

Climate change and One Health nexus

European Climate and Health Observatory

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One Health

An integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems. (..) OHHLEP

- ❖ The interconnection and interdependence between the health of humans, animals, plants and the wider environment is the essence of the **One Health approach**.
- ❖ **Priority** for the European Commission.
- ❖ Action against **antimicrobial resistance** (AMR) has been one of the pilots for the application of the One Health approach.
- ❖ **Environmental/climate-related aspects:** although critical, traditionally less emphasised in the One Health approach.

- This summer was the **third hottest on record**.
- Habitat and biodiversity loss increase the risk of **zoonoses**, which spread from animals to humans and constitute a significant public health challenge, representing 60% of existing and 75% of emerging infectious diseases.
- The number of people being at risk from **mosquito-borne disease** (dengue, chikungunya etc.) is expanding as a result of changes in the distribution of key vectors whose season of activity is extended due to climate changes.
- At least 10% of premature deaths in the EU are driven by exposure to polluted air, water and harmful chemicals/environmental risks, with **cardiovascular diseases** accounting for most of NCD deaths.
- Almost everyone living in European cities (95%) is exposed to **air pollution** levels considerably above recommended WHO levels.

European Climate and Health Observatory

Supports Europe in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change on human health.



- ❖ Established in 2021 as a primary deliverable of the **EU Climate Adaptation Strategy**.
- ❖ Partnership between the **European Commission** and the **European Environment Agency (EEA)**.
- ❖ Together with Partners working in the fields of climate, health and environmental policy and research.
- ❖ Central hub for providing data and tools on **climate-related health risks**, contributing to a better understanding, anticipation and minimisation of the health threats caused by climate change.



- ❖ Long term strategic objectives for 2030
- ❖ Operates according to two-year workplans agreed by the Partners.
- ❖ Focus areas for 2025-2026:
 - Strengthening capacity building among national, regional, and local stakeholders within the European health community and beyond.
 - Exploring the new area of green-house gas emissions mitigation in the health system, in synergy with adaptation.
- ❖ What can you find in the European Climate and Health Observatory?

Publications on the impacts of climate change to human health, **indicators** on climate change and health

Case studies, health adaptation measures being implemented in the MSs

Adaptation solutions on urban green infrastructure planning & EWS

Observatory's visualisation page with **interactive maps, charts, infographics** linking climate and health data

Case studies

Real-world examples of health adaptation measures being implemented across Europe

Enhancing social justice in actions to adapt to climate change in the city of Barcelona - Superblock programme, 2015

- ✓ **Reshape the urban landscape**, through the expansion of green infrastructure
 - i. Increased amount of available green space per inhabitant enhancing shadows and reducing the temperature of the streets
 - ii. Establishment of climate shelters (offering shadow, water fountains specifically designed to be comfortable and safe for vulnerable groups in the event of heatwaves)
- ✓ **Improve liveability**, through the restriction of motorised mobility
 - i. Improving accessibility and safety of pedestrian spaces & expanding the bicycle networks.
 - ii. Restricting space dedicated to car mobility > decrease of 20% in the use of cars (2020-2021) > 25% reduction of NO₂ and 17% reduction in PM₁₀ in the neighbourhood
- ✓ **Enhance citizen's access to green space**, through actions considering the needs of vulnerable groups
 - i. Focus on making streets more walkable, safer, and accessible for children, caregivers, who typically rely more on public spaces



Enhancing social justice in actions to adapt to climate change in the city of Barcelona

Monitoring

- ✓ **Monitoring plan assessing the benefits over time** (across four areas: (i) public spaces; (ii) mobility; (iii) environmental quality; and (iv) socio-economic dynamics).

Benefits, contribution to climate change mitigation

- ✓ Reducing air and noise pollution
- ✓ Fostering more active lifestyles
- ✓ Reducing the negative health impacts and mortality related to heat waves
- ✓ Reducing car traffic thus creating more safe space for walking, cycling, social interaction this a more welcoming area improving wellbeing of residents.
- ✓ Economic benefits due to the increased number of visitors after the implementation of the programme



Intercommunal trauma centre for psychosocial assistance in response to floods in Schleiden, Germany



- ❖ 1980–2022: 5,582 flood-related deaths were recorded in Europe.
- ❖ 1998-2018: 1.7-10.6 million – estimation of the number of people affected by flooding and reporting mental health effects in Europe.
- ❖ July 2021, intensive rainfall led to devastating floods in the German states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate, causing 184 fatalities.



- ❖ A **psychosocial crisis management centre**
 - Short-term support: **hotlines** for people in need of support, **consultations** for citizens and emergency workers
 - Long-term support: an **intercommunal trauma centre** was established (operational until 2024), offering psychosocial support in the form of free-of-charge psychological counselling services, psychotherapy, and trauma care.

What's next?

- ❖ 28-29 January 2026: Meeting of the Partners of the European Climate and Health Observatory
- ❖ **DG CLIMA - Integrated framework for climate resilience** - adoption planned in 2026
 - To help Member States prevent and prepare for the growing impacts of climate change
 - Open Public Consultation > until 23 February 2026
- ❖ One Health - Public Health - European Commission
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Thank you



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