



# NEWSLETTER



WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL at the GERMAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

No. 60 - February 2018

## EDITORIAL

### Better Health through a better Environment

'Better health. Better environment. Sustainable choices' was the motto of the Sixth Ministerial Conference for Environment and Health, held in June 2017 in Ostrava, Czech Republic. Since the beginning of this European-wide policy process, which started with the adoption of the Environment and Health Charter during its first conference 1989 in Frankfurt/Main, considerable improvements in environmental health have been reached here and there, but not in all parts of the WHO European Region.

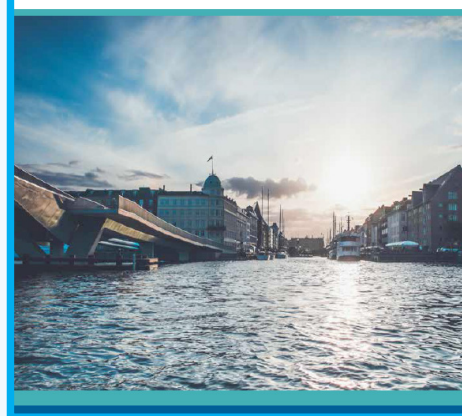
There are still existing well-known environmental health risk factors, such as a lack of access to safe water and sanitation, improper waste management and contaminated sites or air pollution and dangerous chemicals, which continue to adversely impact Europeans' health. Beside the environmental burden resulting from regional human activities, the severe deterioration of the Earth's biosphere and climate is recognized as a global impact with far-reaching implications for the practice of environment and health and public health at large. Until today heterogeneity remains significant between countries in the WHO European Region concerning environmental factors, health impacts, policies and governance. European countries continue to share important common agendas, e.g. on sustainable development (SDGs) and on cities as key places for health.

It is projected that more than 80 % of the European population will live in urban areas by 2030. Today, in European cities that monitor ambient air pollution (about 1800 cities in 42 countries) urban annual  $PM_{10}$  concentrations generally exceed the WHO Air Quality Guideline value. The annual average level in cities in European high-income countries was  $25 \mu g/m^3$ , whereas it was  $55 \mu g/m^3$  in cities in European middle or low-income countries. In conclusion, one year of life expectancy is lost for every person in the WHO European Region due to exposure to particulate matter (PM). This is mostly due to the increased risk of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and lung cancer.



*Better Health. Better Environment. Sustainable Choices.*

Environment and health for  
European cities in the 21st century:  
making a difference



**Source:** [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/341615/bookletdef.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/341615/bookletdef.pdf?ua=1)

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That's why cities are driving for a transition towards a low-carbon society, to promote and protect public health, as well as to prevent and mitigate socioeconomic inequalities among urban dwellers. Urban areas are responsible to manage a web of resources, such as energy, materials and waste, ecological systems, water and food, and to deliver better health through better environments for growing urban populations. Sustainable and healthy urban development is the core of the WHO European policy framework and strategy for health and well-being for the 21st century (Health 2020).

The 2017 Ostrava Declaration summarizes the Environment and Health priorities in the WHO European Region, provides tools to Member States to develop national portfolios for action, which they have committed to develop by the end of 2018 and introduce new institutional arrangements for the European Environment and Health Process that should come into force in 2018 ([http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/341944/OstravaDeclaration\\_SIGNED.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/341944/OstravaDeclaration_SIGNED.pdf?ua=1) ).

Further information on this topic can be obtained from:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health>

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health>

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/pages/european-environment-and-health-process-ehp/environment-and-health-in-europe-status-and-perspectives>

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## **ABOUT**

The NEWSLETTER is published twice a year by the WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL, located at the GERMAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY.

It is circulated in 2000 issues and distributed to readers in more than 50 countries. Additionally, the NEWSLETTER is published on our website (see link below) to be downloaded as pdf. The NEWSLETTER does not constitute formal publications; it should not be reviewed, abstracted or quoted without prior permission. Authors alone are responsible for their articles.

## **NOTE**

We appreciate articles and contributions concerning the subject of  
Air Quality Management and Air Pollution Control.  
Due to the abuse of e-mail addresses the symbol @ is replaced by [at]!

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## AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF GERMANY

Katharina Lenz, Sonja Otto, Rita Willing und Ralph Wollmann

### The Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

In the year 2000, the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUB) launched its Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) to support capacity building in the fields of environmental policy and environmental technology in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia which had started already in the early 1990s. Since 2015, further countries adjoining the EU in the Mediterranean region as well as Mongolia have been added to the target region of AAP (<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/sustainability-strategies-international/cooperation-eeca-centraleastern-european-states/federal-environment-ministrys-advisory-assistance>). The purpose of the programme is the exchange and transfer of knowledge and experience to the target region in order to strengthen environmental administration bodies, raise environmental standards and prepare for environmental investments.

#### Target region of the Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

**Central and Eastern Europe:** Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

**Caucasus region:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

**Central Asia:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan as well as Mongolia

**Mediterranean region:** Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey

The AAP supports the countries in its target region in a development which is aligned to European environmental standards. This includes the promotion of the ratification and implementation of multilateral agreements and obligations, in particular within the frame of UNECE. New EU member states and EU accession candidates are mainly advised on the environmental part of the EU community law.

UBA, together with other higher federal environment authorities and on behalf of BMUB, uses its wide competence spectrum and the considerable technical qualifications of its staff to guarantee a high quality for advisory assistance projects. AAP and UBA thus contribute towards improving the environmental situation in the programme area, towards intensifying cooperation with the countries in this area, and establishing new cooperation projects. The involvement of international organisations in AAP projects facilitates the achievement of multilateral, far-reaching benefits from the project results.

Multilateral environment agreements are vital instruments in the promotion of environmental protection worldwide. Concerning Air Quality Protection and Management the AAP and its projects provide active support for implementing the following UNECE Conventions:

- UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer.



## Two selected AAP examples on Air Quality Protection

### *Advice on air quality measures and air quality monitoring in Bulgaria*

Two AAP projects have started recently, in order to address air quality-related challenges in Bulgaria.

The first AAP project addresses the reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> levels. Exceeded levels of PM<sub>10</sub> are a major air pollution problem in Bulgaria. All 28 municipalities with poor air quality for this indicator have developed and implemented updated air quality plans to reduce pollutants and achieve the established limit values. The duration of these plans ends in 2017, 2018 or 2020. All of them formally meet format and content requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC, indicate the main sources of pollution and propose measures to reduce levels of PM<sub>10</sub>, but implementing identified measures is still a challenge. Therefore, the objective of the AAP project 'Advice on selected measures for air quality control' (from 09/2017 to 06/2019) is to increase the knowledge in particular fields related to air quality management, e.g. in defining and managing low-emissions zones. It shall also transfer knowledge and facilitate relevant employees of the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water, of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water and of Bulgarian municipalities in better implementing air quality plans and their measures. Relevant actors shall obtain know-how to adapt and apply measures according to the specific framework conditions in Bulgaria.

The AAP project 'Improving air quality monitoring at rural background stations' (from 09/2017 to 06/2019) shall support Bulgaria in implementing the EU Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC as well as the Commission Implementing Decision 2011/850/EU in the field of air quality monitoring, in order to protect its environment through a more qualified air data measurement, assessment and reporting. For this purpose, it shall strengthen the technical capacities of the Bulgarian Executive Environment Agency to assess and report ambient air quality data from its rural background stations to the European Environment Agency. In detail, the project intends to develop, inter alia, a technical report on the rural background stations, recommendations for improvements and a measuring strategy for air quality monitoring at rural background stations in Bulgaria.

## Further development of air quality control planning and air quality monitoring in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)

In Mongolia air pollution is a considerable problem. In particular inhabitants of the capital Ulaanbaatar are suffering from extremely high particulate matter concentrations during wintertime. The pollution comes mainly from areas with yurts (Mongolian: gers) and little huts where in traditional stoves raw coal and wood is burned producing strong smoke. In 2015, UBA assigned an expert to identify potential approaches to intensify the bilateral cooperation with the Mongolian partners on air quality control.

Based on the results, in 2017 UBA started a project in co-operation with the Mongolian Governmental Implementing Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring. Main aim of this project (to be implemented until March 2019) is to advance the efforts of improving air quality particularly with regard to the particulate matter concentration during wintertime in Ulaanbaatar. For that purpose, staff members of administrations and institutions on national and municipal level should be advised to enhance the analysis of existing data sets. In addition to existing monitoring programs, a modeling approach will be developed in order to allow the Mongolian experts to estimate the source apportionment of airborne concentrations as well as the influence of meteorology and orography on the pollutant dispersion. With this instrument, Mongolian experts will be enabled to derive measures for air quality plans and





urban development planning. Furthermore, the German consultants will prepare a guideline for the further development of air quality plans and the air quality monitoring in Ulaanbataar as well as develop seminar concepts to train local and national authorities.

## **AAP takes impact and continues**

A Project Service Unit at the German Environment Agency (UBA) acts as a contact partner for developing and facilitating the implementation of AAP projects. UBA provides on its website a database which contains further information on most of the ongoing and completed AAP projects as well as, in some cases, project results and links to further documents for download (please see <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/sustainability-strategies-international/cooperation-eeca-centraleastern-european-states/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme>).

There is still a high demand for advice and for a transfer of know-how which has also been reaching the AAP from the new partner countries since the expansion of the programme area, showing that AAP meets the needs of its target countries. Therefore, AAP will continue to remain committed to long-term solutions for the protection of our environment.

For further information please see the AAP brochure: [https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/advisory\\_assistance\\_programme.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/advisory_assistance_programme.pdf), and [https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/programma\\_konsultacionnoy\\_pomoshchi.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/programma_konsultacionnoy_pomoshchi.pdf)

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## NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS

## Preventing, detecting and cleaning up mould

Mould infestation is one of the most frequent indoor problems. If it is not cleaned up it can trigger or worsen respiratory diseases such as asthma or cause allergic reaction. December 2017, the German Environment Agency (UBA) published the re-edited and updated mould manual which offers tips and advice on treating mould growth in buildings.

The main cause of mould formation is always excessive humidity. This may be due to structural conditions, for example if water penetrates the building through damages on the facade or when condensation occurs indoors due to lacking or improperly installed insulation. In this case only remediation measures will help. Dampness also occurs when residents do laundry or take showers. They can do something about the situation by ventilating and heating properly and regularly. Once mould has formed indoors it is important to determine the cause. If infestation is large-scale it is wise to call a professional company. Residents can often clean up smaller patches for known causes themselves.

The updated UBA manual on the prevention, detection and clean-up of mould infestation in buildings [*Leitfaden zur Vorbeugung, Erfassung und Sanierung von Schimmelbefall in Gebäuden*] explains the best ways to detect both visible and invisible mould, what home owners and residents can do to prevent and clean up mould, and how professionals should approach the problem. The mould manual was developed by the Indoor Air Hygiene Commission (IRK) at UBA in collaboration with external experts (<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/preventing-detecting-cleaning-up-mould>); at present published in German language only).

## WHO fact sheet on climate change updated

During the last century, human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – have released sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to trap additional heat in the lower atmosphere and affect the global climate. In the last 130 years, the world has warmed by approximately 0.85°C. Each of the last 3 decades has been successively warmer than any preceding decade since 1850. Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising and precipitation patterns are changing. Extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent. Although global warming may bring some localized benefits, such as fewer winter deaths in temperate climates and increased food production in certain areas, the overall health effects of a changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative. Climate change affects social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.

The 2017 updated key facts are (source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs266/en/>):

- Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.
- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250.000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- The direct damage costs to health (i.e. excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation), is estimated to be between US\$ 2-4 billion/year by 2030.
- Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.





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- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy-use choices can result in improved health, particularly through reduced air pollution.

## Climate Change Eurobarometer survey results released

In March 2017, the Special Eurobarometer 459 on Climate Change was conducted on request by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication. Previous rounds of this Climate Change Eurobarometer survey were carried out in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015.

This latest edition of the report covers four main areas:

- Perceptions of climate change: where climate change ranks alongside other global challenges, and how serious the problem of climate change itself is considered to be;
- Taking action on climate change: who has primary responsibility for addressing the problem, and personal steps taken to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Attitudes to fighting climate change and reducing fossil fuel imports: whether fighting climate change, reducing fossil fuel imports and promoting EU expertise in clean technologies is considered good for the economy; and whether more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means subsidies to fossil fuels are reduced;
- Looking to the future: whether national governments should set targets for renewable energy, and whether they should support energy efficiency.

The most important results are:

- Around three-quarters of European Union (EU) citizens (74 %) consider climate change to be a very serious problem and more than nine in ten (92 %) see it as a serious problem.
- The share of respondents seeing climate change as a very serious problem has risen by 5 % percentage points (pp) since the previous Eurobarometer survey in 2015 (69 %).
- The proportion of respondents who consider climate change to be the most serious global problem has increased since 2015 in six Member States, notably in the Netherlands (27 %, +11 pp), Spain (13 %, +5 pp) and Estonia (9 %, +3 pp).
- Climate change is now seen as the third most serious global problem, after poverty, hunger and lack of drinking water (28 %) and international terrorism (24 %).
- As in 2015, there are some notable regional variations. Climate change is seen as the single most serious problem facing the world in Sweden (38 %) and Denmark (29 %), while this view is held by fewer than one in ten respondents in parts of Eastern and Southern Europe.
- Nearly half of EU citizens say they have personally taken action to fight climate change in the past six months (49 %), yet when given examples this rises to 90 %. E.g. over seven in ten (71 %) reduce their waste and regularly separate it for recycling.
- Over four in ten respondents (43 %) think national governments are responsible for tackling climate change, while just under four in ten think the EU (39 %) and business and industry (38 %) have responsibility.
- A large majority of EU citizens agree that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can boost the economy and jobs in the EU (79 %) and that promoting EU expertise in new clean technologies to countries outside the EU (77 %) and reducing fossil fuel imports from outside the EU (65 %) can benefit the EU economically.
- Similarly, a clear majority of citizens agree that reducing fossil fuel imports can increase the security of EU energy supplies (64 %) and that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies even if it means reducing fossil fuels subsidies (79 %).





## NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS

- An overwhelming majority of respondents also believe it is important for their national government to set targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used (89 %) and provide support for improving energy efficiency (88 %) by 2030.

The full report was published in September 2017 and can be obtained from: [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/support/docs/report\\_2017\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/support/docs/report_2017_en.pdf)

### **New technologies in the urban environment**

The Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) of EC DG Health and Consumer Protection provides opinions on questions concerning health, environmental and emerging risks on request of other European Commission services. It shall particularly provide opinions on risks related to pollutants in the environmental media and other biological and physical factors or changing physical conditions which may have a negative impact on health and the environment, for example in relation to air quality, water, waste and soil, as well as on life cycle environmental assessment.

Recently, SCHEER was requested by DG Environment for a scientific opinion on emerging environmental issues within the field of 'New technologies in the urban environment'. Responding to the need identified in the 7th Environmental Action Programme, DG Environment and its partners of the Environment Knowledge Community (EKC) have established a foresight system for the systematic identification of emerging environmental issues (FORENV). This is also in line with the importance attributed to foresight and other forward looking tools in the Better Regulation guidelines, which stress that those tools "complement quantitative modelling with a system thinking and long-term approach".

The EKC foresight system, FORENV, has the overall aim:

To identify, characterise and assess emerging issues that may represent risks or opportunities to Europe's environment, and to communicate these results to policymakers and other stakeholders, encouraging appropriate and timely actions to be taken. Ultimately the aim is to enable policy makers and other stakeholders to prevent or effectively manage emerging risks, and to ensure that opportunities are identified and exploited. FORENV is bringing together existing EU knowledge, expertise and practice on foresight and identification of emerging environmental issues. It shall provide regular and timely update to EU senior and middle management on issues which may represent opportunities and/or risks for the environment.

DG Environment will provide to SCHEER a characterisation of maximum eight issues as evidence for its validation. The validation is expected to require a broad range of expertise, including on: risk assessment, urban environment, environmental media (land, water, air and noise, climate, natural resources) and human health. SCHEER is expected to provide its opinion by May 2018.

For further information, please see:

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/scheer\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/scheer_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific\\_committees/scheer/docs/scheer\\_q\\_010.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_q_010.pdf)





## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES — MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

**Healthy Buildings Conference 2017 Europe,  
2-5 July 2017 in Lublin, Poland**

The Healthy Buildings Conference 2017 Europe was organized and hosted by the Lublin University of Technology in Poland. The conference was the second edition of the new concept of the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ) Healthy Buildings series, focusing to regional issues and practice. Approximately 320 scientists, academics, students, policy makers and industry R&D personnel attended the conference. The intention of the conference was to create a platform for researchers, engineers and industry professionals to present their study results and to develop activities in the field of indoor air quality and climate.

The conference program focused on regional issues, multisectoral cooperation and practical aspects of research. Main topics were:

- Guidelines and Policies
- Nearly zero-energy buildings/NZEB and Smart Buildings
- Human Health and Indoor Environment
- Exposure Assessment
- New Materials / Solutions - New Challenges
- Indoor vs. Outdoor Pollutants
- Civil Engineering and Architectural Issues.

The conference program is available under <http://hb2017-europe.org/>.

Several sessions ran in parallel sections, thus the following could only give a brief overview. The plenary sessions focused on various topics, such as "Urban overheating, health and avoidance potential", "Radon in the interior: risks and preventive strategies", and "Healthy houses - healthy cities". Very well attended was the WHO workshop on Healthy housing as a key determinant of sustainable development, following the plenary session talk of Maria Neira (Director of the WHO's Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health in Geneva) on "Housing and Healthy Urban Environments". The workshop included four lectures followed by a discussion with the participants. Besides, Nathalie Roebbel (Technical Officer at the WHO) presented some details about the new WHO "Housing and Health Guidelines". The paper is in a consultation process and will be published soon. The WHO has developed recommendations for crowding, thermal comfort, home injuries, housing accessibility and proximity of housing to cycling and walking infrastructure. In addition, the paper outlines possible ways of implementing the recommendations. Matti Jantunen from the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Environmental Health, Finland, has given an overview of the environmental burden of disease (EBD) related to poor indoor air quality in the European Union. One of his conclusions was that Environmental Burden of Diseases by means of VOC (volatile organic compounds)-emissions from construction products and interior fittings is currently underestimated due to missing data on the quantitative dose-response relationship.

Citizen science and the development of mobile sensor units for real time monitoring seem to be important topics for the future. Two poster sections were also part of the conference program. The author would like to emphasize that this report contains only impressions and statements from selected conference which could be personally attended. The high amount of parallel sessions forced to focus strictly on some topics.

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## NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS — NOTES AND NEWS

**International Conference 'Health in the Cities',  
11 December 2017 in Rome, Italy**

The one day 'Health in the Cities' conference was conducted on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Health in the frame of the Italian G7 presidency and as a perfect continuation of the G7 Health issues discussed in Milan on 5 and 6 November 2017. The presence of international experts as well as of the main city Mayors made it possible to share best experiences on climate change, social inequalities and ageing population and to chart the course for a healthy, safe and sustainable future of citizens living in urban areas. About 250 participants mainly from European countries, and representatives of international bodies, such as WHO/Euro, UNICEF, IPCC and OECD attended. The conference program, including documents and presentations can be obtained from: <http://eventi.ambrosetti.eu/forum-health/>.

The conference was structured into the following topics:

- Determinants of health in Urban Context for Sustainable Development
- Our Cities, our Health, our Future: acting on Social Determinants for Health in Urban Settings
- Climate Change and Impacts on Urban Health
- Strategies and Good Practices in Relevant Sectors for Citizen Health.

The backbone of the conference was the bilateral cooperation strategy on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) between the World Health Organization and the Italian Ministry of Health (2017-2022), signed in September 2017 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/italy/news/news/2017/09/who-and-italy-sign-first-country-cooperation-strategy>). Due to this, high level WHO representatives were invited to speak and discuss, e.g. Mr Ranieri Guerra, Assis. Director General for Special Initiatives, WHO Headquarters in Geneva, and Mr Santino Severoni, Coordinator Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen.

The outstanding topic and act was the ceremonial adoption of the URBAN HEALTH ROME DECLARATION, signed by the Italian Minister of Health and the President of the Italian Municipality Association (ANCI).

The Declaration defines the strategic aspects of action to improve health in cities through a holistic approach, with regard to the individual, and a multi-sectoral approach, concerning health promotion policies within the urban context.

The Declaration recognizes that the concept of health is an essential element for the well-being of a society. The concept does not merely refer to physical survival or to the absence of disease, but includes psychological aspects, natural, environmental, climatic and housing conditions, working, economic, social and cultural life - as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Declaration considers health not as an "individual good" but as a "common good" that calls all citizens to ethics and to the observance of the rules of civil coexistence, to virtuous behaviors based on mutual respect. Therefore, the common good is an objective to be pursued by both citizens and mayors and local administrators who must act as guarantors of equitable health ensuring, that the health of the community is considered as an investment and not just as a cost. The role of cities in health promotion in the coming decades will be magnified by the phenomenon of urbanization with a concentration of 70 % of the global population on its territory.





## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES — MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

**URBAN HEALTH ROME DECLARATION** in line with the WHO recommendations:

1. RECOGNIZES that every citizen has the right to a healthy and integrated life in its urban context. We must make the health of citizens the fulcrum of all urban policies.
2. HIGHLIGHTS how administrations must engage in promoting the health of citizens by studying and monitoring the specific health determinants of their urban context, leveraging on the strengths of the cities and drastically reducing health risks.
3. CALLS on the Health Institutions and the Auditors to ensure a high level of literacy (Health Literacy) and accessibility to health information for all citizens, increasing the degree of self-awareness.
4. NOTES the necessity to include health education in all school programs, with particular reference to health risks in the urban context.
5. ENCOURAGES to implement strategies to ensure the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools, universities, workplaces, large communities and families.
6. PROPOSES the implementation of incentive policies aimed at socially responsible companies that invest in safety and prevention and promote health in the workplace.
7. CALLS for the promotion of an appropriate food culture through targeted dietary programs, preventing obesity, cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes.
8. ENCOURAGES the creation of local initiatives to promote citizens' adherence to primary prevention programs, with particular reference to chronic, communicable and non-communicable diseases.
9. DRAWS attention to the need to expand and improve access to sports and physical activities for all citizens, fostering the psychophysical development of young people and active aging.
10. WELCOMES and encourages the sharing of good practices at local level, such as the creation of cycle-pedestrian routes for running and walking activities and the use of public green spaces equipped as "open-air gyms".
11. URGES local governments to develop local urban transport policies aimed at environmental sustainability and creation of a healthy life.
12. STRESSES the urgent need to act directly on environmental and climate factors to reduce the risks linked to the development of diseases related to air and environmental pollution.
13. REITERATES the need to consider the health of the most vulnerable and at risk groups as a priority for social inclusion in the urban context.
14. DESIRES a strong alliance between Municipalities, Universities, Health Centers, Research Centers, Industry and Professionals to study and monitor the determinants of citizens' health at an urban level.
15. SUGGESTS the creation of a Health City Manager figure, able to guide the process of health improvement in urban areas in synergy with local and sanitary administrations.

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## WHO PUBLICATIONS — WHO PUBLICATIONS — WHO PUBLICATIONS

**WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2017**

by WHO (World Health Organization), 2017. 135 pages, ISBN 978-92-4-151282-4.

The report "Monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies" tracks the status of the tobacco epidemic and interventions to combat it. The findings describe that more countries have implemented tobacco control policies, ranging from graphic pack warnings and advertising bans to no smoking areas. About 4.7 billion people – 63 % of the world's population – are covered by at least one comprehensive tobacco control measure, which has quadrupled since 2007 when only 1 billion people and 15 % of the world's population were covered.

[http://www.who.int/tobacco/global\\_report/2017/en/](http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/2017/en/)

**Protecting health in Europe from climate change: 2017 update**

by WHO (World Health Organization) 2017. viii + 76 pages, ISBN 978 92 890 5283 2.

Current evidence that the climate is changing is overwhelming. Impacts of climate change and variability are being observed: more intense heat-waves, fires and floods; and increased prevalence of food- water- and vector-borne diseases. Climate change will put pressure on environmental and health determinants, such as food safety, air pollution and water quantity and quality. A climate-resilient future depends fundamentally on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Limiting warming to below 2 °C requires transformational technological, institutional, political and behavioural changes: the foundations for this are laid out in the Paris Agreement of December 2015. The health sector can lead by example, shifting to environmentally friendly practices and minimizing its carbon emissions. A climate-resilient future will increasingly depend on managing and reducing climate change risks to protect health. In the near term, this can be enhanced by including climate change in national health programming and creating climate resilient health systems.

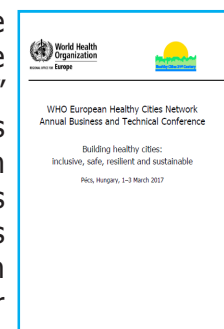
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/355792/ProtectingHealthEuropeFromClimateChange.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/355792/ProtectingHealthEuropeFromClimateChange.pdf?ua=1)

**Building healthy cities: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

by WHO (World Health Organization), 2017.

The City of Pécs, Hungary, hosted the final Annual Business and Technical Conference of Phase VI of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network (March 2017). The theme of the Conference – "Building healthy cities: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" – was explored through a number of subthemes: transport and environment, migrants and refugees, healthy ageing, gender, and early life. Cities shared their experiences in parallel sessions, presenting posters, abstracts, case studies and examples of practices relevant to Conference themes. The City of Pécs demonstrated its work in a series of site visits to local projects. Participants discussed the preparations for the 30th anniversary of the Healthy Cities Network in 2018 as well as the vision and criteria for 2018–2022, and adopted the Pécs Declaration.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/355642/Annual-BusinessTechnConf-WHO-European-Healthy-Cities.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/355642/Annual-BusinessTechnConf-WHO-European-Healthy-Cities.pdf?ua=1)





## WHO PUBLICATIONS — WHO PUBLICATIONS — WHO PUBLICATIONS

**World Health Statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs**

by WHO (World Health Organization), 2017. 160 pages, ISBN 978-92-4-156548-6.

The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual compilation of health statistics for its 194 Member States.

World Health Statistics 2017 compiles data on 21 health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, with 35 indicators, as well as data on life expectancy. This edition also includes, for the first time, success stories from several countries that are making progress towards the health-related SDG targets.

<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255336/1/9789241565486-eng.pdf?ua=1>

**Health economic assessment tool (HEAT) for walking and for cycling**

by WHO (World Health Organization), 2017. ix + 73 pages, ISBN 978 92 890 5278 8.

The promotion of cycling and walking for everyday physical activity not only promotes health but can also have positive effects on the environment. This publication summarizes the tools and guidance developed to facilitate this shift: the methodology for the economic assessment of transport infrastructure and policies in relation to the health effects of walking and cycling; systematic reviews of the economic and health literature; and guidance on applying the health economic assessment tools and the principles underlying it. It has been updated to consider the health effects of road crashes and air pollution and the effects on carbon emissions. This methodology and user guide will be of key interest to professionals at both national and local levels: transport planners, traffic engineers, and special interest groups working on transport, walking, cycling or the environment, as well as health economists, physical activity experts and health promotion experts.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/352963/Heat.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/352963/Heat.pdf?ua=1)

**Scaling up projects and initiatives for better health: from concepts to practice**

by WHO (World Health Organization), 2016. xii + 52 pages, ISBN 978 92 890 5155 2.

Scaling up means expanding or replicating innovative pilot or small-scale projects to reach more people and/or broaden the effectiveness of an intervention. Using a review of narrative literature and the results of a survey of key informants in ten WHO Member States that are also members of the Regions for Health Network (RHN), this publication addresses the practical challenges of scaling up activities and provides a tool box for handling them. This book integrates and describes tools from various practical guidelines, and is structured in line with a guide to scaling up developed in New South Wales, Australia.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/318982/Scaling-up-reports-projects-concepts-practice.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/318982/Scaling-up-reports-projects-concepts-practice.pdf?ua=1)





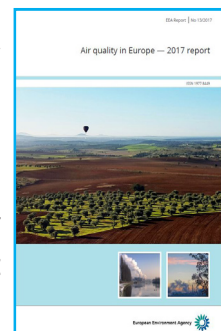
## OTHER PUBLICATIONS — OTHER PUBLICATIONS — OTHER PUBLICATIONS

## Air quality in Europe - 2017 Report (EEA Report No 13/2017)

by EEA (European Environment Agency), 2017.

This report is an updated analysis of air quality and its impacts, based on official data from more than 2,500 monitoring stations across Europe in 2015. Air quality in Europe is slowly improving, due to past and current policies and technological developments. However, high concentrations of air pollution still have significant impacts on Europeans' health, with particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) causing the biggest harm. Poor air quality has also considerable economic impacts, increasing medical costs, reducing workers' productivity, and damaging soil, crops, forests, lakes and rivers. This year's report puts special focus on agriculture, which is an important emitter of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. A wide range of actions, including technically and economically viable measures, are available to reduce emissions from agriculture but have yet to be adopted at the scale and intensity needed, the report notes.

[http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/EEA\\_Rep\\_13\\_2017\\_AQinEurope](http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/EEA_Rep_13_2017_AQinEurope)



## Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Europe (EEA Report No 15/2017)

by EEA (European Environment Agency), 2017.

Enhancing coherence of the knowledge base, policies and practices. The report assesses current practices and level of know-how, and highlights emerging innovative tools national, regional and local authorities are using to tackle the impacts of weather- and climate-related hazards.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-adaptation-and-disaster>



**European Union emission inventory report 1990 - 2015 under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) (EEA Report No 9/2017)**

by EEA (European Environment Agency), 2017.

This document is the annual European Union (EU) emission inventory report under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) (UNECE, 1979). The report and its accompanying data constitute the official submission by the European Commission on behalf of the EU as a Party to the Executive Secretary of UNECE.

<http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/EEA> Rep 9 2017 EU CLRTAP em inv





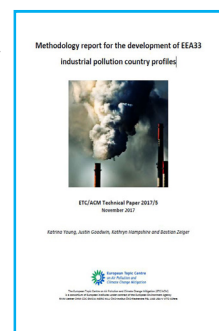
## OTHER PUBLICATIONS — OTHER PUBLICATIONS — OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Methodology report for the development of EEA33 industrial pollution country profiles (Technical Paper 2017/5)**

by ETC/ACM, 2017. 50 pages.

Although industry makes a significant contribution to the economic welfare and development of a country, pollution from industrial activities can also negatively affect people and the environment. Industrial sources still contribute a substantial proportion of total pollution in Europe. Pollution from industry is subject to national, European and international regulations, and standards that limit releases, waste and resource use. These country profiles present a set of graphs that show the significance of industrial pollution, including detail on releases to air and water and waste generation. The profiles cover all 33 current EEA member countries.

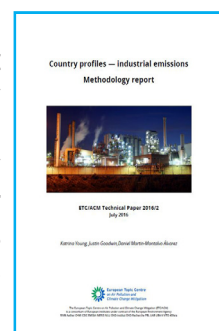
[http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM\\_TP\\_2017\\_5\\_CountryProfilesIndEmMethodology2017](http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM_TP_2017_5_CountryProfilesIndEmMethodology2017)

**Country profiles - Industrial emissions, methodology report (Technical Paper 2016/2)**

by ETC/ACM, 2017. 42 pages.

Industrial pollution is a complex matter as it puts pressure on all environmental media (i.e. air, biota, soil and water). These pressures are caused by different types of pollution and different types of industrial processes. This methodology report provides an overview of the industrial pollution within countries, and quantifies the different pressures and describes their origins. The aim of the country profiles is to provide insights into the key industrial pressures in the EEA member countries and, therefore, contribute to decision making. These country profiles could also be used to inform the research and scientific communities if data issues hinder analysis and clear decision making. The profiles aim to monitor the progress of, and present findings on the state of industrial pollution.

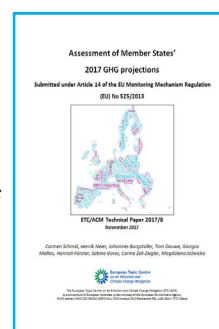
[http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM\\_TP\\_2016\\_2\\_CountryProfilesIndEmMethodology](http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM_TP_2016_2_CountryProfilesIndEmMethodology)

**Assessment of Member States' 2017 GHG projections (Technical Paper 2017/8)**

by ETC/ACM, 2017. 64 pages.

This report provides a summary of the assessment of the EU Member States' submission under Article 14 of the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) in 2017. Under this obligation EU Member States have to submit updated GHG projections and related information biennially. The reported information undergoes several phases of QA/QC checks consisting of checks on timeliness, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability. This report shows the results for each of these quality criteria as well as a sector-specific analysis of the reporting on Agriculture and LULUCF projections. Details on the underlying QA/QC procedure are described in ETC/ACM Technical Paper 2017/9.

[http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM\\_TP\\_2017\\_8\\_assess\\_EU\\_GHGproj](http://acm.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACM_TP_2017_8_assess_EU_GHGproj)







## COMING EVENTS — COMING EVENTS — COMING EVENTS — COMING EVENTS

## 2018

**Air Quality 2018**

12–16 March, Barcelona, Spain. <http://www.airqualityconference.org/>

**3rd International Conference on Air, Water, and Soil Pollution and Treatment**

8–10 April, Budapest, Hungary. <https://awspt.com/>

**26th International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution**

19–21 June, Naples, Italy. <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2018/air-pollution-2018>

**INDOOR AIR 2018 - 15th Conference of the International Society of Indoor Air Quality & Climate (ISIAQ)**

22–27 July, Philadelphia, PA, USA. <http://www.indoorair2018.org/>

**ISES-ISEE Joint Meeting**

26–30 August, Ottawa, Canada. <http://isesisee2018.org/>

**International Conference on Risk Assessment of Indoor Air Chemicals**

17–19 September 2018, Berlin, Germany.

**1st WHO Global Conference on Air Quality and Health**

30 October–1 November, Geneva, Switzerland.

**ICHB 2018 : 20th International Conference on Healthy Buildings**

19–20 November 2018, London, United Kingdom.

**11th European Public Health Conference 2018 - Winds of change: towards new ways of improving public health in Europe**

28 November–1 December, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia. [https://ephconference.eu/repository/conference/2018/Ljubljana\\_2018\\_A-5\\_card\\_def.pdf](https://ephconference.eu/repository/conference/2018/Ljubljana_2018_A-5_card_def.pdf)

## 2019

**European Aerosol Conference EAC 2019**

25–30 August, Gothenburg, Sweden.

**Thirty-First Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology**

25–28 August, Utrecht, The Netherlands.