Programme of parallel sessions

Slot A
Wednesday, 5 July 2023
09:00–10:15

Regions for Health: accelerating action for health on climate change champions

Lead organizer(s)
• WHO Regions for Health Network (RHN)
• WHO Healthy Cities Network (HCN)

Partner(s)
• Health and Environment Unit, Department for Care, Flanders Region, Belgium
• Department of Epidemiology, Lazio Regional Health Service, Lazio Region, Italy
• Healthy Settings Division, Centre for Health, North Rhine-Westphalia Region, Germany
• Healthy City Coordination Office, Province of Utrecht, Kingdom of the Netherlands
• Division of Human Health, Monaco Scientific Centre, Monaco

Description
The Regions for Health Network (RHN) is at the forefront of action on climate change. For example, Flanders Region has developed an action plan for health; North Rhine-Westphalia Region has plans in place for heatwave measures; the Lazio Region is engaged in advancing health protection measures against the adverse effects of climate change (e.g. a heatwave adaptation plan); the Monaco Scientific Centre advises on the climate change of oceans and its health impact.

RHN members are important partners on climate change and health implementation, and thus will contribute to the outcome of the Ministerial Conference. The implementation mechanisms of the climate-health plans are aligned with the zero-regret approach and detailed actions under the existing broader climate change mechanisms. Climate change is a long-term process with severe short-term impacts on people, societies and health systems. A central question to be addressed by this session is the response from a health prevention perspective. In order to address the local critical aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation it is crucial to understand and support cooperation among the different governance levels. It is important to build a shared understanding of effective actions and to identify key lessons to help shape policy priorities, such as sharing subnational climate and health policies; identifying how to best prepare for the changes in climate; and to discuss the lessons learned on communication and on best practices to develop climate neutral regions and health systems.
Poisons centres: playing a key role in chemical surveillance

Lead organizer(s)
- United Kingdom Health Security Agency

Description
Poisons centres have an important role to play in chemical surveillance – assessing and addressing exposures and risks posed by chemicals to human health. Poisons centres are recipients of clinical information, which if utilized correctly, may identify both chemical emergencies and emerging threats to the health of the public. In certain scenarios, poisons centres may be the first to detect a chemical emergency that requires a coordinated multistakeholder and multisectoral response. Similarly, emerging threats may be identified by toxicovigilance systems and may require data analysis over a longer period. Both immediate and emerging threats require good engagement and planning with policy- and decision-makers – nationally and internationally via poison centre networks. Establishing poisons centres or upgrading the capability of existing centres is key to improving chemical surveillance and response nationally and globally. This session will explore some of the roles of poisons centres in acute chemical emergencies, such as mass poisonings and deliberate or accidental large-scale chemical releases, and in toxicovigilance, providing examples from COVID-19, pharmacovigilance and emerging threats. The session will also explore the establishment of robust chemical surveillance systems, highlighting the important links between poisons centres, public health agencies and laboratories.
Building research capacities for chemical risk assessment in Europe

Lead organizer(s)
• RECETOX, Masaryk University, Czechia
• ANSES, Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, France

Partner(s)
• WHO

Description
With the development of the European Union Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, adopted under the wider framework of the European Green Deal, it has become evident that under the status quo, we will not be able to achieve the goal of a healthy, clean and safe environment. In order to tackle the most imminent challenges, several projects have been launched that should create a new paradigm in how we look at chemical risk assessment. This session will give an overview of where we stand in terms of their implementation and societal, policy and research impacts. The following initiatives will be presented:
• (SP)HERA – a continuously updated research agenda to support societal priorities
• EIRENE – a technical infrastructure for assessment of human exposome
• PARC – a partnership to align multidisciplinary research on chemical risks with policy needs
• EHEN – the scientific challenge of human exposome: where we are and what the next steps are.
Providing access to knowledge on environment, climate and health: EEA in support of policy-making with and for Europeans

Lead organizer(s)
• European Environment Agency (EEA)

Partner(s)
• European Commission

Description
The European Environment Agency (EEA) is a key provider of robust and independent environmental information and knowledge for policy-makers in Europe. Through our network across 38 European countries, we collect, quality-assure and quality-check massive streams of data on the environment, climate and sustainability. When published, this allows an unprecedented level of access to environmental data by institutions, professionals and the public.

The aim of the session is to present key messages from the recent EEA data-driven work on environment, climate and health that is targeted at a non-technical audience. The outputs of this work include the European Environment and Health Atlas, the European Climate and Health Observatory, and interactive storylines on extreme weather events. These outputs draw attention to the present and future state of the environment and climate, and their impact on human health; highlight the main areas where actions are urgently needed; and present examples of solutions in policy and practice.

The presentations from the EEA will be followed by a panel discussion involving European Commission representatives from the Directorates General for Climate Action, Environment, and Health and Food Safety. The discussion, involving the audience, will focus on the take-up of environmental knowledge by decision-makers in various policy areas and the engagement of environmentally-aware citizens and third-sector organizations in policy-making.
Contaminated sites and waste, research, environmental justice and health equity: priorities and perspectives for sustainability

**Lead organizer(s)**
- National Institute of Health (ISS), Rome, Italy (WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health in Contaminated Sites)
- Ministry of Environmental Protection, Jerusalem, Israel

**Partner(s)**
- Ministry of Health, and Soroka Clinical Research Center, Israel
- National Public Health Centre, Hungary
- Institute of Public Health, Serbia
- Institute for Public Health, Montenegro

**Description**
The session will address the impact of contaminated sites and hazardous waste on the environment and human health, and present some current collaborative initiatives carried out by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environment and Health in Contaminated Sites. One goal of the session is to provide key elements of guidance for practitioners across Member States to develop a common framework for etiologic research, monitoring and surveillance, risk and impact assessment, response and participative communication. The session will also examine needs and priorities in Member States in this domain, highlighting the need to adopt intersectoral and multidisciplinary community-based approaches. The session will also consider key cases and experiences of health risk and impact assessment related to air pollutants emitted by industrial activities, one of the main determinants of climate change, and to illegal and informal waste management and trafficking. Other priority areas will be addressed in this session, including those related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with special attention on environmental health inequalities and environmental justice issues associated with living in highly polluted sites, such as urban areas close to industrial settings and hazardous waste landfills.
Grandurbia against the heat: an interactive simulation exercise on heatwaves

Slot B
Wednesday, 5 July 2023
10:30–11:45

B1
Room F1
Language English

Lead organizer(s)
- German Ministry of Health

Partner(s)
- German Red Cross – Anticipation Hub

Description
Heatwaves represent a growing threat for human health – especially in cities. This simulation exercise provides an interactive opportunity for participants to step into a mayor’s shoes and help protect the fictitious city of Grandurbia against a forecasted heatwave. The participants are encouraged to actively take decisions to help mitigate the multifaceted impacts of the incoming heat event. Throughout the exercise they will engage with the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Information body, the Meteorological Department and city agencies to learn about options and identify the best solutions. Thanks to the engaging facilitation and a scenario that discusses real problems and options but also includes some humorous elements, participants of all knowledge levels on heat and health can expect a lively and interesting learning experience with creative takeaways.
Slot B
Wednesday, 5 July 2023
10:30–11:45

From assessment to action: realizing the human rights to water and sanitation through the Protocol on Water and Health

Lead organizer(s)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)
- France
- Hungary
- Republic of Moldova

Description
The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of access to clean water, adequate sanitation and hygiene services as a first line of defence against infectious diseases and as a means to prevent future epidemics for all members of the population, especially for vulnerable groups.

The Protocol on Water and Health is a unique legally binding multilateral agreement aimed at achieving adequate supplies of safe drinking-water and sanitation for all and effectively protecting water resources.

The session will showcase the tools and guidance developed under the Protocol to support countries in realizing the human rights to safe drinking-water and sanitation. Emphasis will be on tools that support conducting baseline assessments, strengthening surveillance, identifying areas for improvement, and driving action for equitable access to services in communities and institutional settings to successfully address the needs of vulnerable groups. Examples include the Equitable Access Score-card, an analytical self-assessment methodology currently undergoing revision, and the Practical tool for situation assessment and improvement planning on WASH in health care facilities.

The session aims to inspire countries that have applied or plan to apply the mentioned tools to discuss benefits and translating findings into policy in the context of new environmental and health challenges. The outcome will inform the implementation of the Protocol programme of work for 2023–2025 and feed into the ongoing process of revision of the Score-card.
Celebrating youth milestones and actions in environment and health: young people paving the way for the EHP success

Lead organizer(s)
- European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC)
- International Youth Health Organization (IYHO)

Description
The session will provide information around the topic of how youth contribute to the European Environment and Health Process (EHP). It will showcase milestones since 1980 and how the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed a substantial programme on environment and health which ensures that young people’s priorities are recognized and represented at all levels and gives visibility to their participation. The session will facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices among youth, practitioners and policy-makers on programmes, policies and initiatives that have a positive impact on youth development and promote collaboration and partnership among stakeholders. Youth organizations and representatives will showcase young people’s actions and initiatives in relation to environment and health, and discuss the factors that enable or hinder efforts, in order to provide inspiration. The session is intended to push young people to take an active role in shaping their own future by providing them with a platform to voice their opinions, share their experiences and showcase their ideas.

The session will include a presentation of the 2023 virtual consultation process among the participants. The results of this, together with the outcomes from other consultation processes conducted in previous years ("Youth Position Paper", Vienna 2021, "Tirana 2022 Health and Well-being Forum for Youth", etc.) will provide the basis for the Budapest Youth Declaration 2023, which will be presented in the plenary.
Integrating the environment into One Health

Slot B
Wednesday, 5 July 2023
10:30–11:45

B4
Room F4
Language English

Lead organizer(s)
• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
• WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)

Partner(s)
• Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance
• Kingdom of the Netherlands and Malta (members, Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance)

Description
The COVID-19 pandemic, the emergence of other zoonosis, along with the increasing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) make clear that we need to approach the topic of health with a broader understanding regarding the close links between the health of humans, animals, and the environment using the One Health approach. Since the diversity of species and habitats on Earth is vital to all life, including human life it is essential to protect the natural environment in all its diversity, lessening the risk of future pandemics and vector-borne diseases.

At the same time, antimicrobials are used to prevent and treat infections in humans, aquaculture, livestock, and crop production. Their effectiveness is now in jeopardy because a number of antimicrobial treatments that once worked no longer do so because microbes evolve and become resistant, antimicrobial treatments are rendered less effective. Today, AMR is listed among top 10 threats for global health, and represents a major threat across human, animal, plant, food, and environmental sectors. Limiting the emergence and spread of resistant pathogens is critical to preserving the world’s ability to treat diseases in humans, animals, and plants, reduce food safety and security risks, protect the environment and maintain progress towards the SDGs.

The parallel session will show case the role of the environment in animal-mediated diseases; the development, transmission and spread of AMR and solution to tackle this growing threat; and the steps taken to put the One Health approach into concrete actions.
Healthy cities: addressing the triple crisis through urban planning

Lead organizer(s)
- WHO Healthy Cities Network (HCN)
- WHO Regions for Health Network (RHN)

Partner(s)
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Province of Utrecht, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- French Healthy Cities Network
- Hungarian Healthy Cities Network
- City of Utrecht, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Description
Cities face many global challenges, including climate change, rising inequality and a rise in threats from zoonotic viruses, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. But cities are also part of the solution. With the right approach, cities can address inequality, climate change, pollution and poverty.

In this session the role of cities in healthy urban planning – in light of the triple crises – is presented with examples from Utrecht, Kingdom of the Netherlands; the French Healthy Cities Network; and the Hungarian Healthy Cities Network.

The province and city of Utrecht will showcase collaboration practices on healthy urban living, involving the public and private sector, knowledge organizations, education institutions and citizens. Hungary will illustrate the role of developing city health plans in creating healthy urban environments. France will explain how cities can concretely address climate change and biodiversity challenges in urban planning, with co-benefits for physical, mental and social health.

The aim is to inspire and to invite government representatives and others to discuss joint next steps. Join the conversation and share thoughts on a new partnership involving all these government levels and sectors.
Building a roadmap to zero-emission health systems

Slot C
Wednesday, 5 July 2023
12:00–13:15

Lead organizer(s)
- Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe

Partner(s)
- Arup

Description
Join Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe for a practical session on how to develop a decarbonization roadmap for your health system. Organized in collaboration with our technical partner Arup, we will show you how the groundbreaking Operation Zero project can support Member States on the path to net zero emissions health care.

Health care is responsible for 4.4% of global net emissions, and the sector needs to address its own contribution to climate change, and the impact of a changing climate on public health.

In this session, we will:
- improve your understanding of carbon management in national and regional health systems;
- showcase the Operation Zero methodology as a practical tool for developing health system decarbonization plans;
- provide best practice examples from Member States already developing or implementing roadmaps to achieve net zero health care;
- complement the work of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), enabling Member States to follow through on their COP26 Health Programme commitments;
- connect you with like-minded colleagues working to address health sector emissions and drive health-care climate action across Europe.
Leveraging THE PEP Partnerships to accelerate the transition to healthy, sustainable and climate neutral mobility in the pan-European region

Lead organizer(s)
- Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)

Description
Healthy and sustainable mobility, such as walking and cycling, plays an essential role in reducing air pollution, noise, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and road congestion. Mobilizing resources in these areas is essential for enhancing public health, combating climate change, promoting economic development, fostering social equity and ensuring urban sustainability. Ultimately, these efforts pave the way for a more resilient, prosperous and inclusive society.

Active mobility can prevent noncommunicable diseases, which account for more than 70% of all deaths in the pan-European region. Evidence shows that shifting short car trips (accounting for 40% of emissions) to active mobility can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote everyday physical activity.

This session, organized under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), a tripartite policy framework, will demonstrate why and how to promote sustainable and healthy mobility at national and local levels. A module on e-biking under the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for walking and cycling will be officially launched, with a practical demonstration including good-practice examples on how the tool can be utilized to assess the health benefits associated with e-biking. Finally, the session will showcase how THE PEP Partnerships on Active Mobility and on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility can help accelerate the transition to healthy, clean and sustainable mobility in the pan-European region.
Enabling health professionals and health policy-makers to become sustainability champions

Lead organizer(s)
- EuroHealthNet (European partnership for health, equity and wellbeing)

Partner(s)
Members of the EuroHealthNet partnership:
- Danish Committee for Health Education
- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
- Institute of Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia (also representing the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN))
- National Public Health Centre of Hungary
- Norwegian Directorate of Health
- University of Brighton, United Kingdom

Description
The session will discuss how to provide health professionals and health policy-makers with the tools and resources they need to drive a green and healthy transition, both within as well as beyond health systems, contributing to broader shifts at the policy and societal level. This would mean firstly enabling health professionals and policy-makers to advocate for sustainable change within the institutions in which they work (both public health and health-care settings as well as health authorities). Secondly, it would mean facilitating them to move towards more sustainable practices, including: engaging in promoting health and preventing disease, encouraging self-care, minimizing wasteful activities and prioritizing low-carbon alternatives.

Health professionals are a trusted source of information and can help to promote behavioural change among the public towards more sustainable lifestyles (e.g. plant-based diets, active travel), clearly presenting the case for joint health and environmental benefits, scaled up for societal impact. By developing and delivering tailored education and training for health professionals and health policy-makers and providing them with the resources to speak with knowledge and confidence to colleagues, patients and the general public, we can leverage a critical stakeholder to help deliver on the needed green transition, enabling them to become sustainability champions.
Translating evidence into policy and climate action for health and the environment

Lead organizer(s)
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- Santé Publique France

Partner(s)
- International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)

Description
This interactive session will focus on the intersection of climate change, health and the environment, highlighting challenges and opportunities for win-win policies and actions in the context of multiple intersecting crises and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will aim to foster dialogue between researchers, policy-makers, technical experts and other key stakeholders to accelerate action to address climate change and linked crises of biodiversity loss and environmental pollution, while promoting human health and equity, with a particular focus on the WHO European Region. After a brief overview of the impacts of climate change on health in the Region, the session will: i) address the need for integrated, cross-sectoral climate adaptation and mitigation policies that bring benefits to health and the environment; ii) identify how scientific insights and tools can support the implementation and evaluation of policies and actions for climate, health and the environment; iii) facilitate international collaboration and knowledge exchange through sharing examples of solutions and best practice across sectors; and iv) formulate a vision of how policy-makers and technical experts in the Region can implement solutions at the local level.
A new perspective in public health monitoring: wastewater surveillance

Lead organizer(s)
- Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)
- European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC JRC)
- Hungarian National Public Health Centre
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Kingdom of the Netherlands

Partner(s)
- Environment Agency Austria
- Statens Serum Institut (SSI), Denmark
- KWR Water Research Institute, Delft University of Technology, Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST)
- Marmara University Environmental Engineering Department, Türkiye
- Sciensano, Belgian Institute for Health
- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, University of Helsinki
- WHO

Description
Wastewater-based surveillance (WBS) identifies and quantifies chemical and/or biological markers using wastewater samples. It is a very efficient tool for detecting illicit drugs, personal care products, industrial chemicals and enteric viruses. Unlike clinical diagnostic tests, WBS is an important tool to monitor the presence and spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 in real time and without symptomatic/asymptomatic distinction in a cost-effective manner. Routine COVID-19 monitoring with WBS has allowed decision-makers to take quarantine measures in the correct places at the right time, based on disease intensity trends. In non-sewered countries, WBS studies allow the collection of mass case numbers at low costs. WBS allows increases in the numbers of cases in a community to be observed on a daily/weekly basis, and is a powerful early warning method to detect new surge waves and epidemics. Under the One Health approach, WBS could be used to detect viruses, pathogens, emerging contaminants and antibiotic-resistant genes in wastewater. Through this session, we hope to raise awareness of the added benefits of WBS, as a promising tool for public health monitoring; enhancing co-operation among water networks, health experts and policy-makers.
The benefits of cycling for a healthy living environment and how to encourage cycling in various settings

Lead organizer(s)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Partner(s)
- Dutch Cycling Embassy
- Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Kingdom of the Netherlands

Description
In establishing a healthy living environment, cycling is a crucial tool. Regular physical activity is a well-established protective factor against developing obesity and related diseases. Cycling makes an important contribution to overall physical activity. In the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for example, 25% of the people who meet the WHO physical activity guidelines achieve this purely by cycling and walking. Join this session to hear more about the advantages that cycling brings to our physical and mental well-being, and discover how it can revolutionize public health and transport policies and practices.

The sessions starts with a presentation about the impact of cycling on our health and how integrating cycling infrastructure into urban planning can revolutionize public health. Discover successful case studies from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Austria that showcase the positive impact of cycling on air pollution reduction, congestion alleviation and the promotion of sustainable active transportation options. We will provide an overview of lessons learned regarding the implementation of cycling policies in various settings across the European Region.

Lastly, there will be an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and challenges they encounter in cycling promotion and development of policies and programmes to implement cycling-friendly environments.
Addressing inequalities in environment and health

Lead organizer(s)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Inequalities, Institute of Public Health and Nursing Research, University of Bremen, Germany

Partner(s)
- Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- Health & Wellbeing Unit, An Roinn Sláinte/Department of Health, Ireland

Description
Inequalities in exposure to environmental health risks exist in all countries across the WHO European Region and contribute to health inequity. Continuous monitoring is essential to assess the extent of inequalities and whether all population subgroups benefit from improvement of environmental conditions.

In the first part of the session, data and evidence will be presented:
The European Environment Agency (EEA) has in recent years assessed socioeconomic inequalities in exposure to air pollution, noise, climate-related hazards and availability of urban green space. The issue of just resilience to climate change is an ongoing and ever-evolving topic. The results of such assessments are available in EEA publications and portals. Further, the recently launched European Environment and Health Atlas ensures equitable access to information about environmental quality.

Since 2022, a fact sheet series on environmental health inequalities has been produced by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Inequalities. To date, the extent and temporal trends of inequalities have been analysed for housing conditions, access to basic amenities, noise annoyance and utility costs and energy poverty.

In the second part of the session, an overview of integration of environmental equity aspects in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) published by countries in the WHO European Region will be provided. Awareness and actions taken to address environmental inequalities will be discussed.

An example of national actions on environmental health inequalities will be provided for Ireland, focusing on inequalities concerning air pollution and policies to address those inequalities.

The final part of the session will include an open discussion with participants on the enablers and barriers for environmental health inequality action, and the importance of equity-sensitive monitoring and surveillance for supporting action against disparities in exposure to environmental risks.
Nature-based solutions to tackle the triple crises and prevent and reverse the worst impacts to human health, well-being and our environment

Lead organizer(s)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)

Partner(s)
- Israel
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Description
Nature-based solutions are approaches to addressing environmental and health challenges by utilizing nature's processes, such as the restoration of degraded ecosystems, reforestation or afforestation, green infrastructure, coastal and wetland restoration, and sustainable land use management. These solutions aim to protect and enhance the natural environment while also providing numerous benefits to society, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air and water quality, increasing biodiversity, and promoting human health and well-being. By leveraging the power of nature, these approaches offer a cost-effective and sustainable pathway towards a more healthy, resilient and equitable future.

Nature-based solutions can be a cost-effective and sustainable way to tackle climate change; to help address the loss of biodiversity; can be used to tackle pollution and waste by promoting sustainable waste management and reducing the amount of waste generated. Today nature seems willing to help us keep the upper hand over devastating impact of climate change, degradation of ecosystems and tsunami of waste, and continue to provide us with air, water, food, jobs and income. But the willingness of nature to accommodate the continuation of the self-inflicted planetary crises is running out by the day, and as a result our actions are putting the well-being of current and future generations at unacceptable risk.

The parallel session is intended to show case examples of nature-based solutions to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises, and prevent and reverse the worst impacts to our environment and health.
Digital tools, data and research in action for health risk reduction and better air quality management

Lead organizer(s)
- Hungarian National Public Health Centre
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)

Partner(s)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)

Description
Air pollution is responsible for 7 million premature deaths every year. Vulnerable groups, such as children, are particularly exposed to its negative impacts. To formulate and implement more effective clean air policies and measures for better air quality and subsequent health risk reduction, digital tools, data and concrete case studies are needed. This session aims to showcase the importance of research and data for effective air quality management, and the country case studies and digital tools available to support clean air policy-making. Speakers from Member States will share experiences on the use of research and different tools to improve their data and how these are used in identifying and prioritizing sources and sectors for action on clean air, and in raising public awareness on the health risks of air pollution. A specific focus will be on research conducted by the Hungarian National Public Health Centre on the health impacts of indoor air pollution on children.
The contribution of pan-European research collaboration to evidence-based zero pollution and health policy

Lead organizer(s)
- European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)

Partner(s)
- European Commission, Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

Description
Environmental pollution is an increasing threat for human health, with recent assessments attributing 9 million annual deaths worldwide and over 10% of annual premature deaths in the European Union (EU) alone to pollution. This session will highlight the extensive framework of initiatives under the EU’s Green Deal aimed at protecting public health from the impacts of environmental degradation. In this session DG RTD, DG ENV and EEA will present the available EU support for research and innovation for evidence-based policies in environment and health, the recent developments in major policy initiatives such as the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and legislative package, and the key findings of the EEA 2022 Zero Pollution Monitoring Assessment. More than 20 ongoing research projects – supported with an EU contribution of over €150 million and involving more than 300 research groups – are tackling the impacts of urban indoor and outdoor pollution, air quality, chemical exposures and micro and nanoplastics on human health. A panel moderated by HEAL will showcase the outcomes of four large-scale collaborative initiatives – the European Urban Health Cluster, European Cluster on Health Impacts of Micro- and Nanoplastics, Green Deal Health Cluster and Indoor Air Quality Cluster – and their potential to inform policy implementation measures.