure to formaldehyde, Experts group report, AFSSET, 2007



Source TVOC 200 µg guideline : European Collaborative Action - Indoor Air Quality, Report on TVOC, 1997

For children, who are especially vulnerable, the EU INDEX program advises a 1 µg/m³ value for all exposures, whether acute or chronic

easy-to-use air samplers

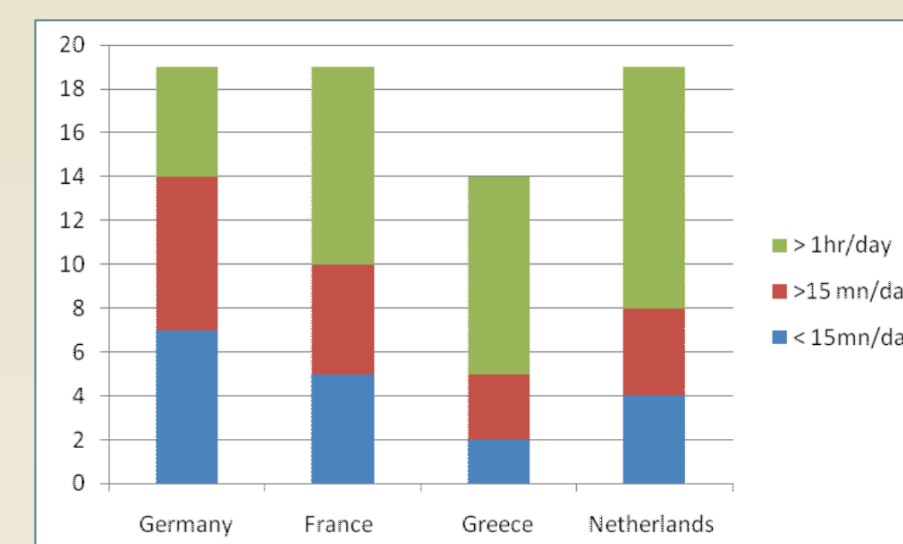


2. Countries' specificities

All participants have ventilation habits differing from one country to another but generally above good ventilation standards.

Good ventilation habits in the 4 countries

(these values do not produce a comprehensive picture of ventilation habits in Europe)



In the four countries, 50% of the participants ventilate more than 1 hour per day. Globally, a total of 75% of participants ventilate more than 15 minutes per day, considered a good ventilation standard.

France

- All families of VOC detected in poor or high concentrations depending on samplers
- 42% of the participants are above VOC guidelines

Netherlands

- All families of VOC detected in rather poor concentrations
- 31% of the participants above VOC guidelines

Greece

- Generally rather light VOC found, contrary to Germany
- 28% of participants above formaldehyde guidelines

Germany

- Country with less VOC
- 21% of the participants above formaldehyde guidelines



3. Which pollutants of high concern did we find?

Formaldehyde

Preservative used in plywood, glues, varnishes, carpets, textiles



Health effects known carcinogen, irritations of the eyes, nose, throat, triggers allergy and asthma

Alcohols

Ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, etc. solvents found in cleaning products, glues, paints, varnishes, deodorizers etc



Health effects headaches, irritations of the eyes, throat, skin, mucous membranes

Ketones

type acetone, 2-butanone, etc. solvents found in paints, varnishes, glues, adhesives



Health effects irritations of the eyes, nose, throat, affects the nervous central system

Compounds such as formaldehyde, hydrocarbons, terpenes, known carcinogens and allergens, were found in the baby rooms.



Exposing babies to a cocktail of chemicals.

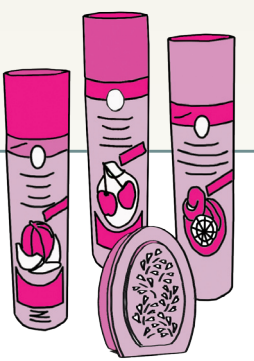
Hydrocarbons



benzene, toluene, xylenes, alkanes C9 to C13, found in paints, varnishes and wood preservatives

Health effects Irritations of the eyes, digestive problems, headaches, some are carcinogens

Terpenes



eucalyptol, limonene, etc; hydrocarbons derived from plants used in essential oils and fragrances, found in paints, furniture, cleaning products, deodorizers

Health effects allergens, irritations of the eyes, skin, harmful if swallowed



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