

# Population exposure to outdoor NO<sub>2</sub>, black carbon, **particle mass**, **ultrafine** and **number concentrations** **fine particles** over Paris with multi-scale modelling down to the street scale

Soo-Jin Park<sup>1</sup>, Lya Lugon<sup>1</sup>, Oscar Jacquot<sup>1</sup>, Youngseob Kim<sup>1</sup>, Alexia Baudic<sup>7</sup>, Barbara D'Anna<sup>8</sup>, Ludovico Di Antonio<sup>3</sup>, Claudia Di Biagio<sup>4</sup>, Fabrice Dugay<sup>7</sup>, Olivier Favez<sup>5</sup>, Véronique Ghersi<sup>7</sup>, Aline Gratien<sup>4</sup>, Julien Kammer<sup>8</sup>, Jean-Eudes Petit<sup>6</sup>, Olivier Sanchez<sup>7</sup>, Myrto Valari<sup>2</sup>, Jérémie Vigneron<sup>7</sup>, and Karine Sartelet<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CEREA, Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, EDF R & D, IPSL, Marne-la-vallée, France

<sup>2</sup>LMD/IPSL, École Polytechnique, Université Paris Saclay, ENS, PSL Research University, Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Univ, France

<sup>3</sup>Université Paris Est Créteil and Univ. Paris Cité, CNRS, LISA, F-94010 Créteil, France

<sup>4</sup>Université Paris Cité and Univ. Paris Est Créteil, CNRS, LISA, F-75013 Paris, France

<sup>5</sup>INERIS, 60550 Verneuil en Halatte, France

<sup>6</sup>Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et l'Environnement, CEA/Orme des Merisiers, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

<sup>7</sup>Airparif, 75004, Paris, France

<sup>8</sup>Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, LCE, Marseille, France

**Correspondence:** Karine Sartelet (karine.sartelet@enpc.fr)

## Abstract.

This study focuses on mapping the concentrations of pollutants of health interest (NO<sub>2</sub>, black carbon (BC), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, **number of particles (PN)****particle number concentration (PNC)**) down to the street scale to represent **as accurately as possible** the population exposure **to outdoor concentrations at residences**. Simulations are performed over the Greater Paris area with the WRF-CHIMERE/MUNICH/SSH-aerosol chain, using either the top-down inventory EMEP or the bottom-up inventory Airparif with correction of the traffic flow. The concentrations of the pollutants are higher in streets than in the regional-scale urban background, due to the strong influence of road-traffic emissions locally. Model-to-data comparisons were performed at urban background and traffic stations, and evaluated using two performance criteria from the literature. For BC, harmonized equivalent BC (eBC) concentrations were estimated from concomitant measurements of eBC and elemental carbon. Using the bottom-up inventory with corrected road-traffic flow, the strictest criteria are met for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and **PN****PNC**. Using the EMEP top-down inventory, the strictest criteria are also met for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, but errors tend to be larger than with the bottom-up inventory for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC and **PN****PNC**. Using the top-down inventory, the concentrations tend to be lower along the streets than those simulated using the bottom-up inventory, especially for NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, resulting in less urban heterogeneities. The impact of the size-distribution of non-exhaust emissions was analyzed at both regional and local scales, and it is higher in heavy-traffic streets. To assess exposure, a french database detailing the number of inhabitants in each building was used. The population-weighted concentration (PWC) was calculated by weighting populations by the outdoor concentrations to which they are exposed at the precise location of their home. An exposure scaling factor (ESF) was determined for each

pollutant to estimate the ratio needed to correct urban background concentrations in order to assess exposure. The average  
20 ESF in Paris and Paris Ring Road is higher than 1 for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, ~~PNPNC~~, because the concentrations simulated at the local scale in streets are higher than those modelled at the regional scale. It indicates that the Parisian population exposure is under-estimated using regional-scale concentrations. Although this underestimation is low for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, with an ESF of 1.04, it is very high for NO<sub>2</sub> (1.26), eBC (between 1.22 and 1.24), and ~~PN-PNC~~ (1.12). This shows that urban heterogeneities are important to be considered in order to represent the population exposure to NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, and ~~PNPNC~~, but less so for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

25      Keywords: multi-scale modelling; population exposure; exposure scaling factor; bottom-up emission inventory; particle number concentration

## 1 Introduction

In metropolises, characterised by densely populated and extensively developed areas, air pollution remains a major concern due to the presence of numerous emission sources, such as traffic, energy consumption, solvents, industrial activities. Traffic  
30 emissions receive particular attention because of their influence on local concentrations, with an impact of both exhaust and non-exhaust emissions (Fu et al., 2020; Jereb et al., 2021; Holnicki et al., 2021; Sarica et al., 2023). Environmental regulations aim to reduce key air pollutant concentrations, such as NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Although a large part of the health impacts are attributed to particles (Southerland et al., 2022), ~~all the compounds of particles do not impact health equally~~  
35 ~~(Park et al., 2018; WHO, 2021)~~~~the health effects associated with different particle compounds and different particle size can vary considerably~~ (Park et al., 2018; WHO, 2021; Haddad et al., 2024). In particular, black carbon (BC) and ultrafine particles  
40 (UFP, defined by particles with diameter lower than 0.1  $\mu$ m) are considered "priority" emerging pollutants (WHO, 2021; Goobie et al., 2024), ~~as they may have large health effects~~ (Leguy et al., 2021; Bouma et al., 2023; Kamińska et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b) that need to be better characterized, as stated in the recent European air-quality directive 2024/2881/CE. Long-term exposure to ultrafine particles is associated with increased mortality (Li et al., 2023b; Schwarz et al., 2023), while BC has been linked to  
45 adverse health effects, especially in urban areas (Leguy et al., 2021; Bouma et al., 2023; Kamińska et al., 2023). Whereas fine particles are best characterized by their mass concentrations, ~~ultrafine particles~~ (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), the mass of UFP is low compared to that of fine particles. Hence, UFPs are best characterized by their particle number (PN) concentrations, ~~because their mass is low compared to those of fine particles~~ concentrations (PNC) (Kwon et al., 2020; Trechera et al., 2023), contributing to about 80-90% of the PNC over urban areas (Dall'Osto et al., 2013; Abbou et al., 2024).

50      ~~Many studies have been conducted. Although modelling is often used to assess the effect of emissions and policies to improve air quality in cities (Mao et al., 2005; Yuan et al., 2014; Kuklinska et al., 2015; Selmi et al., 2016; Andre et al., 2020; Lugon et al., 2022), focusing mostly on PM and NO<sub>2</sub>. Parker et al. (2020) reported a traffic decrease of up to 50% during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a decrease in nitrogen oxides (NOx) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. The reduction in NOx due to decreased vehicle use in 2020 exceeds that observed over the past 20 years, emphasizing the significant influence of traffic on NOx concentrations. BC is also strongly affected by traffic emissions, and the fleet renewal over 10 years leads to a larger reduction of BC concentrations than PM (Andre et al., 2020; Lugon et al., 2022). However, the influence of traffic on BC and~~

**PN are rarely** assessments on BC and UFP concentrations are not frequently evaluated, because they are not regulated, **not nor** measured routinely in cities and difficult to model.

Air-quality models represent the mass concentrations of elemental carbon (EC). They may differ from BC concentrations (Savadkoohi et al., 2023), which are usually inferred from optical measurements using aethalometers (Drinovec et al., 2015). Equivalent BC (eBC) is then defined as the mass concentration of BC as indirectly determined by light absorption techniques (Savadkoohi et al., 2024). The BC concentrations could be much larger than the EC one. Difficulties to model BC are partly linked to differences between elemental carbon and black carbon (Savadkoohi et al., 2023), contributing to large model/measurement discrepancies (Lugon et al., 2021b). A harmonization of BC measurements is needed to allow for direct comparisons between measured eBC and modeled EC concentrations (Savadkoohi et al., 2024). The PN concentrations are also However, recommendations for assessing BC concentrations were recently provided by Savadkoohi et al. (2024). The PNC are even more difficult to model, because of the lack of emission inventories and the rapid transformations of the ultrafine particles involved (Kukkonen et al., 2016).

**Emission inventories** The difficulties to model BC and PNC might also partly be linked to the strong influence of traffic emissions on their concentrations (Andre et al., 2020; Jia et al., 2021; Lugon et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a; Trechera et al., 2023). Traffic emissions are highly spatially and temporally variable in cities, and their variability is not easily reproduced in emission inventories. Those are usually built using either top-down or bottom-up approaches (Guevara et al., 2016). Bottom-up approaches use detailed spatial and temporal information for each activity sector, e.g., the number of vehicles for traffic emissions, while top-down approaches use information defined at larger scales (regional or national), which are spatialized using specific data, such as population data. Significant discrepancies may exist between emission inventories using these two approaches (Guevara et al., 2016; Lopez-Aparicio et al., 2017), especially for traffic emissions (Lopez-Aparicio et al., 2017) and non-exhaust emissions from tire, brake and road wear, which have large uncertainties (Piscitello et al., 2021; Tomar et al., 2022). Emission inventories for PN-UFP only exist for top-down inventories (Kulmala et al., 2011; Zhong et al., 2023). Sartelet et al. (2022) recently provided a methodology to estimate PN-UFP emissions from any emission inventories of PM, making it possible to use either bottom-up and/or top-down emission inventories.

Population exposure to outdoor concentrations at residences is commonly used as a proxy for exposure in epidemiological studies (Hoek et al., 2024), or it is used as an input when estimating multi-environment exposure (Karl et al., 2019; Valari et al., 2020; Eless et al., 2024). In epidemiological studies, exposure to outdoor concentrations at residence is often estimated using Land-Use Regression models (Ma et al., 2024), which are usually based on linear regressions using land-use predictor variables and data from fixed monitoring stations and passive sampling. Regional-scale ~~chemistry~~ transport models have been used to forecast urban background pollutant concentrations in cities and to conduct prospective studies (Binkowski and Roselle, 2003; Andre et al., 2020). However, because these models do not reflect information on buildings and roads in urban areas, whose scales are much smaller than the grid resolution, they give limited information on the spatial and temporal variations of concentrations in cities. Regional-to-local scale coupled model simulations may provide more detailed concentration distributions and capture local phenomena, such as the high concentrations observed in streets (Kwak et al., 2015; Lee and Kwak, 2020; Park et al., 2021; Lugon et al., 2024). Chemical transport models (chemical transport models with a spatial resolution often coarser than a few km<sup>2</sup>) are sometimes used (Ostro et al., 2015; Adélaïde et al., 2024).

leading to simulated fine PM concentrations much lower than those simulated using LUR models (Lequy et al., 2022). Their use is limited, because they are not able to represent the urban heterogeneities, e.g. gradients between street and background concentrations.

90 Multi-scale models, i.e. a combination of regional and local-scale models (Kwak et al., 2015; Lee and Kwak, 2020; Park et al., 2021; Lugon et al., 2022), do represent urban heterogeneities, but they are often not able to represent the PM composition and the UFP, or their application is limited to a city district. To represent an entire city, multi-scale modeling is often used, coupling a chemistry-transport model and chemical-transport models are often coupled with a simple representation of local dispersion (Hood et al., 2018; Karl et al., 2019; Hood et al., 2018; Karl et al., 2019; Lugon et al., 2022; Maison et al., 2024b) or with subgrid statistical approaches (Valari and Menut, 2019). However, most studies use relatively simple chemical mechanisms (NO<sub>x</sub>-O<sub>x</sub>-VOCs chemical mechanism), often ignoring particles or only considering PM<sub>2.5</sub> as a whole only a few studies model BC (Lugon et al., 2021b) and PNC (Zhong et al., 2023; Ketzel et al., 2021). Concentrations down to the street scale. To model PN-PNC, the main difficulty lies in the evaluation of atmospheric transformations (Kukkonen et al., 2016; Strömberg et al., 2023), and there is to our knowledge no multi-scale model currently available to represent PN-PNC over a whole city from the urban background down to the street scale taking into account aerosol dynamics.

100 To simulate gas and particle concentrations over cities from the regional down to the local scale, the taking into account chemistry and aerosol dynamics, the chemical module SSH-aerosol (Sartelet et al., 2020) has been coupled with air quality models at the street and regional scales: the street-network Model of Urban Network Intersecting Canyons and Highways (MUNICH) (Kim et al., 2018, 2022) has been coupled with SSH-aerosol (Sartelet et al., 2020) for chemistry and aerosol modelling and to and the regional-scale model Polair3D (Lugon et al., 2021a, 2022; Sarica et al., 2023). The models Polair3D and MUNICH/SSH-aerosol coupled system takes into account (Lugon et al., 2021a, 2022; Sarica et al., 2023; Sartelet et al., 2024) and CHIMERE (Maison et al., 2024b; Squarcioni et al., 2024). The coupled multi-scale systems represent concentrations from the regional down to the street scales, taking into account all emission sources and secondary particle formation at all scales consistently with the same chemical and aerosol module, also allowing a non-stationary reactive pollutant dispersion at local scales (Lugon et al., 2022). Although the model was extensively compared to observations (Lugon et al., 2022; Sartelet et al., 2024). Although extensive comparisons to observations were performed at the regional and local scales for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> (Sartelet et al., 2018; Lugon et al., 2022; Kim et al., 2022; Sarica et al., 2023), urban multi-scale modelling evaluation of BC and PN-PNC at both regional and local scales is still missing.

110 Many studies have estimated population exposure to air pollutants in urban areas based on measurements or modelling (Bravo et al., 2012; Xie et al., 2017; Khreis et al., 2017; Lugon et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2023b; Chakraborty and Aun, 2023). To estimate the spatial variations of pollution, Land Use Regression (LUR) models, which are based on measurements, are widely used (Kerekhoffs et al., 2017; Lequy et al., 2022). Chemistry-transport models are often used as well, although their spatial resolution is often coarse (larger than a few km<sup>2</sup>) (Ostro et al., 2015; Adélaïde et al., 2021), leading to simulated fine PM concentrations much lower than those simulated using LUR models (Lequy et al., 2022). Indeed, the population's exposure is increased when street-scale aerosol concentrations are used instead of regional-scale concentrations for NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Lugon et al., 2022).

This study aims ~~at defining to define~~ a methodology for simulating multi-pollutant concentrations, including BC and ~~PN~~PNC, down to the street scale over Paris, and to estimate the influence of spatial heterogeneities on the population exposure ~~to~~. ~~To do so, the street-network model MUNICH/SSH-aerosol is coupled to the regional-scale model CHIMERE/SSH-aerosol (Wang et al., 2024; Maison et al., 2024a), and evaluated for the modelling of NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, eBC and PN concentrations over the~~ 125 ~~Île-de-France region down to streets of Paris for June and July 2022. A bottom-up emission inventory is used, with detailed traffic emissions classified by emission types, and the traffic flow corrected using traffic counted loops. PN emissions are estimated improving on the methodology of Sartelet et al. (2022). The influence of the bottom-up versus top-down emission inventories is compared, as well as the influence of the size-distribution of non-exhaust emissions. to outdoor concentrations~~ 130 ~~at residences. Using detailed population data per building, an indicator is presented to assess how much regional modelling underestimates population exposure for different pollutants. It varies depending on the pollutants and in particular on their urban variability. Section 2 describes the model and simulation setup, including the non-traffic (section B1), traffic emissions (section B2), and PN emissions (section 2.2.1), as well as the relative contributions of non-traffic, exhaust, non-exhaust, and other traffic emissions (Section 2.2.2). Section 2.2.3 details the setup for a sensitivity simulation related to the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions. The model is evaluated at background and traffic stations in section 3, and the influence of the~~ 135 ~~emission inventory and the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions is assessed. In section 4, using detailed population data at building level, a scaling exposure factor is determined to estimate outdoor population exposure for the city of Paris using modelled regional-scale concentrations.~~

## 2 Material and methods

The different abbreviations used throughout this paper are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** List of abbreviations

Nomenclature	
BC	Black carbon
eBC	Equivalent Black Carbon
PNC	Particle Number Concentration
LUR	Land-Use Regression
CTM	Chemical transport model
UFP	ultrafine particles
REF	Reference simulation
SEN	Sensitivity simulation
PWC	Population Weighted Concentration
ESF	Exposure Scaling Factor

140 2.1 Model description and simulation setup

Simulations are performed with WRF-CHIMERE/MUNICH/SSH-aerosol from 01 UTC on 1 June 2022 to 23 UTC on 31 July 2022, corresponding to a period with specific PNC and BC measurements performed over Paris, as detailed in section 2.4. The setting is the same as in [Maisong et al. \(2024b\)](#), and it is summarized here.

145 The CHIMERE chemistry-transport model (v2020r1) (Menut et al., 2021) is applied over Greater Paris (Île-de-France) to compute atmospheric concentrations of gas-phase and aerosol species considering transport (advection and mixing), deposition, emissions, chemistry and aerosol dynamics. The chemical scheme used is MELCHIOR2 modified to represent the formation of organic condensables as described in SSH-aerosol v1.3 (Sartelet et al., 2020), which is used for aerosol dynamics (coagulation and condensation/evaporation). The [SSH-aerosol model integrates three modules: SCRAM \(Size-Composition Resolved Aerosol Model\), which addresses the dynamic evolution of aerosols; SOAP \(Secondary Organic Aerosol Processor\) for the gas/particle partitioning of organic compounds; and H<sub>2</sub>O \(Hydrophobic/Hydrophilic Organics\) for the formation of condensable organic compounds.](#) The particle size distribution is discretized in 10 sections of diameters between 0.01 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (Appendix A). The CHIMERE model is coupled with the meteorological model Weather and Research Forecasting (WRF) (Powers et al., 2017), which was used to compute the meteorological fields needed in the simulation. [Here, no feedback interactions are considered between concentrations and meteorological fields, with a one-way coupling approach.](#)

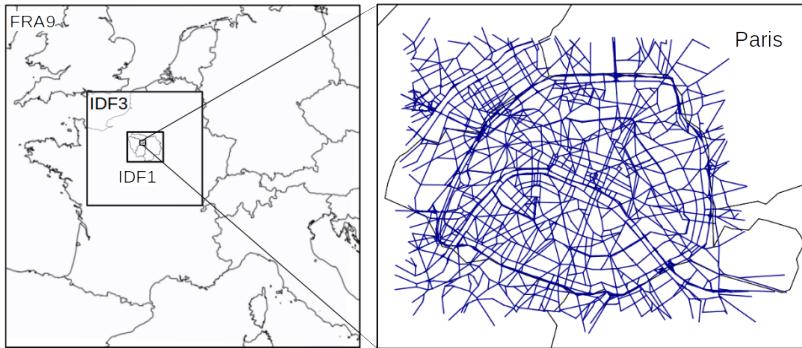
150 155 For a fine description of the urban background concentrations over Paris, a fine spatial resolution of 1  $\text{km}^2$  is used over Greater Paris (IDF1 domain, Figure 1). Boundary conditions are obtained by simulating three nested domains: the intermediate domain covers the north-west of France with a horizontal resolution of 3  $\text{km} \times 3 \text{ km}$  (IDF3 domain), and the outermost domain covers France and western Europe with a horizontal resolution of 9  $\text{km} \times 9 \text{ km}$  (FRA9 domain, Figure 1). CAMS ([Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service](#)) reanalysis (Inness et al., 2019) are used as boundary conditions of this outermost domain.

160 The model setup is the same as in [Maisong et al. \(2024a\)](#).

165 [To compute meteorological fields, in In](#) WRF, the vertical is discretized with 33 levels ranging from 0 to 20  $\text{km}$  of altitude. The single-layer urban canopy model (UCM) (Kusaka et al., 2001) is used in the domains IDF3 and IDF1 in order to improve the representation of meteorological fields in urban areas, using the CORINE land cover database (available in 10.2909/71c95a07-e296-44fc-b22b-415f42acfdf0), which classes the urban areas in three sub-categories (commercial areas, high intensity residential and low-intensity residential areas). More details about WRF simulations setup are available in [Maisong et al. \(2024a\)](#).

170 In CHIMERE, the vertical discretization is based on 15 isobaric vertical levels, from 998 hPa to 500 hPa, resulting in average layer heights ranging from 17 m near the ground to 1050 m at high altitudes. The land-use database GLOBCOVER (Arino et al., 2007), with 300 m spatial resolution, is used to compute pollutant deposition and biogenic emissions, which are estimated following MEGANv2.1 (Guenther et al., 2012).

The WRF-CHIMERE/SSH-aerosol model is one-way coupled to the street-network model MUNICH (Kim et al., 2022). SSH-aerosol is used both in CHIMERE and MUNICH, in order to represent consistently chemical and aerosol species at all scales, [with the same modified MELCHIOR2 chemistry mechanism](#). In MUNICH, dry and wet depositions are considered



**Figure 1.** Domains for the regional- and local-scale simulations. The blue lines on the right panel represent the street segments used in the local-scale simulation.

through the parameterizations detailed in Kim et al. (2022). The street network contains the 4655 main streets of Paris (Figure 175 1). Traffic emissions are diluted in each street volume, which depends on street height, length, and width. Gas and particle compounds are advected from one street to another, depending on the wind direction, and the vertical transfer of pollutants between the urban background and streets depends on atmospheric stability, which is determined depending on the Monin-Obukhov length (LMO) and Planetary boundary layer (PBL) height, and the standard deviations of wind velocity.

~~Simulations are performed with WRF-CHIMERE/MUNICH/SSH-aerosol from 01 UTC on 1 June 2022 to 23 UTC on 31 180 July 2022, corresponding to a period with specific PN and BC measurements performed over Paris, as detailed in section 2.4.~~

MUNICH v2.2 is employed with an updated calculation of the LMO to better represent the vertical transfer of pollutants between the streets and the background. In previous studies (Kim et al., 2022; Lugon et al., 2022; Sarica et al., 2023), the LMO was parameterized following Musson-Genon (1992) derived from evaporation and sensible heat fluxes at the surface. Using this parameterization, for all street segments during the period of simulation, 93.8% of atmospheric conditions are unstable, 185 6.2% are stable, and nearly 0% are neutral. This study uses instead the LMO parameterization of Soulhac et al. (2011), which calculates the sensible heat flux by deriving it from net radiation, latent heat flux, and diffusive heat flux toward the ground. As a result, there are less frequent unstable but more neutral conditions: 68.8% of the conditions are unstable, 7.6% are stable, and 23.6% are neutral. Using both parameterizations, stable and neutral conditions appear predominantly during nighttime. However, using the parameterization of Soulhac et al. (2011) leads to much better comparisons to concentration measurements 190 than the parameterization of Musson-Genon (1992), indicating that stable and neutral conditions may not well be represented during summer in cities with the parameterization of Musson-Genon (1992).

For aerosol dynamics, coagulation and condensation of sulfuric acid and low-volatile organic compounds are resolved simultaneously and dynamically for all particle sizes. The Kelvin effect is taken into account when simulating condensation/evaporation of semi-volatile compounds, as described in Zhu et al. (2016). As condensation/evaporation is resolved using a 195 Lagrangian approach, the section diameters may evolve and the Euler-coupled algorithm is used to redistribute the particle mass and number concentrations into the sections of fixed size classes (Sartelet et al., 2020). Because the first diameter is

relatively high (10 nm), if the diameter of the particles of the first section goes below 10 nm, then the mass of those particles is allocated to the first section.

Using a one-way coupling approach, the regional-scale and local-scale simulations are performed sequentially. For the regional scale, the two-month simulation using WRF-CHIMERE models requires approximately 11520 hours×processors. The local scale simulations are less expensive, and the two-month simulation with the MUNICH model requires around 7680 hours×processors to simulate the street concentrations in the Parisian street-network composed of 4655 streets.

## 2.2 Anthropogenic emissions

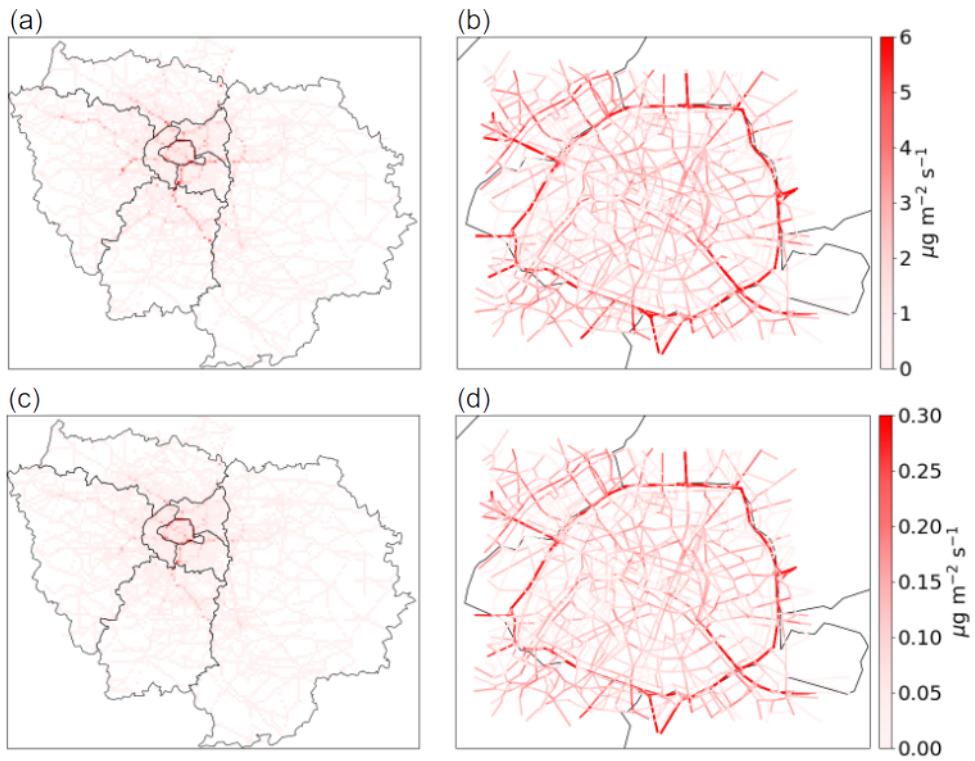
In the regional-scale modelling with CHIMERE, the top-down 2020 anthropogenic emission inventory of EMEP (European Monitoring and Evaluation Program) of spatial resolution  $0.1^\circ \times 0.1^\circ$  is used for the larger-scale simulations over Western Europe (FRA9 domain) and the North-west of France (IDF3 domain). Over Greater Paris, two different simulations are performed: one with the EMEP inventory, labelled as "EMEP" in the following, and one with the bottom-up inventory of Airparif, the air-quality monitoring network for the Greater Paris area, labelled as "REF" in the following. The spatial resolution of the Airparif inventory is 1 km x 1 km, except for traffic emissions with a finer resolution down to the street level. Note that in the REF simulation, even though the Airparif bottom-up inventory is used over Greater Paris, the EMEP inventory is used for the cells outside the Greater Paris area that are not covered by the Airparif inventory, i.e. exclusively on the edge of the Greater Paris area. In the street-network model MUNICH, only the Airparif inventory is used, because there is no downscaling available for EMEP emissions down to streets.

The bottom-up inventory corresponds to the 2019 Airparif inventory for all activity sectors except for traffic, which is specific to the summer 2022. It is calculated using the traffic emissions model HEAVEN (<https://www.airparif.asso.fr/heaven-emissions-du-trafic-en-temps-reel>). The strength of this system is to use a traffic model that is corrected from traffic count data in near real time. Non-traffic and traffic emissions are detailed in [Appendix B](#) (sections B1 and B2, respectively). For consistency between traffic emissions in the streets and at the urban scale, street-scale traffic emissions are aggregated and assigned to the corresponding grids in the CHIMERE model (Figure 2 a and c). [Section The emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and BC are higher along the main roads and motorways. In Paris, emissions are higher on the Paris Ring Road than in the city center. Section 2.2.1 details the algorithm to represent PNC emissions, section 2.2.3 details the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions, and the sensitivity simulation on its representation \(labelled as "SEN"\). The algorithm to represent PN emissions is detailed in section 2.2.1.](#)

### 2.2.1 Non-Traffic Emissions

[Anthropogenic emissions are provided for ten different Standard Nomenclature for Air Pollution \(SNAP\) categories \(Tagaris et al., 2015\) for NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>,](#)

[The emission inventories provide estimations of particle matter in different sizes for the different activity sectors. Here, the non-traffic emission inventory provides emission data for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. NO<sub>x</sub> is speciated as 90% NO and 10% NO<sub>2</sub> for all non-traffic categories \(Sartelet et al., 2012; Menut et al., 2021; Lugon et al., 2021a\). The speciation of coarse and fine](#)



**Figure 2.** Regional (left panels) and street (right panels) traffic emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> [(a) and (b)] and BC [(c) and (d)] averaged from June to July 2022

230 PMemissions follows the CAMS set-up (Kuenen et al., 2021), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are speciated following Passant (2002)., while the traffic emission inventory provides emission data for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub>. The particle emissions are distributed in the modelled particle size sections following Sartelet et al. (2022). Emissions of particles in the range PM<sub>0.01</sub>-PM<sub>1</sub> and PM<sub>0.01</sub>-PM<sub>0.1</sub> are estimated using the PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>0.01</sub>/PM<sub>1</sub> ratios given in Sartelet et al. (2022) (Table A1) for each activity sector.

235 Emissions in each of the size ranges: PM<sub>0.01</sub>-PM<sub>0.1</sub>, PM<sub>0.1</sub>-PM<sub>1</sub>, and PM<sub>1</sub>-PM<sub>2.5</sub> are distributed among the model size sections within that range using the formula:

$$M_i = M \frac{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}} \quad (1)$$

240 where  $M$  is the mass concentration to be distributed,  $i$  is the size section of bound diameters  $d_{i-1}$ - $d_i$  included in the size range of bound diameters  $d_0$ - $d_n$ . This formula, which is set out in Appendix A, allows the conservation of both mass and number during the discretisation. The emissions of condensables, i.e. the sum of intermediate, semi and low volatility organic compounds (IVOC, SVOC, and LVOC, respectively) are estimated by multiplying primary organic matter emitted in each

SNAP by 2.5 (Couvidat et al., 2012; Sartelet et al., 2018). Condensable emissions are then divided into volatility classes (32% in IVOC, 43% in SVOC and 25% in LVOC). detailed factors obtained with this formula for each size section are presented in Table A1.

245 The vertical distribution of non-traffic emissions follows Bieser et al. (2011). In the Airparif inventory, a specific analysis was applied to determine the vertical profiles of plane emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and VOCs for the three airports (Charles-de-Gaulle (CDG), Paris-Orly (ORY), and Paris-Le Bourget (LBG)) located in Île-de-France (Figure B1). The dataset used for this analysis was obtained from detailed information on flight trajectories for each airport. Specifically, the flight paths were represented as clouds of points in three dimensions (x, y, z), where the altitude (z) was rounded to the nearest 25 meters.

250 The emissions from each airport and pollutant were then summed up to determine the altitudes at which they were produced, and this information was used to create vertical profiles of emissions. These vertical profiles are used to distribute vertically the emissions on the CHIMERE vertical levels. Figure B1 shows the vertical NO<sub>2</sub> and BC emissions profiles at the three airports. Note that the average NO<sub>2</sub> (0.37  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and BC (0.04  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) emissions at the lowest height near the airports are much lower than vehicle emissions of NO<sub>2</sub>.

255 **2.2.2 Emission sources of NO<sub>x</sub>, BC, PM, and PNC**

The distribution between traffic (1.65  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and BC (0.08  $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) averaged over Greater Paris.

Vertical profiles of the average (a) NO<sub>2</sub> and (b) BC emissions at the airports.

**2.2.3 Traffic emissions**

260 The road traffic emissions data were calculated by Airparif using the HEAVEN system, originally developed in 2001 as part of the European project of the same name in partnership with the road traffic management departments of the City of Paris and the Direction Régionale de l'Equipement d'Île-de-France. Since then, this system has been regularly updated on all its components: emission factors, vehicle fleets, traffic model, real-time counting, network, etc., in order to have the most recent information on vehicle emissions in the Paris region.

265 The traffic emissions are calculated hourly for each street and road segment for June and July 2022 over Île-de-France. The traffic emissions inventory was categorized based on emission types (combustion, tire wear, roadwear, brake wear, and evaporation) exhaust vehicular road, fuel types (electric, gasoline, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, and Compressed Natural Gas), vehicle types, and Crit'Air classification. In France, the Crit'Air sticker classifies vehicles according to the fine particles and levels of nitrogen oxide that they emit. The vehicle types include passenger vehicles (VP), utility vehicles (VU), heavy vehicles (PL), trailers (TC), non-exhaust vehicular road, non-road/other traffic and two-wheeled vehicles (2R). The Crit'Air classification depends on the fuel type and the age of the vehicle, as determined from the Euro Norm. The European emission standards (Euro Norm) of the vehicles are estimated from the information on fuel type and Crit'Air classification. Information about the different categories is used to speciate the emissions of the inventory.

The NO<sub>x</sub> emissions on each road are speciated into NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HONO, depending on the Euro Norm of the vehicles and using speciation from the EMEP guidelines (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023b). The average speciation into NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and

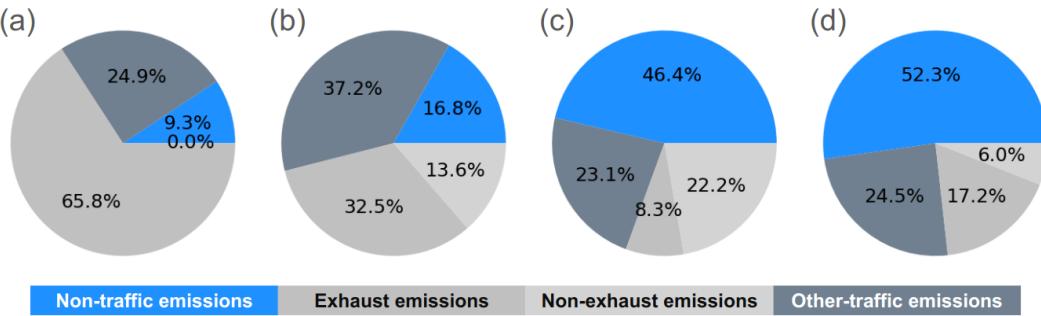
275 HONO for traffic exhaust emission is 88.5%, 10.6%, and 0.9%, respectively. The traffic emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and BC are illustrated in Figure B2. As expected, emissions are higher during rush hours. Also, NO<sub>2</sub> and BC emissions at the BP\_EST station, which is next to a heavy-traffic road, are higher than at the HAUSS station (City center). At the city center, NO<sub>2</sub> emissions are clearly higher during weekdays than on weekends.

280 The traffic PM emitted from combustion are assumed to be of diameters lower than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (PM<sub>1</sub>) and to be composed of organic matter (OM) and black carbon (BC). The OM non-traffic emissions for NO<sub>x</sub>, BC, PM, and PNC over Greater Paris is shown in Figure 3, and over Paris in Figure C1. Non-traffic emissions refer to all emissions excluding traffic emissions (exhaust vehicular road emissions, non-exhaust vehicular road emissions, non-road/BC ratios differ according to the vehicle fuel, and follow the values proposed in Kostenidou et al. (2021); other traffic emissions). Exhaust emissions are produced from the combustion processes associated with road traffic emissions, while non-exhaust emissions include road-traffic emissions resulting from road wear, tire wear, and brake wear. Other-traffic emissions encompass emissions from ships and aircraft. Over Greater Paris, the majority of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions originated from road traffic sources (65.8%). Amongst non-road traffic sources, shipping, railways, and aviation contribute to a significant proportion (24.9%) of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions are speciated as 75% of BC and 25% of OM for diesel, while 25% of BC and 75% of OM for gasoline and LPG. The traffic PM emitted from non-exhaust sources are speciated in OM, BC, and inert particles as described in the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook. The speciation of Non-Methane VOC follows Theloke and Friedrich (2007), which defines different speciations for gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. For traffic emissions, the emitted OM is assumed to correspond to LVOC. IVOC and SVOC speciated are speciated based on ratios of Non-methane hydrocarbon emissions, which varies according to the vehicle fuel (Sarica et al., 2023).

295 The PM emitted from mostly from non-traffic sources (over 69% of PM emissions), while road traffic contributes only to about 30.5% of emissions. Note that non-exhaust sources (tire, brake, and road wear) are classified as fine (PM<sub>1</sub>, PM<sub>1-2.5</sub>) and coarse (PM<sub>2.5-10</sub>) particles. They are speciated according to the EMEP guideline (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023a), as detailed in Table B1.

300 Specifically for the simulations using the EMEP emission inventory, as no detailed information is available regarding exhaust and non-exhaust emissions, as well as vehicle categories, the CAMS traffic speciation is employed for PM, and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are assumed 90% of NO and 10% of NO<sub>2</sub>. Also, the total IVOC, SVOC, and LVOC are estimated by multiplying primary organic matter emitted from traffic by 2.5 (Couvidat et al., 2012; Sartelet et al., 2018). For traffic emissions emissions represent a larger percentage of PM<sub>2.5</sub> than exhaust emissions (22.2% vs 8.3%). Concerning BC emissions, the influence of road traffic is larger than that of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (about 46.1% of BC emissions), with a larger contribution of exhaust than non-exhaust emissions (32.5% vs 13.6%). Concerning PNC emissions, this total is splitted between 51% of IVOC, 14% of SVOC, and 35% of LVOC.

305 Chemical composition of particles emitted from traffic non-exhaust sources (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023a) Tire Brake Road Tire Brake Road Tire Brake Road BC (%) 30 80 0 21 2 0 0 0 0 OM (%) 70 20 0 48 8 0 0 0 0 Dust (%) 0 0 100 31 90 100 100 100 100



**Figure 3.** Time-series Distribution between vehicular road traffic (exhaust and non-exhaust), non-road/other traffic and non-traffic emissions for NO<sub>x</sub> (a) and BC (b) emissions at the HAUSS, PM<sub>2.5</sub> (city center), and BP\_EST PNC (heavy-trafficked) stations in Greater Paris. Bottom-up (left panels) and street (right panels) traffic emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> (a) and (b) and BC (c) and (d) averaged from June to July 2022

Figure 2 shows maps of NO<sub>x</sub> and BC traffic emissions over Greater Paris with a zoom over Paris. The emissions are higher along the main roads and motorways. In Paris, emissions are higher on the Paris Ring Road than in the city center. Although street-seale emissions are directly used as input of the street-network model MUNICH, emissions over Greater Paris are gridded, such as being used as input of the CHIMERE model to simulate urban background concentrations. Non-traffic sources constitute almost half of the emissions (52.3%), with a contribution of road traffic to about 17.2%, and a strong contribution of non-road traffic sources (24.5%).

### 2.2.3 Sensitivity to non-exhaust emissions size distribution

Non-exhaust traffic emissions, such as tire wear, brake, and road wear, have large uncertainties (Lugon et al., 2021b), and their contribution to particle emissions is also large. Section 2.2.2 shows that non-exhaust emissions (22.2%) contribute more to traffic PM emissions than exhaust emissions (8.3%). In the emission inventory, the non-exhaust emissions of particles are provided for PM<sub>10</sub>. Emissions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>1</sub> are estimated using a PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> ratio and a PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub> ratio. A sensitivity simulation "SEN" is set-up to evaluate the impact of the choices made in the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions. In the reference simulation, the PM<sub>1</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> ratio and PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub> ratio for non-exhaust emissions are obtained from EMEP guidelines for the different types of vehicles (Ntziachristos, 2016). In the SEN scenario, the PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub> ratios are modified to be those of the NORTRIP model (Denby et al., 2013). The size distribution employed in REF and SEN simulations is detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2.** PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub> ratios of particles emitted from non-exhaust traffic sources in the REF and SEN simulations.

	Tire	Brake	Road
REF	0.70	0.40	0.54
SEN	0.10	0.63	0.04

325 Non-exhaust emissions are almost equally distributed between  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$  in the REF simulation ( $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10} = 0.53$ ), while the proportion of non-exhaust emissions in  $PM_{2.5}$  is lower in the SEN simulation ( $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10} = 0.28$ ). As the NORTrip model has no  $PM_1/PM_{2.5}$  ratio for non-exhaust emissions, no modifications are made in the  $PM_1/PM_{2.5}$  ratios in the SEN simulation. The proportion of  $PM_1$  is low in both REF and SEN ( $PM_1/PM_{10} \simeq 0.07$ ).

#### 2.2.4 PN-emissions

330 The emission inventories provide estimations of  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$  emissions

### 2.3 Calculation of population exposure

The population exposure to outdoor concentrations may be calculated using regional-scale modelling, potentially under-estimating the exposure. To estimate how well the population exposure is represented using regional-scale modelling for the different activity sectors. The emissions of  $PM_{2.5}$  are distributed in the modelled particle size sections following Sartelet et al. (2022).

335 First, emissions of particles in the range  $PM_{0.1}$ – $PM_1$  and  $PM_{0.01}$ – $PM_{0.1}$  are estimated using the  $PM_1$  pollutants, the population-weighted concentration (PWC) and exposure scaling factor (ESF) are calculated for Paris using the multi-scale concentrations and the population data from the MAJIC database (Létinois, 2014). The 'MAJIC' spatialization method provides a very detailed description of the population on a local scale. More specifically, it uses data on residential premises from the MAJIC property database issued by the French Public Finance Department (DGFiP). This data is cross-referenced with IGN spatial databases

340 (BD PARCELLAIRE [https://PM2.5 and PM0.1/PM1 ratios given in Sartelet et al. \(2022\) \(Table A1\) for each activity sector](https://PM2.5 and PM0.1/PM1 ratios given in Sartelet et al. (2022) (Table A1) for each activity sector).

Emissions in each of the size ranges:  $PM_{0.01}$ – $PM_{0.1}$ ,  $PM_{0.1}$ – $PM_1$ , and  $PM_1$ – $PM_{2.5}$  are distributed amongst the model size sections within that range using the formula:

$$M_i = M \frac{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}$$

345 where  $M$  is the mass concentration to be distributed,  $i$  is the size section of bound diameters  $d_{i-1}$ – $d_i$  included in the size range of bound diameters  $d_0$ – $d_n$ . This formula, which is set out in Appendix A, allows the conservation of both mass and number during the discretisation. The detailed factors obtained with this formula for each size section are presented in Table A1. [geoservices.ign.fr/bdparcellaire](https://geoservices.ign.fr/bdparcellaire) and BD TOPO, <https://geoservices.ign.fr/documentation/donnees/vecteur/bdtopo>) and population statistics from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) to estimate the number of inhabitants in each building.

#### 350 2.3.1 Emission sources of BC, PM, and PN

The distribution between traffic and non-traffic emissions for NOx, BC, PM, and PN over Greater Paris is shown in Figure 3, and over Paris in Figure C1. Over Greater Paris, To locate the buildings in the majority of NOx emissions originated from road traffic sources (65.8%). Amongst non-road traffic sources, shipping, railways, and aviation contribute to a significant proportion (24.9%) of NOx emissions.  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions are mostly from non-traffic sources (over 69% of PM emissions), while

355 road traffic contributes only to about 30.5% of emissions. Note that non-exhaust emissions represent a larger percentage of PM<sub>2.5</sub> than exhaust emissions (22.2% vs 8.3%). Concerning BC emissions, street network, streets are considered as rectangles of known four extremity coordinates, and buildings are located into the street segments by comparing their mean coordinates with those of streets. Because of uncertainty about street widths, buildings within a perimeter on each side of the influence of road traffic is larger than that of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (about 46.1% of BC emissions), with a larger contribution of exhaust than  
 360 non-exhaust emissions (32.5% vs 13.6%). Concerning PN emissions, non-traffic sources constitute almost half of the emissions (52.3%), with a contribution of road traffic to about 17.2%, and a strong contribution of non-road traffic sources (24.5%) street are integrated into the street segment (Figure C2).

Distribution between vehicular traffic (exhaust and non-exhaust), other traffic and non-traffic emissions for NO<sub>x</sub> (a), BC (b), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (c), and PN (d) in Greater Paris. Among the 109,152 buildings of Paris, 66.9% are integrated into street segments. This  
 365 corresponds to 44.4% of the population living near main streets, and the remaining 55.6% residing away from main streets.

PWC is calculated by weighting populations based on the concentrations to which they are exposed at the precise location of their home. People living in a building on the main street are assigned to that street concentration. People living in buildings away from busy streets are assigned to urban background concentrations.

$$PWC_{I,J} = \frac{(POP \cdot C)_{I,J}^{st} + POP_{I,J}^{bg} \cdot C_{I,J}^{bg}}{POP_{I,J}^{st} + POP_{I,J}^{bg}} \quad (2)$$

370 with

$$(POP \cdot C)_{I,J}^{st} = \sum_{s, building \in I,J} POP^{building,s} \cdot C^{st}(s) \quad (3)$$

375 where  $I$  and  $J$  are the grid points of the regional-scale model,  $C^{st}$  and  $C^{bg}$  are the street and urban background concentrations, respectively.  $POP^{building,s}$  is the population living in the street segment.  $POP_{I,J}^{st}$  is the population living near main streets in the grid cell  $I, J$ .  $POP^{bg}$  is the population not living near main streets, which is assumed to be exposed to urban background concentrations.

## 2.4 Measurements

The simulated concentrations are compared to measurements from different categories of monitoring stations: rural, suburban, urban background, and traffic at background and traffic stations (Figure C3). Concerning the measurements operated by Airparif, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are routinely monitored at 21 and 8 stations, respectively. BC was monitored at 4 stations using a dual spot aethalometer (MAGE Sci. model AE33 M8060, using the optical wavelengths 880 nm for eBC analysis) with a PM<sub>2.5</sub> size cut off, and PN-PNC was monitored using a Mobility Particle Size Spectrometer (MPSS) for particles of diameters between 5 nm and 385 nm at two stations: Châtelet-les-Halles (PA01H), which is an urban background station located in the center of Paris, and BP-EST, which is next to the very busy Ring road of Paris. At the PA01H station, EC was also measured using filter measurements. It is analysed according to a thermo-optical method (Instrument : Laboratory OCEC Carbon Aerosol Analyser,

385 SUNSET), which meets the EUSAAR2 protocol. The concomitant EC and eBC measurements allow the determination of the harmonization factor suggested by Savadkoohi et al. (2024).

390 Air-quality models represent the mass concentrations of elemental carbon (EC). They may differ from BC concentrations (Savadkoohi et al., 2023), which are inferred from optical measurements using aethalometers (Drinovec et al., 2015). Equivalent BC (eBC) is then defined as the mass concentration of BC as indirectly determined by light absorption techniques (Savadkoohi et al., 2024)  
395 . A harmonization of BC measurements is needed to allow for direct comparisons between measured eBC and modeled EC concentrations (Savadkoohi et al., 2024). The harmonization factor was calculated as the ratio of eBC and EC. Between 9 and 22 June 2022, at the PA01H station where both EC and eBC data are available, the daily harmonization factor ranges from 1.34 to 2.26 with an average equal to 1.79 (Figure C4). This average harmonization factor is used to correct the eBC measured concentrations at all stations and all times. Note that the average harmonization factor (1.79) is similar to the harmonization factor of 1.76 proposed by Savadkoohi et al. (2023).

400 Comparisons are also performed at the SIRTA site (Site Instrumental de Recherche par Télédétection Atmosphérique), an atmospheric observatory located 20 km south-west of Paris which is integrated in the ACTRIS European Research Infrastructure Consortium (<https://www.actris.eu>) (Haeffelin et al., 2005). In summer 2022, two other monitoring stations were operated inside Paris: the Paris Rive Gauche (PRG) urban background station and the Hôtel de Ville (HdV) traffic station. The PRG site, located on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Lamark B building of Université Paris Cité (30 m above ground layer), in the south-east side of the city, was set up as part of the ACROSS (Atmospheric ChemistRy Of the Suburban foreSt) campaign (Cantrell and Michoud, 2022). Air was taken from a common certified PM<sub>1</sub> sampling head located on the roof of the building at about 30 m high above the ground level. A copper tube of 7 mm inner diameter and 10 m length connected the PM<sub>1</sub> head to a 4-way stainless steel flow splitter (TSI) located in the measuring room that dispatched the airflow to different instruments. The Paris 405 HdV station was setup as part of the sTREEt (Impact of sTress on uRban trEEs and on city air quality) project (Maison et al., 2024a). It overlooks the quays of the Seine, which is a major road traffic artery. The eBC was monitored with an AE33 at all stations (MAGE Sci. model AE33 M8060, using the optical wavelengths 880 nm), with a PM<sub>2.5</sub> size cut off at SIRTA and HdV, and a with a PM<sub>1</sub> size cut off at PRG. The PN-PNC was monitored with an SMPS for particles of diameters between 9 nm and 836 nm at SIRTA, and between 23 nm and 1  $\mu$ m at PRG. A "nano" SMPS, measuring in the range 8 nm - 64 nm was used 410 at PRG to supplement measurements for diameters between 8 and 23 nm. Note that for comparison between simulated and measured concentrations, only particles of diameters larger than 10 nm are considered. The PN-PNC measurements at PRG and SIRTA were performed for shorter periods than the Aiparif measurements at PA01: from 17 June to 11 July at PRG, and from 15 June to 17 July at SIRTA.

### 3 Evaluation of model performances

415 Model to data comparisons are performed over urban background stations to evaluate the regional-scale concentrations simulated with CHIMERE, and over traffic stations to evaluate the street-scale concentrations simulated with MUNICH. Model performances are evaluated based on statistical indicators, including the fractional bias (FB), geometric mean bias (MG),

normalised mean square error (NMSE), geometric variance (VG), normalised absolute difference (NAD), and the fraction of predictions within a factor of 2 of observations (FAC2), as described in Section D. Following Hanna and Chang (2012) and 420 Herring and Huq (2018), two different acceptable criteria are considered: (i) a strict performance criteria, with  $|FBI| < 0.3$ ,  $0.7 < MG < 1.3$ ,  $NMSE < 3$ ,  $VG < 1.6$ ,  $NAD < 0.3$ , and  $FAC2 > 0.5$ ; and (ii) a less strict performance criteria, acceptable for urban areas, with  $|FBI| < 0.67$ ,  $NMSE < 6$ ,  $NAD < 0.5$ , and  $FAC2 > 0.3$ . For evaluating **PN-concentrations**PNC, many studies (Olin et al., 2022; Patoulias and Pandis, 2022a; Sartelet et al., 2022) rather used the NMB, which is the normalized mean bias, and NME the normalized mean error.

#### 425 3.1 **Urban-background** **Background** concentrations

The average statistical indicators obtained in each CHIMERE simulation (REF, SEN, and EMEP simulations) are presented in Table 3. The most strict criteria are also met for all pollutants in the simulations using the bottom-up emission inventory (REF and SEN simulations). In the EMEP simulation, concentrations tend to be over-estimated for all pollutants, and the  $NO_2$ , eBC,  $PM_{2.5}$ , and **PN**PNC concentrations are higher than those in the REF and SEN simulations (Figure C5) due to relatively 430 high emissions compared to bottom-up traffic emissions. For  $NO_2$ , eBC,  $PM_{2.5}$ , and **PN**PNC, the emission ratios of EMEP to bottom-up emissions are 1.2, 1.72, 1.12, and 1.53 in Greater Paris, respectively.

As the sensitivity simulation differs from the reference one by the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions between  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$ , the differences between the REF and SEN simulations are negligible for all pollutants. They are also very low for  $PM_{2.5}$ , suggesting that the choice of the EMEP or NORTRIP size distribution of non-exhaust traffic emissions has a low 435 influence at the regional scale. The differences are the highest for eBC, as the speciation of non-exhaust emissions differs for  $PM_{2.5}$  and  $PM_{10}$  (see Table B1).

The simulation performance regarding **PN-concentrations**PNC is also evaluated based on NMB and NME, following Olin et al. (2022), Patoulias and Pandis (2022a), and Sartelet et al. (2022). The concentrations simulated with the bottom-up inventory presented very low bias NMB (between -0.3% for REF and -0.7% for SEN) and low NME (24%). Using the EMEP 440 top-down inventory, the NMB and NME are higher (27% and 37% respectively). These values are low compared to studies in the literature. For example, for particles of diameters larger than  $0.01 \mu m$ , NME values range between 36% and 79% (Sartelet et al., 2022), 63% (Patoulias and Pandis, 2022b), 94% (Olin et al., 2022), and Ketzel et al. (2021) reported an NMB of 151%.

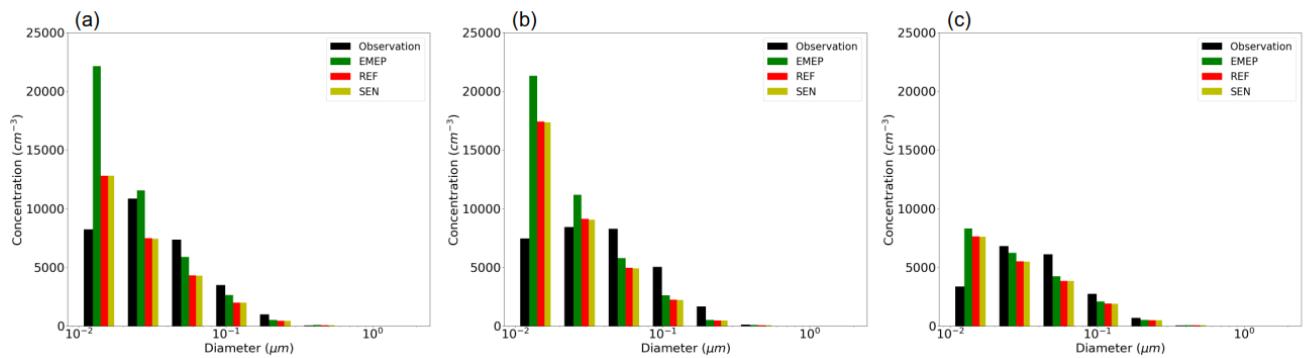
Figure 4 shows the model-to-data comparison of **PN-concentration**PNC for different size sections. All simulations reproduced well the size distribution of **PN-concentrations**PNC, although the concentrations are overestimated in the first size 445 section, between 10 and 20 nm. This overestimation may be partly due to the redistribution algorithm, where the mass of particles whose diameter becomes lower than 10 nm during the simulation is assigned to the first size section, as detailed in section 2.1.

The better performance of REF and SEN simulations compared to EMEP is more visible in dense-urban areas, probably because the share of traffic is more important than in less dense areas and traffic emissions are better represented thanks to 450 the correction of traffic emissions based on vehicle counting loops (see Section 2.1). Figure 5 shows the daily time series for the  $NO_2$ , eBC,  $PM_{2.5}$ , and **PN**PNC in the city center (PA01H station) measured and simulated with the three CHIMERE

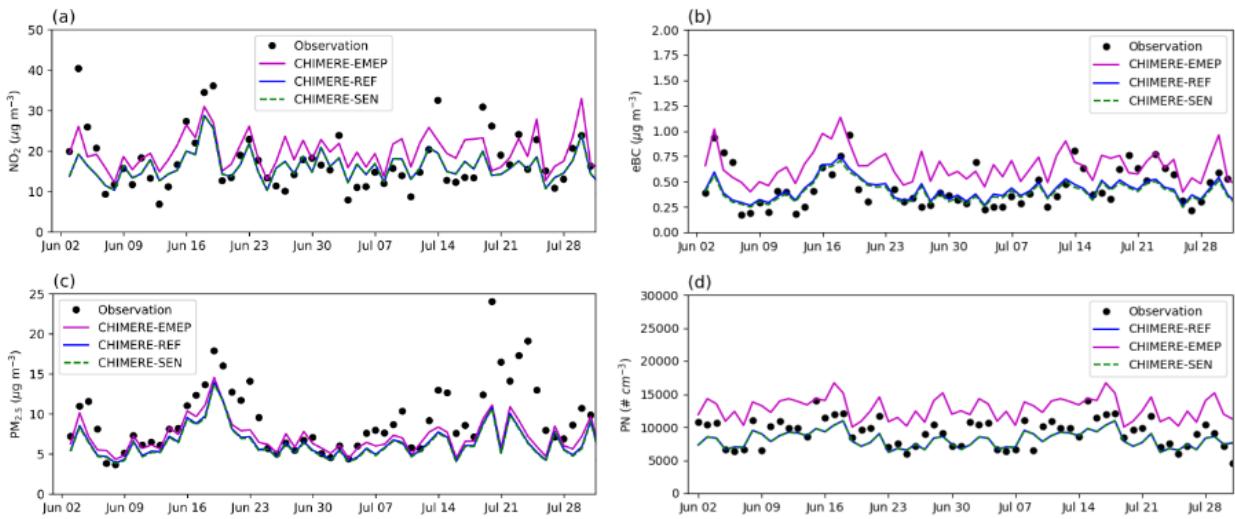
**Table 3.** Statistical indicators for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN concentrations simulated at the background stations in the REF, SEN, and EMEP simulations. The average simulated and observed concentrations are in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and in  $\# \text{cm}^{-3}$  for PN. Bold values do not respect ~~more~~ the most strict performance criteria.

	NO <sub>2</sub>		eBC			PM <sub>2.5</sub>			PN		
	REF/SEN	EMEP	REF	SEN	EMEP	REF	SEN	EMEP	REF	SEN	EMEP
Number of stations	21		4			8			3		
Observation	14.97		0.44			7.20			8176		
Simulation	14.74	17.50	0.36	0.35	0.54	6.76	6.67	7.29	8173	8138	10610
FB	-0.03	0.15	-0.15	-0.19	0.24	-0.05	-0.06	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.23
MG	1.04	1.24	0.97	0.94	0.82	1.04	1.02	1.11	1.05	1.05	<b>1.34</b>
NMSE	0.21	0.20	0.35	0.38	0.28	0.20	0.20	0.18	0.10	0.10	0.16
VG	1.21	1.24	1.30	1.32	0.80	1.17	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.28
NAD	0.17	0.17	0.21	0.22	0.20	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.16
FAC2	0.90	0.87	0.80	0.80	0.79	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.98	0.98	0.89
NMB (%)	0.1	19	-10	-13	34	-2	-3	6	-0	-1	27
NME (%)	33.5	38	39	40	50	31	31	32	24	24	37

simulations. Especially for eBC, the temporal evolution of pollutants is better represented with the REF and SEN simulations than the EMEP one, enhancing the importance of a precise traffic emission inventory. Large concentration peaks of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and eBC are observed at all stations on 19 July. They could be explained by forest fires in the South West of France (Menut et al., 2023). Apart from this peak, in both the REF and SEN simulations, the daily variations of NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN concentrations are well simulated. As observed for the statistical indicators, the effect of changing the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions (SEN simulation) is low on eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN concentrations at urban background stations, and using the EMEP emission inventory leads to an overestimation of concentrations.



**Figure 4.** Size distribution of PN concentrations at (a) PA01H, (b) PRG, and (c) SIRTA stations



**Figure 5.** Time series for measured and simulated (a)  $\text{NO}_2$ , (b) eBC, (c)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and (d)  $\text{PN}$  concentrations at PA01H station

### 3.2 Street concentrations

460 Table 4 summarizes the statistical indicators for  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations at the traffic stations. The strict performance criteria are met for all pollutants:  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations, for both the REF and SEN simulations.

Figure 6 shows the daily temporal variations of the concentrations of  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  at two different traffic stations: HAUSS, representing a street in the city center, and BP\_EST, representing a heavy-traffic road. As expected, the concentrations are largely underestimated by the regional-scale concentrations simulated with CHIMERE. The daily variations of the street 465 concentrations simulated by MUNICH are strongly influenced by those of CHIMERE. For example, the peak of concentrations around 19 July is also present at the street scale, but underestimated by the model. In the SEN simulations, eBC and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations are lower than in the REF simulation due to the reduction of the non-exhaust emissions of small-size sections (0.01 to  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ). The largest difference are observed at the heavy-traffic station BP\_EST (Figure 6 f ). Large peaks of eBC concentrations are observed at the BP\_EST station. There is greater variability in the measured eBC concentrations compared 470 to those of  $\text{NO}_2$  at the BP\_EST station. This could be due to strong variations in the traffic BC emission factors, or to temporal variations in the EC/BC ratio, which is assumed to be constant.

For  $\text{PN}_{\text{PNC}}$ , due to the lack of  $\text{PN}_{\text{PNC}}$  measurement at traffic stations in 2022, for indicative purposes, the concentrations simulated in summer 2022 are compared with the concentrations observed in summer 2021 at two traffic sites (BP\_EST and HAUSS), as documented in the Airparif report (AIRPARIF, 2022). The measurement campaign operated by Airparif took place 475 from 14 June to 19 September 2021 (AIRPARIF, 2022). At PA01H station, the average  $\text{PN}$  concentration  $\text{PNC}$  for particles of diameters between 10 and 400 nm is very close to the average measured in 2022 (about  $9,300 \# \text{cm}^{-3}$  both in 2021 and 2022). At the two traffic stations (HAUSS and BP\_EST), the average  $\text{PN}$  concentrations  $\text{PNC}$  measured in the summer 2021 were

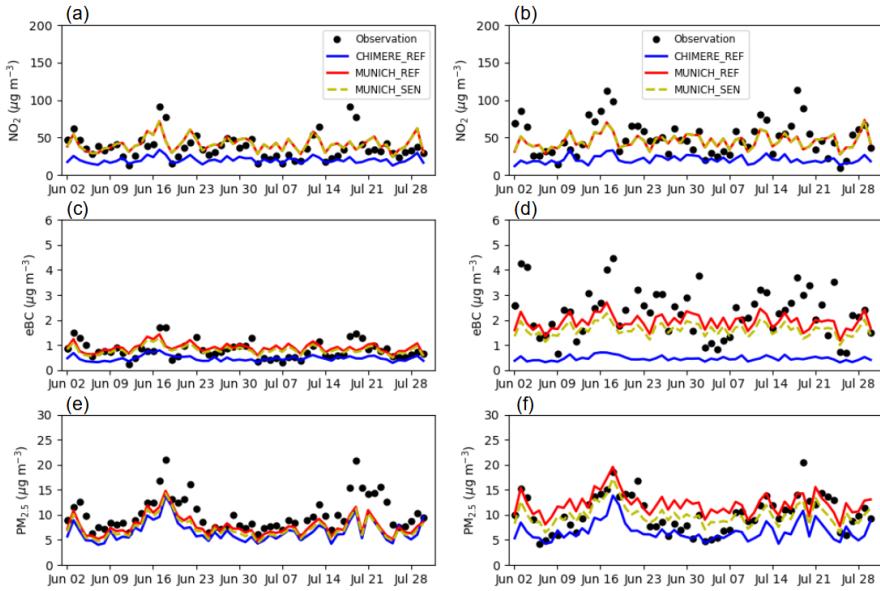
17,000 # cm<sup>-3</sup> and 21,300 # cm<sup>-3</sup> respectively for particles of diameters between 10 and 400 nm. The **PN-concentrations** **PNC** in the REF (SEN) simulation are 14,500 (14,400) # cm<sup>-3</sup> at HAUSS and 30,650 (29,800) cm<sup>-3</sup> at BP\_EST, suggesting a bias of 15% at HAUSS and 40% at BP\_EST. The wider bias at BP\_EST is certainly due to the 10 nm cut-off diameter for the particles. At HAUSS, most of the particle number concentrations is between 10 nm and 400 nm, which represent 94% of particles between 5 and 400 nm. However, at BP\_EST, many particles are observed between 5 and 10 nm because of the higher importance of vehicle emissions. The number concentration between 10 and 400 nm represent 86% of the particles between 5 and 400 nm. Although only particles with diameters greater than 10 nm are modelled here, a proportion of particles with smaller diameters is represented, since particles with diameters less than 10 nm are assigned to the first size section (10-20 nm) in the numerical algorithm used here. Although there is a difference in the periods of measurement and simulation with general conditions (traffic emissions, meteorological parameters) that could have been different, the simulated **PN-concentrations** **PNC** are roughly consistent with the measured ones, and the concentrations in the streets and at the traffic sites are much higher than those in the urban background.

**Table 4.** Statistical indicators for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations simulated at the traffic stations in the REF and SEN simulations. The average simulated and observed concentrations are in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. All values respect the strict performance criteria.

	NO <sub>2</sub> REF/SEN	eBC		PM <sub>2.5</sub>	
		REF	SEN	REF	SEN
Number of stations	10		3		3
Observation	40.04		1.26		11.21
Simulation	38.33	1.26	1.09	9.91	8.56
FB	-0.02	0.09	-0.05	-0.13	-0.27
MG	1.00	0.87	1.00	1.14	1.30
NMSE	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.12	0.17
VG	1.17	1.23	1.21	1.12	1.16
NAD	0.15	0.19	0.19	0.14	0.16
FAC2	0.92	0.89	0.90	0.95	0.95
NMB (%)	1	11	-2	-10	-22
NME (%)	30	40	37	26	29

### 490 3.3 Impact of the emission inventory over Greater Paris

The impacts of the emission inventory are investigated over Greater Paris. In the EMEP simulation, the NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are lower by about 15% along the roads and airport than those in the REF simulation, due to higher traffic emissions using the bottom-up inventory than the EMEP one (Figure C5). In contrast, NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in areas excluding roads are higher, by about 16%, in the EMEP simulation. The concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PNC in the EMEP simulation are 12%, 50%, 7%, 38% lower, respectively, for Paris compared to those in the REF simulation. The differences in the spatial distributions of



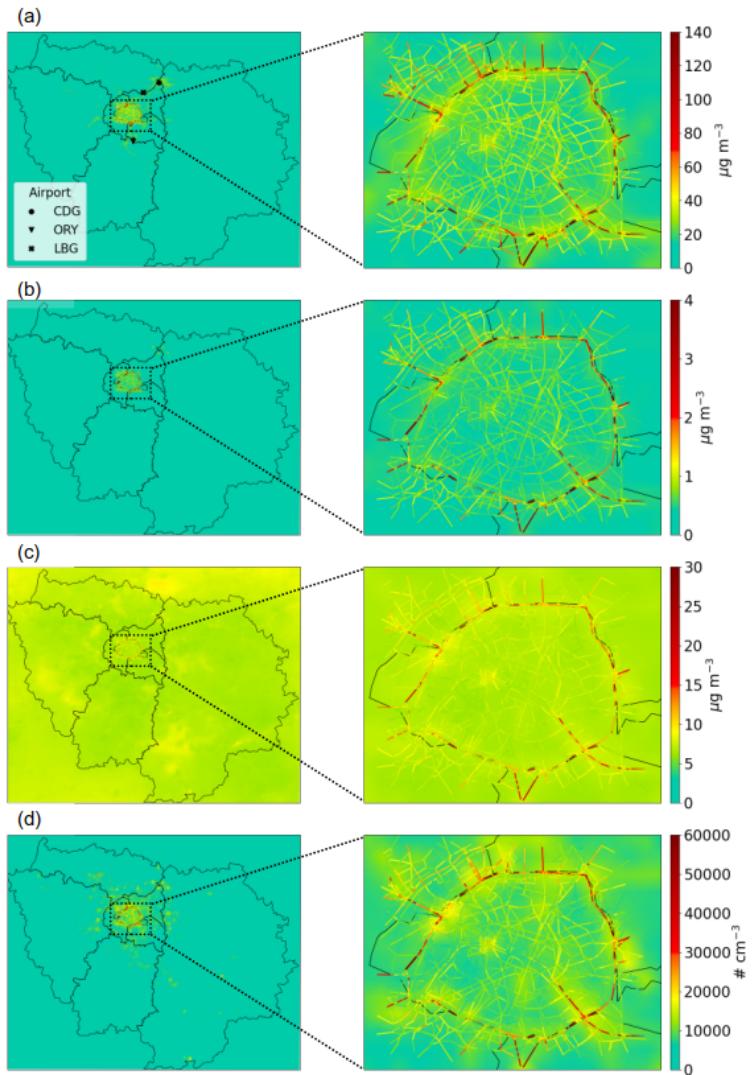
**Figure 6.** Time series of measured and simulated  $\text{NO}_2$  [(a) and (b)], eBC [(c) and (d)], and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  [(e) and (f)] concentrations at the HAUSS (left panels) and BP\_EST (right panels) stations.

eBC and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations are similar to those of  $\text{NO}_2$  concentrations, but the spatial differences are less pronounced than for  $\text{NO}_2$ . In the eastern region of Greater Paris and the extreme northwest part of the region, ~~PN-concentrations~~<sup>PNC</sup> are lower using EMEP than the bottom-up inventory owing to lower emissions compared to other areas within the region.

Figure 7 shows the average  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and ~~PN-concentrations~~<sup>PNC</sup> in the REF simulation over Greater Paris with 500 a zoom over Paris down to the street scale. The concentrations are the highest over the center of Paris, and in the main streets of Paris. The spatial gradients of concentrations are stronger for  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC, and ~~PN~~<sup>PNC</sup> than for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ .  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations are highest over Paris, but high concentrations are also observed at different locations, such as over large woods, due to 550 the formation of secondary organic aerosols. As the lifetime of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  is about a week (Seigneur, 2019), concentrations are relatively homogeneous and high all over Greater Paris. For  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC, and ~~PN~~<sup>PNC</sup>, the concentrations are much higher in 595 the main streets than in the urban background than in the suburban and rural areas. The concentrations' spatial gradients may strongly influence the estimation of the population exposure, as detailed in the next section.

#### 4 Population exposure

The population exposure to outdoor concentrations may be calculated using regional-scale modelling, potentially under-estimating the exposure. To estimate how well the population exposure is represented ~~As population exposure may be under-estimated~~ using regional-scale modelling ~~for the different pollutants~~, the population-weighted concentration (PWC) and exposure scaling factor (ESF) are calculated for Paris using the multi-scale concentrations and the population data ~~from the MAJIC database~~



**Figure 7.** Concentration distribution of the average (a)  $\text{NO}_2$ , (b) eBC, (c)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and (d)  $\text{PN}$  concentrations over the period in the REF simulation.

(Létinois, 2014). The ‘MAJIC’ spatialization method provides a very detailed description of the population on a local scale.

More specifically, it uses data on residential premises from the MAJIC property database issued by the French Public Finance Department (DGFiP). This data is cross-referenced with IGN spatial databases (BD PARCELLAIRE <https://geoservices.ign.fr/bdparcellaire>

515 and BD TOPO, <https://geoservices.ign.fr/documentation/donnees/vecteur/bdtopo>) and population statistics from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) to estimate the number of inhabitants in each building.

To locate the buildings in the street network, streets are considered as rectangles of known four extremity coordinates, and buildings are located into the street segments by comparing their mean coordinates with those of streets. Because of uncertainty about street widths, buildings within a perimeter on each side of the street are integrated into the street segment (Figure C2).

520 Amongst the 109,152 buildings of Paris, 66.9% are integrated into street segments. This corresponds to 44.4% of the population living near main streets, and the remaining 55.6% residing away from main streets.

PWC is calculated by weighting populations based on the concentrations to which they are exposed at the precise location of their home. People living in a building on the main street are assigned to that street concentration. People living in buildings away from busy streets are assigned to urban background concentrations.

525 
$$PWC_{I,J} = \frac{(POP \cdot C)_{I,J}^{st} + POP_{I,J}^{bg} \cdot C_{I,J}^{bg}}{POP_{I,J}^{st} + POP_{I,J}^{bg}}$$

with

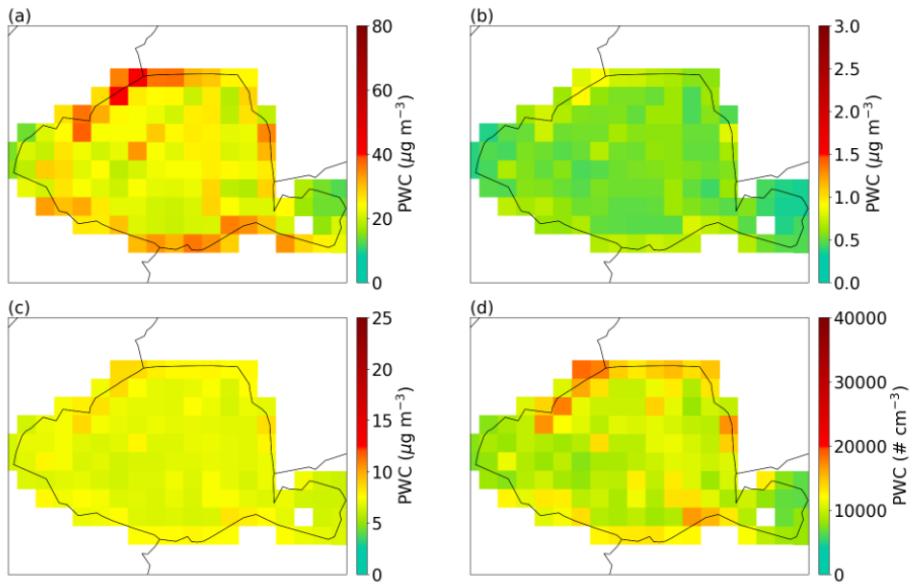
$$(POP \cdot C)_{I,J}^{st} = \sum_{s, building \in I, J} POP^{building,s} \cdot C^{st}(s)$$

530 where  $I$  and  $J$  are the grid points of the regional-scale model,  $C^{st}$  and  $C^{bg}$  are the street and urban background concentrations, respectively.  $POP^{building,s}$  is the population living in the street segment.  $POP_{I,J}^{st}$  is the population living near main streets in the grid cell  $I, J$ .  $POP^{bg}$  is the population not living near main streets, which is assumed to be exposed to urban background concentrations.

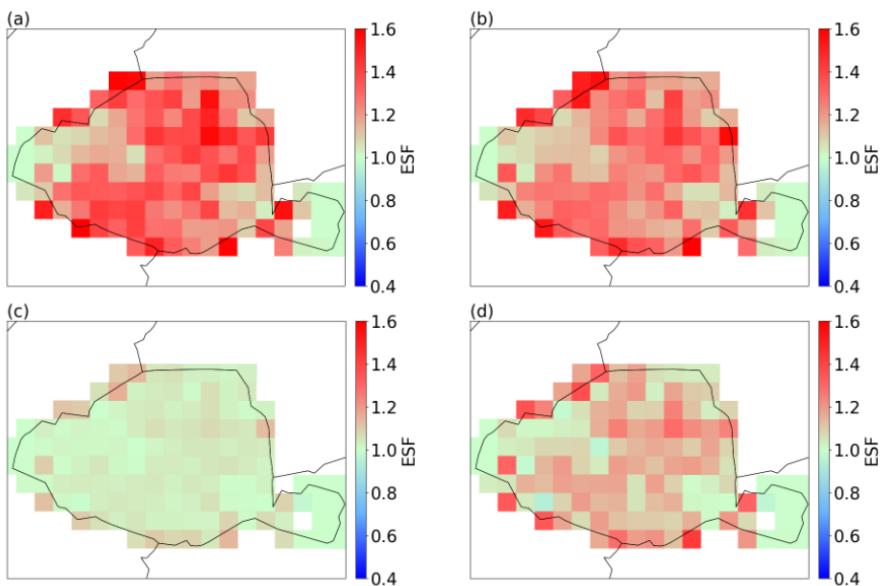
535 per building. The spatial distributions of PWC for  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PN-PNC}$  are similar to their concentrations (Figure 8), i.e. they have larger values in grid cells with main traffic roads. The average PWC in Paris for  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PN-PNC}$  are  $25.3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ,  $0.6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ,  $7.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , and  $10963 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  in the REF simulation, respectively (Table 5). PWC for eBC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PN-PNC}$  in the SEN simulation is lower than in the REF simulation. The elevated PWC for  $\text{NO}_2$ , eBC,  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PN-PNC}$  are observed in heavy-traffic regions in both simulations.

540 ESF is defined as the ratio of PWC to the regional-scale concentrations simulated by CHIMERE. ESF is higher than 1 for all pollutants in most areas of Paris (Figure 9). The average ESF over Paris is the highest for  $\text{NO}_2$ , followed by eBC,  $\text{PN-PNC}$ , and finally  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  (Table 5). For  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , the ESF is close to 1 in Paris (1.04 in the REF simulation and 1.02 in the SEN simulation), because of the low differences between regional and local scale concentrations (Figure 7 c). This suggests that the global Parisian population exposure is reasonably well modelled for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  using regional-scale modelling with  $1 \text{ km}^2$  resolution.

545 For  $\text{NO}_2$  and eBC, the ESF is about 1.25 in Paris indicating that outdoor population exposure is underestimated by as much as 25% in Paris urban areas when considering only regional-scale concentrations. For  $\text{PN-PNC}$ , the ESF is slightly lower (1.12) in Paris. In heavy-traffic areas, such as in cells that include the very busy Paris ring road, the ESF varies from 1.27 for  $\text{NO}_2$  and 1.27 for eBC. The ESF is 1.05 for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  along the ring road, indicating that the population exposure is not well represented by regional-scale concentrations for people living next to very busy streets.



**Figure 8.** PWC of (a)  $\text{NO}_2$ , (b) eBC, (c)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and (b)  $\text{PN-PNC}$  in the REF simulation.



**Figure 9.** ESF of (a)  $\text{NO}_2$ , (b) eBC, (c)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and (b)  $\text{PN-PNC}$  in the REF simulation.

**Table 5.** Average PWC and ESF for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN-PNC over the period of simulation in Paris and Paris Ring Road. PWC is in  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for NO<sub>2</sub>, BC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and in #  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  for PN-PNC.

		PWC		ESF	
		Paris	Paris Ring road	Paris	Paris Ring Road
REF	NO <sub>2</sub>	25.34	30.14	1.26	1.27
	eBC	0.57	0.66	1.24	1.27
	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	7.12	7.57	1.04	1.05
	PNC	10963	12816	1.12	1.13
SEN	NO <sub>2</sub>	25.34	30.14	1.26	1.27
	eBC	0.52	0.59	1.22	1.25
	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	6.81	7.15	1.02	1.03
	PNC	10899	12718	1.12	1.13

## 5 Conclusion

This study focuses on modelling pollutants of interest to health (NO<sub>2</sub>, BC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN-PNC) and with high concentrations in urban areas, so as to represent the population's exposure to outdoor concentrations as accurately as possible. To do so, a multi-scale simulation is performed over Greater Paris and down to the street scale over Paris during the summer of 2022 using WRF-CHIMERE/MUNICH/SSH-aerosol. The regional-scale simulation provides a comprehensive representation of urban background concentrations, but lacks the ability to estimate fine-scale concentrations. Conversely, the street-level simulation adopts a higher spatial resolution and provides more accurate concentration estimates, which are critical for assessing population exposure. The additional computational resources required for street-scale simulation are balanced by the improved accuracy in representing spatial variability, which is essential for effective urban air quality management.

In the regional-scale modelling over Greater Paris, the use of two emission inventories was compared: the top-down inventory EMEP and the bottom-up inventory Airparif with correction of the traffic flow using counting loops. The concentrations were evaluated compared to measurements using strict and less strict criteria from the literature. For regional-scale urban background concentrations, strict criteria are met for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, eBC and PN-PNC, although the statistics are better for NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC and PN-PNC using the bottom-up inventory than the top-down one. At the street-scale, only the bottom-up inventory is used as it provides traffic emissions per street segments. By comparisons to observations at background and traffic station, the strict criteria are met for NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and eBC. As observed, the number of particles is higher on busy streets than in the urban background by a factor of between 1.8 and 3.

The concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN-PNC in Greater Paris are high in streets, particularly along the Paris Ring Road. Using the top-down inventory, the concentrations tend to be lower in streets than those simulated using the bottom-up inventory, especially for NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, resulting in less urban heterogeneities. Two estimations of the size distribution of non-exhaust emissions were compared. The impact on eBC and PM<sub>2.5</sub> is relatively low at the regional scale, by at most a

few percents. However, it is higher in heavy-traffic streets, leading to an average impact on the concentrations of eBC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PN-econcentrations-PNC by 9.5%, 6.6%, and 0.7%, respectively.

570 Population exposure to outdoor concentrations is estimated for Paris by cross-referencing the MAJIC database, which gives the number of inhabitants in each building, with the multi-scale simulations. An exposure scaling factor (ESF) is then calculated to estimate the error made by using the 1 km<sup>2</sup> resolved regional-scale concentrations to approximate outdoor concentrations. The ESF is the highest for eBC, followed by NO<sub>2</sub>, PN-PNC, and finally PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The average ESF in Paris is higher than 1 for all pollutants, which indicates that the Parisian population exposure is under-estimated using regional-scale concentrations.

575 Although this under-estimation is low for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, with an ESF of 1.04, it is very high for NO<sub>2</sub> (1.26), eBC (1.24 in REF and 1.22 in SEN), and PN-PNC (1.12). This shows that urban heterogeneities are important to be considered in order to realistically estimate the population exposure to NO<sub>2</sub>, eBC, and PN-PNC.

580 Multi-scale simulations using bottom-up traffic emissions provide innovative and detailed spatially-resolved air-quality information in urban areas. In particular, the ESF may be used to refine the evaluation of population exposure in urban areas employing regional-scale models. The methodologies and findings could be adapted to other major cities, with detailed street-scale emission inventory and street characteristics. This could be done for example, by the continuation of the modelling with the MUNICH model in several cities (Sarica et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023a; Cevolani et al., 2024). Further investigation is also needed to assess the concentrations and population exposure scaling factors for different seasons and different cities.

*Code and data availability.* The CHIMERE/MUNICH/SSH-aerosol chain used here is available online at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12639507>

585 (Park et al., 2024).

Hourly NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations measured at the Airparif' stations are available on the Airparif's Open Data Portal: <https://data-airparif-asso.opendata.arcgis.com>. Regional emissions inventory, as well as hourly BC and PNC data for Paris Châtelet Les Halles, BP-EST and HAUSS stations can be available on request. NO<sub>2</sub> and BC hourly measurements at the HdV station are available on the Aeris data center (<https://across.aerisdata.fr/catalogue/>). SMPS measurements at SIRTA during the ACROSS campaign can be found on ACROSS data 590 portal <https://across.aeris-data.fr>. Other measurements at SIRTA are performed within the framework of ACTRIS and can be found on EBAS <https://ebas.nilu.no>. Level 2 datasets used in the present study from the ACROSS field campaign for the PRG sites are available on the AERIS datacenter (<https://across.aerisdata.fr/catalogue/>). The SMPS data obtained at PRG by the SMPS are available using the following DOI 10.25326/658 on the AERIS database. This dataset has the corresponding citation KAMMER, J., SHAHIN, M., D'Anna, B. & Temime-Roussel, B. (2024). ACROSS\_LCE\_PRG\_SMPS\_5 min\_L2. [dataset]. Aeris. <https://doi.org/10.25326/658> The eBC data obtained at PRG 595 by the AE33 are available using the following DOI 10.25326/575 on the AERIS database (<https://across.aeris-data.fr/catalogue/>) This dataset has the corresponding citation Di Antonio, L., Di Biagio, C. & Gratien, A. (2023). ACROSS\_LISA\_PRG\_AETH-eBC\_PM1\_1-Min\_L2. [dataset]. Aeris. <https://doi.org/10.25326/575>.

*Author contributions.* SJP and LL prepared the input data for the CHIMERE/MUNICH model, LL and MV were responsible for the CHIMERE setup and LL performed the CHIMERE simulations. SJP performed the MUNICH simulations. SJP, LL, KS performed the

600 formal analysis. JV, FD and OS provided the regional and traffic emission inventory. OJ determined the formula to discretize the emission size distribution. SJP and YK were responsible for computing the population exposure. SJP and LL conducted the visualization. The experimental data were provided by AB and VG for the Airparif sites; by AG, CDB, LDA, BDA and JK for the PRG site; by JEP for SIRTA; by JEP and OF for the HdV site. KS was responsible for the conceptualization, funding acquisition and supervision. KS, SJP and LL wrote the original draft, and all authors reviewed it.

605 *Competing interests.* The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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## Appendix A: Size-discretisation of emissions

### A1 Partitioning into two sections by conserving both mass and number

625 Let  $M$ ,  $N$  be the mass and number concentration of particles contained in a section spanning from diameters  $d_-$  to  $d_+$ . We assume that  $M$  and  $N$  are related by

$$\underline{M = N \frac{\pi}{6} \rho \bar{d}^3}$$

$$\underbrace{M = N \frac{\pi}{6} \rho \bar{d}^3}_{\text{Equation A1}}$$
(A1)

630 with  $\bar{d} = (d_- d_+)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  the geometric mean diameter of the section boundaries.

The section defined by boundaries  $d_-$  and  $d_+$  is partitioned in two new sections. For that purpose, we define a new diameter  $d_m$  such that  $d_- < d_m < d_+$ . The first section spans from  $d_-$  to  $d_m$  with mass and number concentrations  $M_1$  and  $N_1$ , while the second section spans from  $d_m$  to  $d_+$  with mass and number concentrations  $M_2$  and  $N_2$ .

635

Assuming both mass and number conservation, implies

$$\underline{M = M_1 + M_2}$$

$$\underbrace{M = M_1 + M_2}_{\text{Equation A2}}$$
(A2)

640

$$\underline{N = N_1 + N_2}$$

$$\underbrace{N = N_1 + N_2}_{\text{Equation A3}}$$
(A3)

Furthermore, we enforce a relation similar to (A1) for each section

645  $\underline{M_1 = N_1 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

$$\underbrace{M_1 = N_1 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}}}_{\text{Equation A4}}$$
(A4)

$$\underline{M_2 = N_2 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_m d_+)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\underbrace{M_2 = N_2 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_m d_+)^{\frac{3}{2}}}_{\text{Equation A5}}$$
(A5)

650 Since we have introduced 5 new variables ( $d_m$ ,  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ ,  $N_1$ ,  $N_2$ ) and 4 new equations, we should therefore be able to express mass and number concentrations in the partitions as a function of previous variables and  $d_m$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
M_1 &= N_1 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\
&= (N - N_2) \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}} \\
&= M \sqrt{\frac{d_m^3}{d_+^3}} - M_2 \sqrt{\frac{d_-^3}{d_+^3}} \\
&= M \sqrt{\frac{d_m^3}{d_+^3}} - (M - M_1) \sqrt{\frac{d_-^3}{d_+^3}}
\end{aligned}$$

655

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = N_1 \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}} \tag{A6}$$

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = (N - N_2) \frac{\pi}{6} \rho (d_- d_m)^{\frac{3}{2}} \tag{A7}$$

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = M \sqrt{\frac{d_m^3}{d_+^3}} - M_2 \sqrt{\frac{d_-^3}{d_+^3}} \tag{A8}$$

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = M \sqrt{\frac{d_m^3}{d_+^3}} - (M - M_1) \sqrt{\frac{d_-^3}{d_+^3}} \tag{A9}$$

Therefore

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = M \frac{d_m^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}}{d_+^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}}$$

$$\underbrace{M_1}_{\sim} = M \frac{d_m^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}}{d_+^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}} \tag{A10}$$

and similarly

$$\underbrace{M_2}_{\sim} = M \frac{d_+^{3/2} - d_m^{3/2}}{d_+^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}}$$

665

$$\underbrace{M_2}_{\sim} = M \frac{d_+^{3/2} - d_m^{3/2}}{d_+^{3/2} - d_-^{3/2}} \tag{A11}$$

## A2 Partitioning into $n$ sections

We wish to upsample our initial section into  $n$  sections, defined by the boundaries  $\{d_i\}_{i \in (0, n)}$  such that  $d_{i-1} < d_i$  for all  $i \in (1, n)$ . A more general relation for partitioning into  $n$  sections can be deduced by noticing that any subsection can be obtained by performing recursively at most two partitions of the whole diameter range.

For the trivial case of the lowest and highest diameter sections, we only need one partitioning operation to deduce their concentrations :

$$M_1 = M \frac{d_1^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}$$

675

$$M_1 = M \frac{\underbrace{d_1^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}}{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}} \quad (\text{A12})$$

$$M_n = M \frac{d_n^{3/2} - d_{n-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}$$

$$M_n = M \frac{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_{n-1}^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}}{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}} \quad (\text{A13})$$

For inner sections such that  $1 < i < n$ , two successive partitioning operations are necessary. Indeed, by splitting the full diameter range on the lowest diameter of our section of interest and successively splitting the new section on the highest diameter of our section of interest, we have managed to create a section with the boundaries we wished to enforce. The section composition can therefore be inferred.

$$M_i = \left( M \frac{d_n^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}} \right) \times \frac{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}$$

685

$$M_i = \left( M \frac{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}}{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}} \right) \times \frac{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}} \quad (\text{A14})$$

$$M_i = M \frac{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}$$

$$M_i = M \frac{\underbrace{d_i^{3/2} - d_{i-1}^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}}{\underbrace{d_n^{3/2} - d_0^{3/2}}_{\sim\sim\sim\sim}} \quad (\text{A15})$$

690 Furthermore, one can easily check that equation (A15) also holds for  $i = 1$  and  $i = n$ .

### A3 Partitioning into the 10 sections used here

With the size sections employed in this study and the methodology defined above, the ratios obtained to split emissions in each size section are indicated in Table A1.

**Table A1.** Ratios employed in PM emissions to split the particle classes into the different size sections

Size section	dmin [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	dmax [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	PM class	Ratio [%]
1	0.01	0.0199	PM <sub>0.1</sub>	2.91
2	0.0199	0.0398	PM <sub>0.1</sub>	8.27
3	0.0398	0.0794	PM <sub>0.1</sub>	23.24
4	0.0794	0.1585	PM <sub>0.1</sub>	65.58
.				
5	0.1585	0.316	PM <sub>1</sub>	26.14
6	0.316	0.631	PM <sub>1</sub>	73.86
7	0.631	1.256	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	26.26
8	1.256	2.5	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	73.74
9	2.5	5	PM <sub>10</sub>	26.12
10	5	10	PM <sub>10</sub>	73.88

## Appendix B: Speciation and calculation of emissions

### 695 B1 Non-Traffic Emissions

Anthropogenic emissions are provided for ten different Standard Nomenclature for Air Pollution (SNAP) categories (Tagaris et al., 2015) for NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>. NO<sub>x</sub> is speciated as 90% NO and 10% NO<sub>2</sub> for all non-traffic categories (Sartelet et al., 2012; Menut et al., 2021; Lugon et al., 2021a). The speciation of coarse and fine PM emissions follows the CAMS set-up (Kuenen et al., 2021), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are speciated following Passant (2002). The 700 emissions of condensables, i.e. the sum of intermediate, semi and low volatility organic compounds (IVOC, SVOC, and LVOC, respectively) are estimated by multiplying primary organic matter emitted in each SNAP by 2.5 (Couvidat et al., 2012; Sartelet et al., 2018). Condensable emissions are then divided into volatility classes (32% in IVOC, 43% in SVOC and 25% in LVOC).

The vertical distribution of non-traffic emissions follows Bieser et al. (2011). In the Airparif inventory, a specific analysis was applied to determine the vertical profiles of plane emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and VOCs for the three airports (Charles-de-Gaulle (CDG), Paris-Orly (ORY), and Paris-Le Bourget (LBG)) located in Île-de-France (Figure B1). The dataset used for this analysis was obtained from detailed information on flight trajectories for each airport. Specifically, the flight paths were represented as clouds of points in three dimensions (x, y, z), where the altitude (z) was rounded to the nearest 25 meters. The emissions from each airport and pollutant were then summed up to determine the altitudes at which they were produced, and this information was used to create vertical profiles of emissions. These vertical profiles are used to distribute vertically the

710 emissions on the CHIMERE vertical levels. Figure B1 shows the vertical  $\text{NO}_2$  and BC emissions profiles at the three airports. Note that the average  $\text{NO}_2$  ( $0.37 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and BC ( $0.04 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) emissions at the lowest height near the airports are much lower than vehicle emissions of  $\text{NO}_2$  ( $1.65 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and BC ( $0.08 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) averaged over Greater Paris.

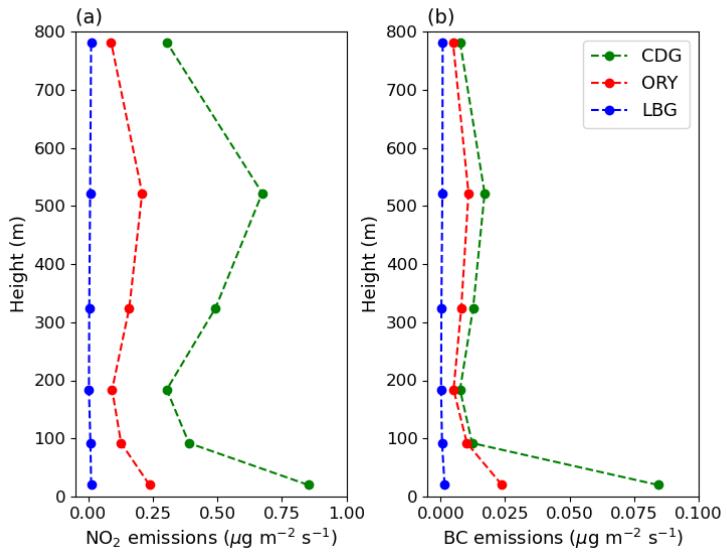


Figure B1. Vertical profiles of the average (a)  $\text{NO}_2$  and (b) BC emissions at the airports.

## B2 Traffic emissions

715 The road traffic emissions data were calculated by Airparif using the HEAVEN system, originally developed in 2001 as part of the European project of the same name in partnership with the road traffic management departments of the City of Paris and the Direction Régionale de l'Equipement d'Ile-de-France. Since then, this system has been regularly updated on all its components: emission factors, vehicle fleets, traffic model, real-time counting, network, etc., in order to have the most recent information on vehicle emissions in the Paris region.

720 The traffic emissions are calculated hourly for each street and road segment for June and July 2022 over Île-de-France. The traffic emissions inventory was categorized based on emission types (combustion, tire wear, road wear, brake wear, and evaporation), fuel types (electric, gasoline, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, and Compressed Natural Gas), vehicle types, and Crit'Air classification. In France, the Crit'Air sticker classifies vehicles according to the fine particles and levels of nitrogen oxide that they emit. The vehicle types include passenger vehicles (VP), utility vehicles (VU), heavy vehicles (PL), trailers (TC), and two-wheeled vehicles (2R). The Crit'Air classification depends on the fuel type and the age of the vehicle, as 725 determined from the Euro Norm. The European emission standards (Euro Norm) of the vehicles are estimated from the

information on fuel type and Crit'Air classification. Information about the different categories is used to speciate the emissions of the inventory.

The NOx emissions on each road are speciated into NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HONO, depending on the Euro Norm of the vehicles and using speciation from the EMEP guidelines (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023b). The average speciation into NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and HONO for traffic exhaust emission is 88.5%, 10.6%, and 0.9%, respectively. The traffic emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and BC are illustrated in Figure B2. As expected, emissions are higher during rush hours. Also, NO<sub>2</sub> and BC emissions at the BP\_EST station, which is next to a heavy-traffic road, are higher than at the HAUSS station (City center). At the city center, NO<sub>2</sub> emissions are clearly higher during weekdays than on weekends.

The traffic PM emitted from combustion are assumed to be of diameters lower than 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (PM<sub>1</sub>) and to be composed of organic matter (OM) and black carbon (BC). The OM/BC ratios differ according to the vehicle fuel, and follow the values proposed in Kostenidou et al. (2021): PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions are speciated as 75% of BC and 25% of OM for diesel, while 25% of BC and 75% of OM for gasoline and LPG. The traffic PM emitted from non-exhaust sources are speciated in OM, BC, and inert particles as described in the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook. The speciation of Non-Methane VOC follows Theloke and Friedrich (2007), which defines different speciations for gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. For traffic emissions, the emitted OM is assumed to correspond to LVOC. IVOC and SVOC speciated are speciated based on ratios of Non-methane hydrocarbon emissions, which varies according to the vehicle fuel (Sarica et al., 2023).

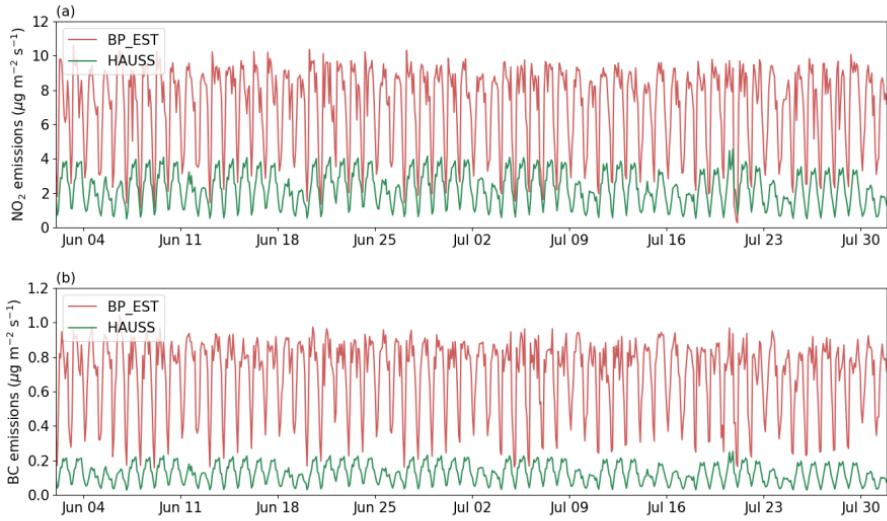
The PM emitted from non-exhaust sources (tire, brake, and road wear) are classified as fine (PM<sub>1</sub>, PM<sub>1–2.5</sub>) and coarse (PM<sub>2.5–10</sub>) particles. They are speciated according to the EMEP guideline (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023a), as detailed in Table B1.

Specifically for the simulations using the EMEP emission inventory, as no detailed information is available regarding exhaust and non-exhaust emissions, as well as vehicle categories, the CAMS traffic speciation is employed for PM, and NOx emissions are assumed 90% of NO and 10% of NO<sub>2</sub>. Also, the total IVOC, SVOC, and LVOC are estimated by multiplying primary organic matter emitted from traffic by 2.5 (Couvidat et al., 2012; Sartelet et al., 2018). For traffic emissions, this total is splitted between 51% of IVOC, 14% of SVOC, and 35% of LVOC.

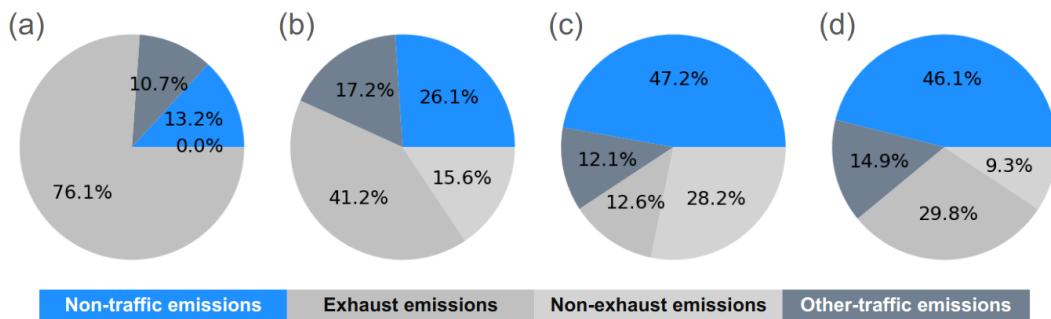
**Table B1.** Chemical composition of particles emitted from traffic non-exhaust sources (Leonidas Ntziachristos, 2023a)

	PM <sub>1</sub>			PM <sub>1–2.5</sub>			PM <sub>2.5–10</sub>		
	Tire	Brake	Road	Tire	Brake	Road	Tire	Brake	Road
BC (%)	30	80	0	21	2	0	0	0	0
OM (%)	70	20	0	48	8	0	0	0	0
Dust (%)	0	0	100	31	90	100	100	100	100

Although street-scale emissions are directly used as input of the street-network model MUNICH, emissions over Greater Paris are gridded, such as being used as input of the CHIMERE model to simulate urban background concentrations.



**Figure B2.** Time series for (a) NO<sub>2</sub> and (b) BC emissions at the HAUSS (city center) and BP\_EST (heavy-traffic) stations

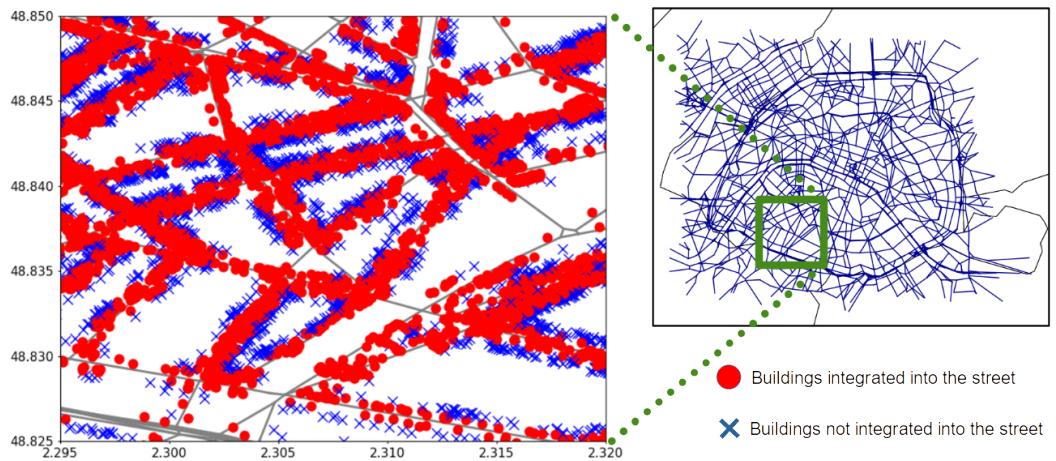


**Figure C1.** Distribution between vehicular traffic (exhaust and non-exhaust), other traffic and non-traffic emissions for NOx (a), BC (b), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (c), and PNC (d) in Paris.

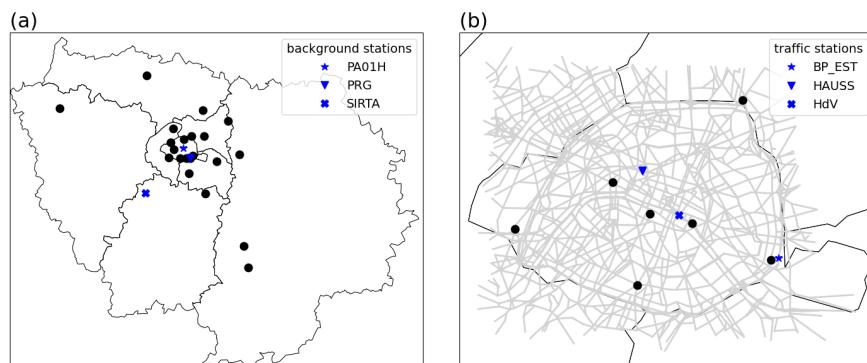
### Appendix C: Supplementary figures

Distribution between vehicular traffic (exhaust and non-exhaust), other traffic and non-traffic emissions for NOx (a), BC (b), PM<sub>2.5</sub> (c), and PN (d) in Paris.

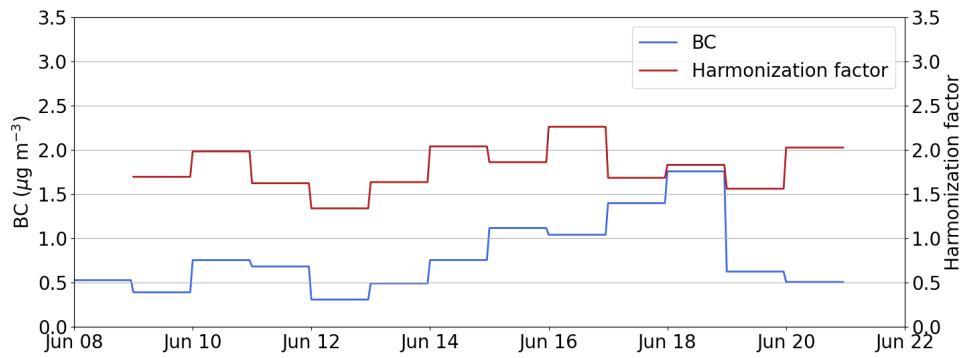
755      **Relative difference (%) in (a) eBC, (b) PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and (c) PN concentrations between the SEN and REF simulations.**  
 The distribution of buildings according to their integration into the street. The red circles indicate buildings integrated into the street, while the blue crosses indicate buildings that are not integrated into the street.



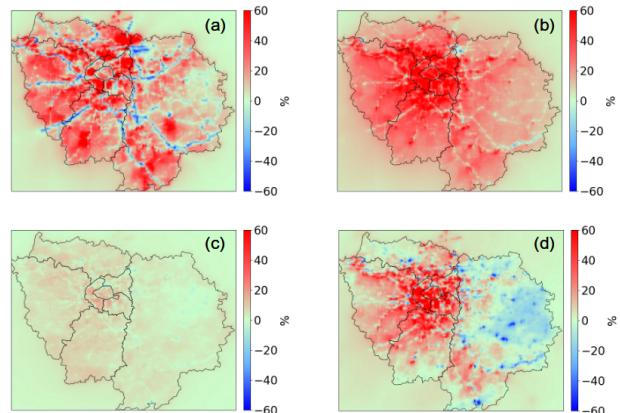
**Figure C2.** The distribution of buildings according to their integration into the street. The red circles indicate buildings integrated into the street, while the blue crosses indicate buildings that are not integrated into the street.



**Figure C3.** (a) Urban background and (b) traffic stations. Black dots represent the other Airparif stations used in this study.



**Figure C4.** Time series of BC mass and harmonization factor at the PA01H station.



**Figure C5.** Relative differences (%) in (a)  $\text{NO}_2$ , (b) eBC, (b)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and (d)  $\text{PN}$  concentrations between the EMEP and REF simulations.

## Appendix D: Statistical parameters

### D1 Definitions

$$760 \quad FB = 2 \cdot \left( \frac{\bar{O} - \bar{S}}{\bar{O} + \bar{S}} \right)$$

$$MG = \exp[\bar{\ln(O)} - \bar{\ln(S)}]$$

$$NMSE = \sqrt{\frac{(O-S)^2}{\bar{O} \cdot \bar{S}}}$$

$$VG = \exp[(\bar{\ln(O)} - \bar{\ln(S)})^2]$$

$$NAD = \frac{|\bar{O} - \bar{S}|}{\bar{O} + \bar{S}}$$

$$765 \quad FAC2 = \text{fraction of data that satisfy: } 0.5 \leq \frac{S}{O} \leq 2.0$$

$$NMB = \frac{(S-O)}{\bar{O}}$$

$$NME = \frac{|(S-O)|}{\bar{O}}$$

where O and S represent the observed and simulated concentrations, respectively.

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