

Editorial

Health and Climate Action: The One Health Approach in EU Initiatives

Health and environmental stakeholders have been closely following the recent changeover in EU leadership with apprehension and a central question in mind: What will become of the EU's ambitions to enhance and protect the wellbeing of both our health and our planet? As the EU looks forward to a new College of European Commissioners, with a renewed mission, we at EPHA are optimistic about the renewed focus on fostering healthier environments and tackling the climate crisis. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with new and returning decision-makers to realise the shared mission of advancing climate and health co-benefits.

The clock is ticking. The [summer of 2023 was the hottest on record worldwide](#), and [early data](#) for spring 2024 from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reveal that these record-breaking temperatures are not relenting. In June 2024, severe floods in Germany caused tragic loss of life and considerable economic damage. As extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, reliable information on climate-related health risks and impacts is crucial for guiding effective policy decisions.

Yet, climate change is more than an environmental issue; it is a profound public health challenge. Its impacts range from worsening people's health to exacerbating the strain on European healthcare systems. In particular, the syndemic [nature of climate change and NCDs](#) presents a significant challenge that demands policy attention – with a complex interplay of factors amplifying their combined impacts and creating a more severe public health crisis. Since the late 2000s, the EU has prioritised climate change mitigation and adaptation, though ambition in setting mitigation targets has sometimes lagged. Importantly, the EU's climate action integrates a broad definition of health and well-being, encompassing physical diseases, equity concerns, and mental health. The launch of a dedicated [European Climate and Health Observatory](#) in early 2024 is a welcome step towards better tracking and responding to these interconnected issues.

Recognising the complexity and urgency of the climate crisis, the EU has embraced a comprehensive [One Health approach](#) that underscores the interconnectedness between human, animal and plant health. This approach inherently promotes cross-sectoral collaboration, essential for meeting the [EU's target of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030](#). One Health is now at the core of coordinated efforts across five key EU Agencies, with a recent [framework](#) standing as a crucial tool for enhancing EU-wide cooperation to respond on climate action, food safety, and environmental sustainability. By viewing challenges and policies through the One Health lens, policymakers and civil society can foster the alignment of industry practices with human and environmental wellbeing.

As the EU moves forward with climate efforts adopting comprehensive approaches, it is imperative that our growing knowledge on climate and health risks and the related political commitments translate into concrete actions. This requires collaboration across sectors, disciplines, and borders, with active involvement from civil society to ensure progress is inclusive and effective. By fostering innovation and implementing integrated policies, we can safeguard both public health and the environment.

In this spirit, we are excited to present EPHA's opinion piece on linking the EU's climate and cardiovascular health priorities in this edition of our newsletter, alongside guest articles from ISDE Italia, the Royal College of Nurses, and the European Cancer Organisation. Highlighting the crucial work of our members and allies, these contributions underscore the urgent need for integrated climate and health action across disease areas and healthcare specialties.



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This Month's Top Stories

The impact of climate change on health in Italy: challenges, opportunities, and ISDE's role

By International Society of Doctors for Environment (ISDE) and EPHA

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How can the EU align climate action and health objectives? A focus on cardiovascular health

By Sara Bertucci and Alessandro Gallina, EPHA

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Health and Climate Action: Tackling Air Pollution and its Impact on Cancer

By Riccardo Moschetti, Policy Officer, European Cancer Organisation

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EPHA Updates



EPHA's participation in the public consultation on SRIA for EP brain health

EPHa is pleased to have participated in the public consultation on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the European Partnership for Brain Health (EP BrainHealth). We commend the comprehensive approach outlined in the SRIA and appreciate the opportunity to contribute.

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Large Language Models have a moral compass. What does this entail for public health?

Large Language Models (LLMs) are advanced AI systems used in healthcare for tasks like managing clinical documents and answering patient questions. Though not regulated as medical tools, they carry biases reflecting young, educated, Western liberal perspectives. Understanding these biases is crucial for informed AI use in health contexts.

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EPHA Events

AMR
STAKEHOLDER
NETWORK



Save the date for the AMR Stakeholder meeting on 10 September 2024, 9:30 until 11:30 AM

The AMR Stakeholder Network brings together more than **60 leading organisations and individuals** committed to tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at national, regional and European level, covering all dimensions of the 'One Health' approach.

[READ MORE](#)

Join our ROBUST event on 2nd October

Are you interested in what we can learn from adaptation and innovation during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Join the ROBUST project team in Brussels on 2nd October, where you will hear about cutting-edge research into crisis governance in the public sector, followed by a workshop and networking lunch.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Clean Cooking for Public Health Webinar recording

Boost your public health advocacy techniques! Watch our webinar recording to learn effective strategies for advocating clean cooking. Discover how to communicate the health impacts of gas cooking and tackle indoor air quality issues with policymakers and media.

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)



Handover policy recommendations on the post-2025 EU Anti-racism Action Plan

During this event, which celebrated the International Day of People of African Descent, the consultation report from the "Right to Health of People of African Descent" conference was formally handed over to the European Commission.

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

News From Members



European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health (Euronet MRPH)

Join our online workshop on September 3rd, 11am-13pm, "**From Advocacy to Policy: Implementing Knowledge into Action**", featuring Dr. Barbara Hoffmann, an expert in environmental epidemiology and key figure in revising the EU Air Quality Directive.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Health Effects Institute (HEI)

The State of Global Air 2024 report is live!

Join the conversation on #CleanAirForAll by diving into the latest data on PM2.5, NO2, & ozone exposures and their impacts on global health.

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European Cancer Organisation (ECO)

New manifesto aims to address disastrous impact of armed conflict on cancer care.

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European Lung Foundation

Healthy Lungs for Life Grant Awardees 2024.

[READ MORE](#)

Health Care Without Harm Europe

We invite you to CleanMed Lille 2024, an in-person event taking place on 26 September in Lille, France.

[READ MORE](#)

Other News



SynAir-G Workshop Series: Improving indoor air quality for healthier children

Register for Episode 2 of the SynAir-G Workshop Series, which will place on 7 October 2024 at 17:30 to 19:00 CEST | 16:30 to 18:00 CEST.

The workshop series aims to introduce and discuss the latest achievements of the SynAir-G project and highlight the importance of indoor air quality in schools, its impact on children's wellbeing, and potential applications in Research and Development.

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Toxic-free Europe now!

Did you know Belgium has among the highest levels of PFAS pollution in Europe?

It's time to #BanPFAS to protect health and the environment. Visit our interactive map to learn how citizens and civil society groups in Belgium are taking action, and sign the petition.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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