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Editorial

Europe's opportunities for cleaner air and healthier environments

Air pollution is a significant public health issue, a largely-preventable, pandemic-level health event, allowed to continue each and every day in Europe and around the world. Poor air quality is the most significant environmental risk factor that Europeans suffer. Among a range of health effects, poor air quality leads to premature mortality, with more than 300,000 people in Europe estimated to die every year. Evidence continues to mount for the effects of bad air quality, both in the outside environments, and within our indoor environments, above the effects indicated in the 2021 update of the World Health Organization Guidelines.

Luckily, Europe has a greener, cleaner future in mind. Actions and policies towards carbon emission reduction and zero pollution by 2050 have seen a raft of policy updates which are aimed at, and will, benefit air quality. The Ambient Air Quality Directives, the Euro 7 and CO₂ Vehicle Emissions Standards, the Ten-T Framework, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, all could drastically impact the quality of European air[CP1] if implemented well and with ambition and health in mind, so that the worrying level of health impact that breathing degraded air causes can be reduced.

EPHA and partners have been working in a number of sectors where intervention will lead to cleaner air, better health and more sustainable futures. EPHA and partners like the European Respiratory Society have been working for a high-ambition Ambient Air Quality Directive to be put in place by the EU that fully aligns with the latest WHO recommendations. EPHA and Italian Association of Doctors for the Environment have been raising awareness about the effects of gas cooking, with evidence highlighting that the switch to electric cooking will improve air quality in homes, and reduce health impacts, especially on children. EPHA and the Polish Society for Health Programs have been advocating for clean transport interventions and smart mobility strategies, so that people can access movement in a way that benefits both health and environment, with a focus on equity and sustainability.

Advocating for the provision of clean air is an important part of EPHA's work. There is so much to gain, and so much morbidity and mortality that could be prevented from

interventions to better air quality. The co-benefits for health and environment are dramatic and will benefit all. We don't do this alone though, we work with a diverse network of members, partners, organisations and stakeholders. Together, we can move towards a cleaner, healthier future where people are protected from breathing bad air.



Cale Lawlor
Policy Coordinator for
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This Month's Top Stories



The Ambient Air Quality Directive: the path towards improved air quality in the EU

By the European Respiratory Society

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Cooking with gas: the invisible effects on health, an Italian case study

By the Italian Association of Doctors for the Environment

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Urban mobility and clean air in Poland - what can we improve?

By the Polish Society for Health Programs

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Giving Health a Voice - Podcast

Why should one care about the new EU pharma law?

Have you ever been to the pharmacy and couldn't find the medicine you were looking for? Have you or your doctor struggled to find a medicine for you? Do you wonder why there are good new medicines for some diseases and no alternatives for others? In this episode, we delve into the revision of the EU's pharmaceutical framework and discuss its history and importance.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Latest Events

DisQo: anti-discrimination & health equity

Through a series of webinars, the DisQo Thematic Network explored some of the key priorities that the network identified as areas where action is required, including language and definitions, equality data, and the breaking down of silos.



The importance of language & definitions

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The importance of equality data

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Time for action!

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EPHA Updates



Revising the EU pharmaceutical legislation and putting People before (Pharma) Profits

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Food Policy Coalition manifesto: Making sustainable food a political priority

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People living with obesity face discrimination which can exacerbate the effects of the disease

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EU Roma Framework: Next steps for Member States to work towards Roma health equity

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Evidence-based recommendations for a comprehensive approach to mental health

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Organisations across sectors call for stronger action against racism and discrimination

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The European Health Data Space must prioritise public needs over profit

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Ensuring equitable crisis resilience with a social European Semester

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Greater resilience needed to manage risks and protect all from disasters

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News From Members

European Association of Hospital Pharmacists

EAFP and its members welcome the publication of the General Pharmaceutical Legislation which also marks the start of the negotiation process for this crucial piece of EU legislation. Despite the draft Regulation and the draft Directive being very comprehensive, further amendments should be considered by the legislators.

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Wemos

Member States of the World Health Organization and other health actors adopted and signed the Bucharest Declaration on the Health and Care Workforce

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European AIDS Treatment Group

EATG shares response to the European Commission consultation on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers

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European Alcohol Policy Alliance

Alcohol marketing restrictions are necessary because standard alcohol marketing techniques increase alcohol consumption, which increases risk and harm.

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Alcohol Action Ireland

Strong connections between alcohol and domestic abuse found once again in studies from Ireland & Australia

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Association of European Coeliac Societies

Study revealed a notable and concerning increase in the prevalence of several digestive diseases since 2000,

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British Society of Lifestyle Medicine

It's Stress Awareness Month and BSLM wants to help raise awareness of the issues by providing 5 tips for stress management

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AGE Platform Europe

Raising political awareness of ageism and proposal for a European Age Equality Strategy

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Eurochild

Good quality data is a key building block for ensuring effective foster care: Reflections from Ireland

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Cancer Research UK

Enter Cancer Research UK's Race for Life and raise money for life-saving cancer research.

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EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: [18941013532-08](#)

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