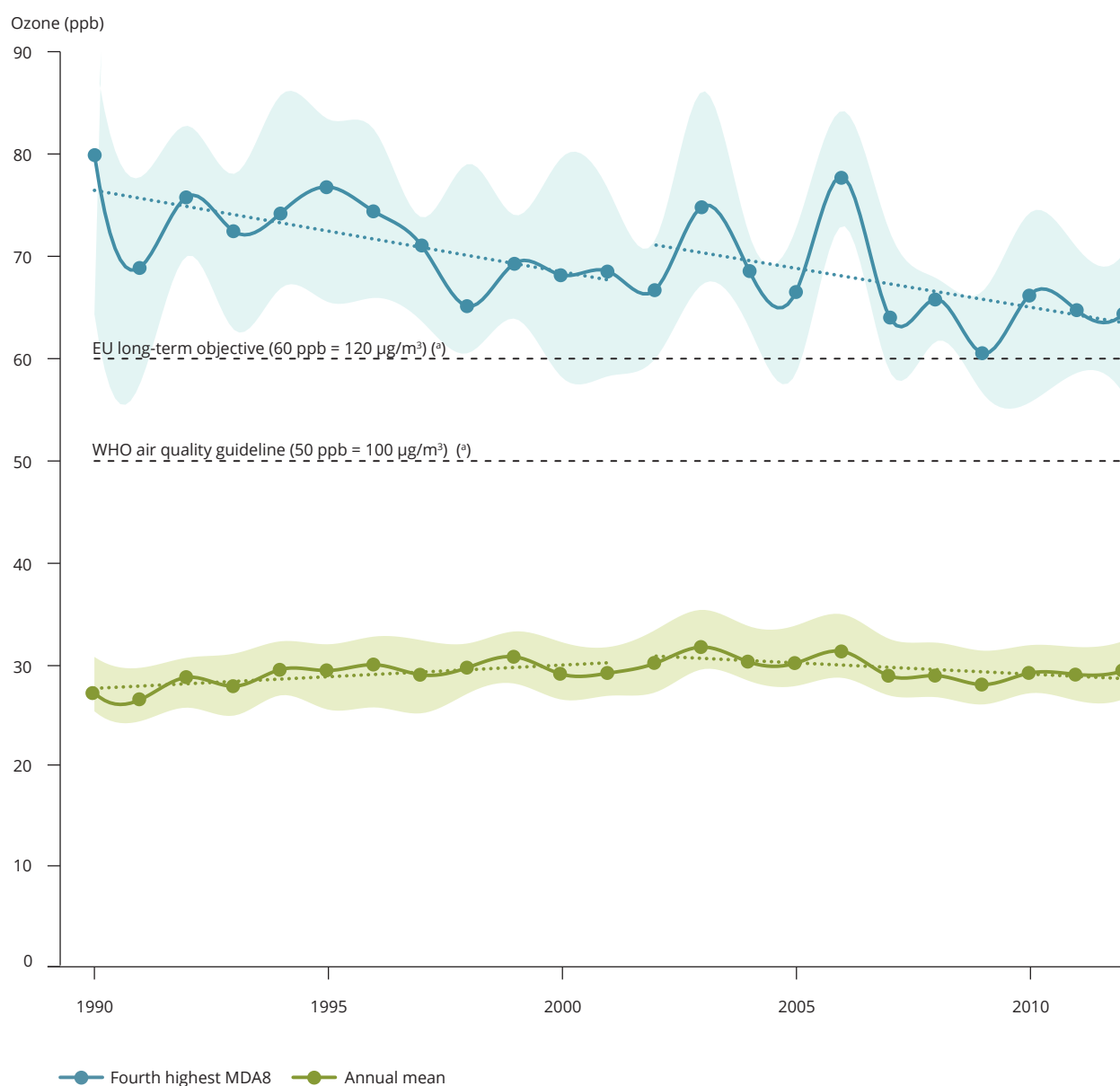


Figure 5.2 Ozone annual mean (green) and peaks (blue) recorded at 55 EMEP rural sites in 1990-2012



Source: EMEP, 2016.

Notes: Fourth highest MDA8 represents the fourth highest daily maximum of the 8-hour running mean and is used as an indicator of ozone peaks.

^(a) For more information, see Tables 1.1 and 1.3.

In conclusion, for the annual mean concentrations, increases were widespread in the 1990s and constant levels were observed in the 2000s; however, an encouraging trend in the reduction in the O₃ peak was observed in Europe during the period 1990-2012. The levels remain, however, above the WHO air quality guideline (50 ppb = 100 µg/m³) and the EU long-term objective (60 ppb = 120 µg/m³),

indicating that further efforts are needed. There is also a discrepancy between observed O₃ trends (10 % reduction between 2001 and 2012) and emission changes (30% reduction over the same period 2001-2012). Even so, it can be stated with confidence that the decreasing trend in O₃ was mainly caused by the reduction in the European emissions of O₃ precursors.