

SPEAKER BIOS

Alcohol and the environment: How to green alcohol control policies?

18 September 2023 | 13:00–14:00 CET

Katja Čič | Youth Health Organization International

Katja is a public health enthusiast from Slovenia, currently working as a Manager on Youth Health Issues at the International Youth Health Organization (YHO). Before joining YHO, she has been actively involved in the global health sphere as a medical student, working with SloMSIC Slovenia, and serving as Public Health Director and Liaison Officer to the World Health Organization in the IFMSA. She is a part of the newly established WHO Youth Council, the Alcohol Policy Network Steering Group, the Advisory Board of the Institute for Health and Environment in Slovenia and has previously held a position in the GHWN Youth Hub Steering Committee, as well as worked for the Slovenian NCD Alliance.

Frank Pega | World Health Organization

Frank is a Technical Officer in the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. His responsibilities include conducting environmental health economic evaluation and analysis for the Department, including coordinating WHO's first investment case for environment, climate change and health. By training, Dr Pega is an epidemiologist and health economist.

Pauline Scheelbeek | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Pauline is an Associate Professor in Nutritional Epidemiology & Planetary Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She is also the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Climate Change, Health and Sustainable Development and the Programme Director of the MSc in Climate Change & Planetary Health. Pauline's research focusses on finding healthy, sustainable, resilient and realistic solutions that will accelerate transformational food system change in high-, middle- and low-income settings. Currently she leads the Accelerating Dietary Change Towards Predominantly Plant-based diets in Europe (ABC-SHEADE) project, co-leads the multi-country Sustainable and Health Food Systems (SHEFS) project and the Food system Adaptations in Changing Environments in Africa (FACE-Africa) project in the Gambia. In this context she and her team evaluate solutions and model future food systems for the UK, South Africa, India and The Gambia under several climate change, environmental, health and behaviour change scenarios. She also leads a project on Digital Evidence Synthesis Tools in Climate & Health Research aiming to enable a step change in using automatization for evidence synthesis in climate & health research.

Kristina Sperkova | Movendi International, Sweden

Kristina, born in Sala, Slovak Republic, has been recently re-elected for her third mandate as International President. Kristina is a psychologist, alcohol and other drugs policy advocate, development aid specialist, feminist, civil society activist, Human Rights defender, effective altruist and humanist. Kristina has a master degree in psychology from the Comenius University in Slovakia. She has been active in the field of substance use prevention within civil society for 20 years starting in a peer program in her hometown community, she served as a Secretary-General of a European Youth Organization active in alcohol harm prevention and youth empowerment, and prior to her current position she worked in the field of official development assistance with questions relating to alcohol as obstacle to development. She wrote a booklet Alcohol culture in gender zoom and recently published a scientific paper "Alcohol policy measures are an ignored catalyst for achievement of the sustainable development goals."