



Recent Respiratory Highlights in Europe

The list below details landmark developments in respiratory care that have taken place in Europe over the last two decades.

What has been achieved so far...

- **1991:** The European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA) is founded
- **1994:** Ten-year National Asthma Programme initiated in Finland to improve asthma care and prevent an increase in asthma-related costs. A key example of best practice
- **1999** (and being updated): The WHO's Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) guidelines established, to promote better understanding and treatment of asthma
- **2001 (updated 2006):** [Global Initiative for COPD \(GOLD\) guidelines](#) published with the aim of increasing awareness of COPD and decreasing morbidity and mortality from the disease
- **March 2001:** [EU Clean Air for Europe \(CAFE\)](#) initiative launched, to reduce air pollution and its impact on human health
- **2002:** [EFA Asthma Patient Manifesto](#) published, calling for healthcare professionals and policy makers to take action to improve the quality of life for asthma patients worldwide
- **2002:** [EFA COPD Patient Manifesto](#) published to improve COPD awareness and treatment
- **January 2002:** [WHO Prevention of Allergy and Allergic Asthma Report](#) published, providing evidence based advice for the public, patients and professionals
- **May 2003:** [WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) adopted by health assembly, looking to protect current and future generations from the dangers of tobacco smoke
- **November 2003:** [Lung White Book – Lung Health in Europe Fact and Figures](#), a summary of available information on respiratory disease prevalence, morbidity and cost published by the European Respiratory Society and European Lung Foundation
- **2004:** WHO develops the [Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe \(CEHAPE\)](#), to address the environmental risk factors, including air quality, that most affect the health of European children

- **2004:** [Global Allergy and Asthma European Network \(GA²LEN\) of Excellence](#) funded by the EU 6th Research Framework Programme, aiming to improve allergy and asthma research and prioritise European collaboration in this field
- **March 2004:** Ireland imposes complete ban on smoking in all enclosed public places – not even allowing designated smoking rooms
- **May 2004:** “Living on a Knife Edge” report published demonstrating the impact that asthma has on the lives of the 2.6 million people in the UK with severe asthma symptoms
- **May 2004 (updated 2006):** New [Global Initiative for Asthma \(GINA\) Guidelines](#) published
- **June 2004:** [EC Environment and Health Action Plan](#) launched, to reduce adverse health impacts of environmental factors, including air pollution
- **2005:** [EFA Towards Healthy Air in Dwellings in Europe](#)¹ (THADE) report published, to encourage improvement of indoor air quality across the continent
- **January 2005:** Italy imposes a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places
- **June 2005:** Sweden imposes a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places
- **September 2005:** EFA “[Fighting for Breath](#)” report is launched giving voice to the opinions and experiences of people across Europe who endure a severe, yet largely preventable burden of asthma
- **February 2006:** International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) publishes [International guidelines for primary care on managing chronic respiratory problems](#)
- **March 2006:** [Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases \(GARD\)](#) launched, with the aim of fighting CRD and improving lung health
- **March 2006:** Scotland imposes complete ban on smoking in all enclosed public places - not even allowing designated smoking rooms
- **July 2006:** [EFA Allergy Patient Manifesto](#), launching the six point strategy to counteract the growing prevalence of allergic disease
- **August 2006:** [Results of Finnish Asthma Programme](#), published in *Thorax*¹, demonstrating significant reduction in the social and economic burden of asthma
- **October 2006:** [WHO Air Quality Guidelines](#) published, challenging governments to improve air quality and improve people’s health
- **January 2007:** [EU 7th Framework Programme for Research \(FP7\)](#) comes into force making respiratory disease and allergies an EU research priority for the next 7 years

¹ M. Franchi, P. Carrer, D. Kotzias, E. M. A. L. Rameckers, O. Seppänen, J. E. M. H. van Bronswijk, G. Viegi, J. A. Gilder, E. Valovirta (2006). Working towards healthy air in dwellings in Europe. *Allergy* 61 (7), 864–868.

- **January 2007:** European Green Paper published towards tobacco free Europe
- **February 2007:** Launch of UK Respiratory Research Strategy, funded by Asthma UK, the British Lung Foundation and the British Thoracic Society, to encourage research into respiratory disease – national example
- **February 2007:** Smoking will be banned in offices, schools, malls and most other public places in France
- **February 2007:** “The Limitations of Severe Asthma: The Results of a European Survey” published²

What we’re looking towards in 2007/2008 and onwards...

- ***April 2007:*** Wales and Northern Ireland smoking ban in all enclosed public places
- ***May 2007:*** World Asthma Day 2007 – This year’s theme is “You Can Control Your Asthma”
- ***July 2007:*** England smoking ban in all enclosed public places to come in force
- ***January 2008:*** French smoking ban in restaurants, bars and cafes
- *Publication of EU Green Paper on Indoor Air Quality, according to THADE recommendations*
- *Publication of EU White Paper on Tobacco Smoke*
- *EU-wide ban on smoking in public and in workplaces*
- *Patient-centred innovative research from FP7*
- *Key learnings from Finnish Asthma Programme adopted by other EU countries*
- *EU Directive on Ambient Air Pollution, following recommendations made in the WHO Air Quality Guidelines*
- *Patient organisations recognised as true partners in healthcare planning and public health across Europe*
- *Core funding for patient organisations by the EU and governments across Europe*

¹ Haahtela T, Tuomisto LE, Pietinalho A, et al. A 10 year asthma programme in Finland: major change for the better. *Thorax* 2006;61:663–670.

² Dockrell M, Partridge MR, Valovirta E. The limitations of severe asthma: the results of a European survey. *Allergy* 2007;62:134-141.