



**EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT
AND HEALTH PROCESS**



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programme

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROCESS NEWSLETTER

April–June 2022

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1. EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June issue of the [European Environment and Health Process](#) (EHP) newsletter.

Here you can find updates on preparations and developments related to implementation of the [Ostrava Declaration](#), and a call for national governments, regional and global organizations, and stakeholders to engage in far-reaching environment and health activities, drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope you enjoy reading our latest updates.
Best regards,

EHP Secretariat

Happy #WorldEnvironmentDay

*In the universe are billions of galaxies,
In our galaxy are billions of planets,
But there is #OnlyOneEarth.*

World Environment Day (5 June 2022) is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

“Only One Earth” was the slogan for the [1972 Stockholm Conference](#); 50 years on, this truth still holds – this planet is our only home.

Join the #OnlyOneEarth movement by following the latest events and initiatives. Take a look at the additional information [here](#).



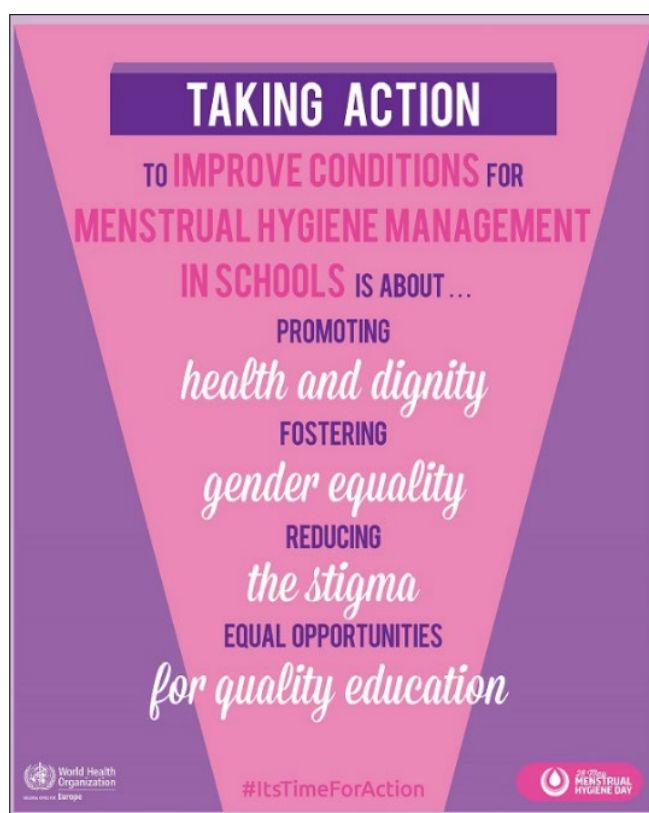
2. TOP STORY

WHO/Europe calls on countries to strengthen menstrual hygiene measures in schools

Adequate menstrual hygiene facilities with free hygiene products and timely education for boys and girls on menstrual health are crucial school interventions to ensure health, well-being and equal learning opportunities. On **Menstrual Hygiene Day**, celebrated on 28 May 2022, WHO/Europe called on countries to redouble efforts to strengthen menstrual hygiene measures in schools to prevent adverse health consequences.

Poor menstrual hygiene can lead to urinary or reproductive tract infections and affect the well-being of students. Girls may avoid attending school during their period due to fear of bullying and inadequate toilet facilities. In the case of discomfort and menstrual pain, they cannot concentrate. In many countries of the European Region, lack of privacy and inadequate toilet doors or cubicles pose a challenge to girls during their period. The lack of affordable menstrual products can also be a problem.

The WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ECEH) is working with countries to assess the problem, support strengthening capacity, accelerate water and sanitation improvements in schools, and promote policies to ensure safe, hygienic and dignified menstruation.



Check out testimonies from students and teachers from across the Region on the benefits of normalizing menstrual hygiene in schools and the possibilities for change [here](#).



3. COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Chemical safety and health

- On 19–20 April 2022, WHO ECEH held a seminar/training on lead regulation in the context of chemical safety in Tashkent, **Uzbekistan**, attended by 35 national experts.
- In May 2022, WHO ECEH was involved in an evaluation of **Uzbekistan's** capacity to manage chemical events under the International Health Regulations as part of the Joint External Evaluation team.
- On 21 June 2022, WHO ECEH organized and conducted an online training on rapid health risk assessment of acute chemical events for **Ukrainian** public health first responders in case of chemical emergencies.
- On 27–28 June 2022, WHO ECEH held a final workshop within the project framework related to prohibition of use of lead in paints production. Twelve countries from the WHO European Region were involved: three countries (**Israel, Georgia and Ukraine**) adopted the relevant legislation within the project (2019–2022) and other countries are at different stages of drafting legal acts.
- A 5-year pilot implementation of a project on phasing out of mercury measuring devices has been planned in **Albania** and **Montenegro** to begin this year.
- WHO ECEH, in cooperation with the WHO Country Office in **Montenegro**, initiated a project to establish a poison centre.
- WHO ECEH, in cooperation with the WHO country offices in **Azerbaijan** and **Uzbekistan**, started a project on prohibiting lead use in paints.

Urban redevelopment of contaminated sites and health

- On 26 April 2022, WHO ECEH led a webinar jointly with the WHO Country Office and the Healthy City Network in **Czechia** to launch the Czech version of the [Planning brief on protecting health through urban redevelopment of contaminated sites](#). The event gathered 40 participants, largely from Czech local authorities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- On 25–26 May 2022, WHO ECEH in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in **Azerbaijan** organized a consultation on the development of national drinking-water quality standards. The consultation aimed to provide technical advice to the national



interagency working group on the current draft of the standards. Its specific aims were to confirm the standards' thematic coverage, integrate key principles of the WHO-recommended risk-based water safety plan approach, and define a set of health-based drinking-water quality parameters relevant in the national context and associated provisions for monitoring.

- On 30 May–2 June 2022, WHO ECEH participated in a virtual mission to **Armenia** to assess implementation of the Strategic Programme for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Prevention and its action plan for 2016–2020. WHO ECEH also provided support and input to the development of a new action plan with a focus on integration of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and environmental surveillance.
- WHO ECEH together with the WHO Country Office in **Montenegro** undertook a comprehensive assessment on WASH in health-care facilities in 2021. The work

features as a country [case study](#) in the WHO corporate end-of-biennium results [report](#) for 2020–2021.

- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of **Tajikistan** just finalized a [situational analysis](#) of WASH in health-care facilities, including a nationally representative survey of 350 such facilities, with technical support from WHO ECEH. The identified gaps are now being addressed through building national capacity, coordination efforts to ensure that WASH becomes standard practice in every health-care service and engaging with partners to improve infrastructure. The main findings and recommendations of the assessment served as an evidence base to integrate WASH in health-care facilities as an essential component of the National Health Strategy for 2030, thereby increasing the visibility, accountability and, ideally, financing for such services.



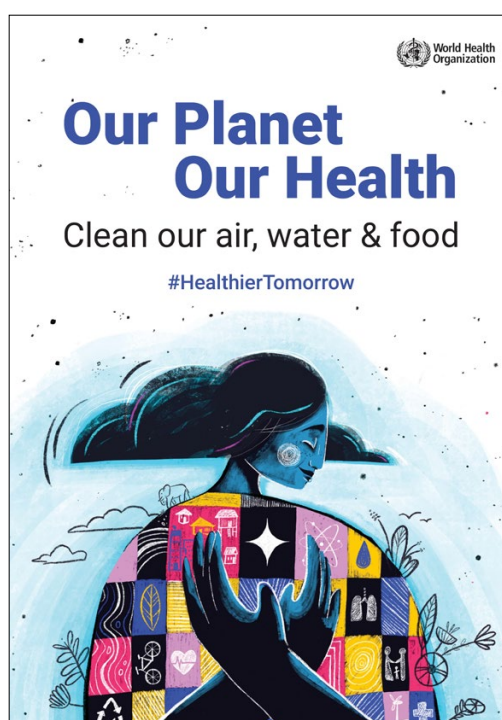
4. ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND COVID-19

Conflict, climate crisis and COVID-19: world needs “Peace for Health and Health for Peace”

To mark [World Health Day](#) on 7 April, the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, laid out a bold new initiative that highlights the need to promote peace and health in order to protect the planet and its people.

This campaign aims first and foremost to foster new dialogue around health and peace. WHO and other United Nations agencies, civil society, sports organizations, academia and business, will get behind this initiative, which will be part of an overall peace building effort that helps the people that are at highest risk of disease and death.

For more information, read more on [#WHA75](#).





5. RECENT EVENTS

4–6 April 2022

WHO ECEH, under the auspices of the [Protocol on Water and Health](#), hosted the second **sub-regional workshop on WASH in schools for health and educational authorities from south-eastern Europe**.

The workshop advocated that access to safe and reliable WASH is essential to creating safe school environments that promote equal opportunities for student health and dignity and quality education, and provided an up-to-date overview of health and education considerations for ensuring adequate WASH in schools. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss priorities for action and guide practical implementation of WASH improvements at the national and local levels, including the safe reopening and operating of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

12–13 April 2022

The **Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting** for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN-Water. It was attended by senior government representatives from water, energy, agriculture, environment, foreign affairs and other relevant authorities, international and regional organizations, basin organizations, the private sector, academia, civil society representatives and other stakeholders. The meeting provided inputs on regional priorities, challenges and good practices into the United Nations Secretary-General's report and the [United Nations 2023 Water Conference](#) (New York, 22–24 March 2023) more broadly.

25–26 April 2022

THE PEP Partnership meeting on Active Mobility took place in Paris. The members of the partnership decided to develop the Pan-European Master Plan for Walking.



April–June 2022

3 May 2022

WHO ECEH, together with the governments of the Netherlands and Norway, hosted the first **technical consultation on commitments** made by countries in the WHO European Region under the **Health Programme established at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP26 Health Programme brings a strong health focus and calls upon governments to sign health sector commitments to build and develop climate-resilient and sustainable low-carbon health systems. So far in the Region, the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom have responded positively to the COP26 Health Programme initiative, and have committed to taking concrete steps to meet its goals. During the meeting, participants took stock of current progress and activities, and identified critical needs for support, as well as opportunities for cooperation between Member States. They discussed ways to promote the engagement of other countries in the Region in adopting and pursuing the objectives of the COP26 Health Programme, including through the Working Group on Health in Climate Change.

4–5 May 2022

WHO ECEH held an **expert consultation** to review the technical content and prepare for the design of the **educational course on human biomonitoring of exposure to chemicals**. A group of leading international human biomonitoring experts discussed the draft material and provided comments to finalize the technical content of the course.

5 May 2022

This year, the theme of **World Hand Hygiene Day** was “Unite for safety: clean your hands”, and it encouraged health-care facilities to develop quality and safety climates or cultures that value hand hygiene and infection prevention and control. It recognized that people at all levels in these organizations have a role to play in working together to influence this culture, through spreading knowledge, leading by example and supporting clean hand behaviours. Unite, talk and work together on hand hygiene for high-quality safer care everywhere by participating in the **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** campaign.





April–June 2022

10–11 May 2022

WHO ECEH held the [**25th meeting of the Joint Convention/WHO Task Force on Health Aspects of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**](#), where representatives of the Parties to the Convention as well as experts and stakeholders met online. The meeting provided an opportunity to share updates on international policies and processes on air quality and health, and to discuss the [**WHO global air quality guidelines**](#) and actions to support their implementation, as well as a [**report on health effects of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons**](#) launched in 2021. The meeting also presented new research on the health impacts of air pollution, and updates on the AirQ+ tool and the launch of the CLIMAQ-H tool (a new version of CaRBonH).

17–20 May 2022

WHO ECEH together with UNECE organized the [**28th meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health**](#) in Geneva on 17–18 May 2022 and [**13th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health**](#) on 19–20 May 2022. The meetings focused on the preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 16–18 November 2022) and on discussing the draft programme of work for 2023–2025, including priority areas, activities and financial implications.

22–28 May 2022

The [**Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly**](#) was held in Geneva. Bringing together delegates in a hybrid format, the annual meeting offered the chance to learn more about WHO's work in countries and across WHO's regions, working to strengthen health for all. This year's World Health Assembly reached a landmark decision on sustainable financing, which seeks to increase assessed contributions to 50% of WHO's core budget by 2030. Among many topics, health financing was also on the agenda during this year's World Health Assembly and was one of the key issues in the [**final report of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development**](#).

27 May and 29 June 2022

WHO ECEH organized two online sessions of the **rapid external consultation on selected air pollutants**. Experts from Europe and North America discussed the latest evidence on metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel) and benzene and provided advice for future research in the area.



April–June 2022

30 May–1 June 2022

Four international agencies, which make up the European quadripartite – WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – met to discuss current work plans and roadmaps geared towards elaborating further on the interconnections between the health of humans, animals and the environment, identifying ways to operationalize **One Health** in the region, and enhancing WHO/Europe's internal coordination as well as across organizations.

31 May 2022

The [second meeting of THE PEP Ad hoc Working Group on Strategy and Possible Legal Instruments](#) took place online. The Working Group discussed and agreed on the scope, objectives and structure of the outline for the Pan-European Strategy on Transport, Health and the Environment and reviewed the existing financial and human resources needed for its development. It was decided to recruit a consultant to support the development process. The comprehensive pan-European Strategy will be developed in 2023.

2 June 2022

Under the umbrella of [European Union Green Week](#), WHO/Europe hosted the webinar **“From culture to economics: understanding the contexts of waste management and their impact on health”**. In this webinar, participants discussed the topics featured in three soon-to-be-published WHO research reports: assessing the health impacts of waste management in the context of a circular economy; the economics of the health implications of waste management in the context of a circular economy; and [how the cultural contexts of waste management affect health and well-being](#).

2–3 June 2022

[Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity](#), hosted by Kenya and Sweden, featured four [plenary sessions](#) in which leaders made calls for bold environmental action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Three [leadership dialogues](#), hundreds of [side events](#) – including several [youth-led sessions](#) – and [webinars](#), as well as a series of [regional multistakeholder consultations](#) in the run-up to the meeting, enabled thousands of people around the world to engage in discussions and put forward their views. This event marked five decades after the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm made the link between environment and poverty, placing it at the forefront of the international agenda.



April–June 2022

6–9 June 2022

WHO ECEH together with WHO headquarters supported the **Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”**, 2018–2028. WHO contributions included participation in a World Bank panel on WASH in central Asia and the organization of a high-level panel on WASH in the post-COVID world. WASH in health-care facilities and scaling up hand hygiene for all were given a high profile at the Conference and in the outcome document, feeding into the thematic preparation of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

13 June 2022

WHO ECEH together with WHO headquarters; the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom; the Global Climate and Health Alliance; the International Federation of Medical Students Associations; and Health Care Without Harm co-organized the **side event: “Update on COP26 Health and Climate Programme”** as part of the SB56 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The event aimed to present the COP26 Health Programme as well as country commitments to building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable low-carbon health systems. During the meeting, participants were informed about the WHO technical support package for the implementation of COP26 health commitments, as well as about the promotion of the open letter to universities and education stakeholders – “A call for strengthening climate change education for all health professionals”. The summary of the event can be found [here](#).

14 June 2022

During a public webinar, WHO ECEH launched four reports on urban environments, resilience and health as the final outcomes of a **project on urban resilience and health**, which aims to support local authorities in reflecting on the environment and health dimensions of local preparedness and resilience, and promotes the application of urban planning approaches to establish safe, healthy and sustainable cities. All reports are available on the [project website](#) (see also “Publications” section).

22–24 June 2022

The **International Conference for Water Safety** in Narvik, Norway, brought together leading international experts from academia, representatives of the water industry, government policy-makers and authorities to actively exchange and discuss state-of-the-art research on water safety that could contribute to practical knowledge development. The Conference was co-sponsored by WHO and prepared with the engagement of WHO ECEH in the programme committee.



April–June 2022

23 June 2022

Members of [THE PEP Bureau gathered at its 40th meeting](#). Participants discussed the outcomes of the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (17–18 May 2021) and the implementation of the [Vienna Declaration](#), including a comprehensive strategy on transport, health and the environment; a proposal for a possible legal instrument; THE PEP communication strategy; the workplan for 2021–2025; and THE PEP Partnerships.

24 June 2022

WHO ECEH organized an **expert consultation on sanitation in the pan-European region** within the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health. The consultation reviewed the current situation, progress and emerging challenges in sanitation service provision and wastewater management in the pan-European region, fostered exchange and networking, and discussed priority actions to improve sanitation governance at the national level.

26–30 June 2022

At the [11th session of the World Urban Forum](#) in Katowice, Poland, WHO ECEH presented its work on “[Urban planning for resilience and health](#)” (please see “Publications” section), in a session co-organized with UN-Habitat. This session aimed to support forward-looking approaches at the local level by providing evidence and practical knowledge on how urban planning and environmental management can increase local resilience and preparedness. It also highlighted the importance of urban planning and environment decisions and how they can either create or exacerbate major health risks for populations, or foster healthier environments and resilient cities and societies.

27–28 June 2022

WHO ECEH together with the UNEP co-organized a **workshop on Lead Paint Law Development and Implementation in the Central and Eastern European Region**. This workshop, which took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, presented the achievements of the [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](#) project on implementation of global best practices for emerging chemical policy issues of concern (supported by the [Global Environment Facility](#)). The participants were the nominated national focal points for environment and health, together with project executing partners, and representatives of industry and civil society.



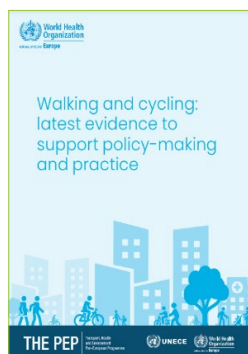
6. LATEST PUBLICATIONS, CAMPAIGNS AND TOOLS

A health perspective on the role of the environment in One Health



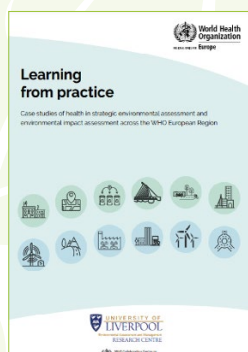
One Health is a cross-disciplinary approach to improve human health at the human-animal-environment interface. The role of the environment in this triad is often overlooked, however. This [report](#) explores and clarifies this role from a health perspective. While One Health has traditionally focused on communicable diseases, this report suggests that the human-animal-environment interconnections provide insights into certain noncommunicable diseases, such as those caused by the human consumption of animals and animal products contaminated by chemicals, and injuries.

Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice



Active travel modes, especially walking and cycling, are now recognized by many as fully equal to other urban transport modes, integrated in planning frameworks, and adopted as part of the mainstream – not just in trailblazer countries, but worldwide. This [publication](#) presents a comprehensive case for why and how to promote walking and cycling, based on the latest evidence from scientific research and planning practice.

Case studies of health in strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment



This systematically conducted [review](#) of over 333 strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment cases in the WHO European Region shows that while about 80% of assessments pursue a narrow, biophysical interpretation of health, around 10% consider wider determinants when defining health, and another 10% consider wider determinants of health in the actual assessment. Twelve case studies are presented, literature is reviewed and implications for practice are considered.



Publications on urban planning for resilience and health

The [Protecting environments and health by building urban resilience project](#) aims to support local authorities and decision-makers. The following reports and key messages present the main project findings on how to build forward better and apply environmental and infrastructural planning as an important pathway towards building urban resilience:



The first [report](#) of the project compiles academic evidence on the urban environmental impact of disasters, and the implications for increasing preparedness and resilience through urban planning, design and management.



The second [report](#) presents the findings of interviews in 12 European cities on their experiences with environmental emergencies and disasters at the city level, and related lessons learned for resilient urban design and infrastructure planning.



The third [report](#) reviews international indicators and datasets to support urban planning for resilience, and the suitability of international monitoring frameworks to identify priorities for establishing resilience in urban settings.



This [report](#) summarizes the three project reports and presents key messages on how to build forward better and apply environmental and infrastructural planning as an important pathway towards building urban resilience.

Economics of health implications of waste management in the context of a circular economy



This new report (to be published in July) analyses how the economic benefits of the health effects of better waste management can be assessed. The report supports the important work on integrating the assessment of health impacts and their economic consequences into the decision-making for a zero-pollution future based on the principles of a circular economy and sustainable waste management.



Assessing the health impacts of waste management in the context of the circular economy



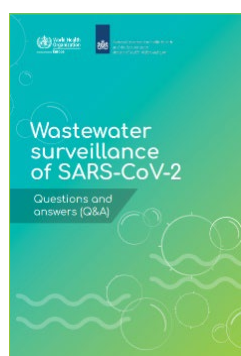
This report (to be published in July) considers the public health implications for circular economy transition relevant to the waste sector. The use of health impact assessment (HIA) is considered as a tool to support strategic and project-level decisions about waste management policy and infrastructure. Six HIA case studies and a literature review are presented, pointing to potential win-wins for the circular economy and population health.

Guidance on environmental surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 to complement public health surveillance

The interim guidance is targeted at public health officials who want to understand and integrate complementary environmental surveillance into COVID-19 control strategies.



The [guidance](#) provides advice on: situations in which environmental surveillance has been shown to add value to public health decision-making; what is needed to plan and coordinate an effective environmental surveillance programme; and how to carry out data collection, analysis, interpretation and communication of results.

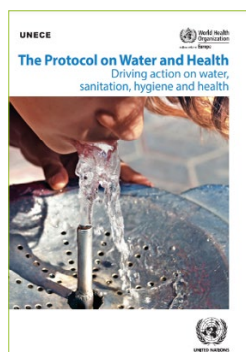


The complementary [questions and answers](#) aim to provide a first point of access to knowledge and information around wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 for health and environment professionals. The paper was developed in cooperation with the

National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the Netherlands.



The Protocol on Water and Health: Driving action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health



This [publication](#) provides an introduction to the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health, presenting its core provisions, highlighting the benefits of being a Party to the Protocol and providing an insight into the Protocol's technical areas of work on water, sanitation, hygiene and health. It also includes frequently asked questions for countries considering accession to the Protocol.

Making water and sanitation affordable for all: policy options and good practices



This [publication](#) aims to support the efforts of countries in the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, in particular to raise the understanding of policy-makers on how affordability concerns can be addressed, and promote further action on ensuring affordable water and sanitation services.

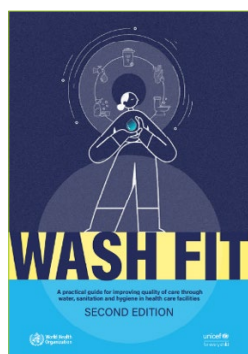
Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: 2000–2021 data update



This [publication](#) from the [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene](#) assesses the status of WASH in schools in 2021 and progress made since 2015, and analyses the acceleration required to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. The analysis reveals that six years into the SDG period, the world is not on track to achieve universal access to basic WASH in schools by 2030.

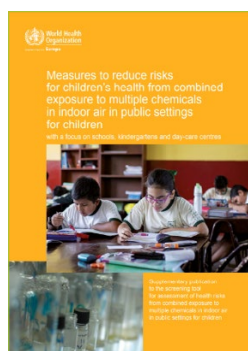


Guide for improving quality of care through water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities



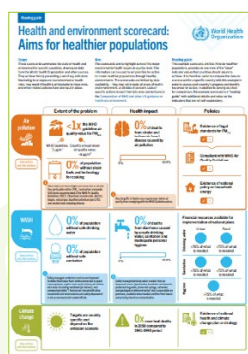
WASH FIT is a risk-based, quality improvement tool for health-care facilities, covering key aspects of WASH services: water; sanitation; hand hygiene; environmental cleaning; health-care waste management; and selected aspects of energy, building and facility management. The [second edition](#) includes a set of fact sheets, check lists, updated assessments and examples of national adoption and use of WASH FIT. The guide is accompanied by a comprehensive [training manual](#) and set of [training slides](#).

Children's health and combined exposure to multiple chemicals in indoor air



This [publication](#) closes the series on assessment of children's health risks from exposure to multiple chemicals in indoor air in schools, kindergartens and day-care centres. It provides a selection of evidence-informed risk-reduction measures that can be considered for implementation in public settings for children at the local level based on the results of health risk assessments.

Health and environment scorecards



New [WHO scorecards on health and environment](#) for more than 60 countries provide an illustrated snapshot of where countries stand on managing six major environmental threats to health: air pollution, WASH, climate change, exposure to chemicals, radiation and occupational health.

The scorecards have been developed as part of a larger package of materials to strengthen concrete action on health and environment, including the extensive [Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health and environment](#), which provides concrete measure that can be implemented in various areas.

To read more about the scorecards, visit [here](#).



Regional report on obesity



Health-promoting urban design and planning principles have been shown to increase active transport. Providing access to high-quality natural environments needs to be included as part of wider systems change to increase opportunities for physical activity and to reduce obesity across the life course. The [report](#) highlights the importance of including prevention and control of obesity within measures to build back better in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Campaign #KeepCool



The adverse health effects of hot weather are primarily preventable through sound public health practices. During the 2022 European Public Health Week, WHO/Europe launched its annual [#KeepCool campaign](#) to remind us all that during periods of hot weather, it is essential to keep cool to avoid negative health effects.

- Keep your home cool. Use the night air to cool down your home, and reduce the heat load inside your apartment or house during the day by using blinds or shutters.
- Keep out of the heat. Avoid going out and engaging in strenuous activity during the

hottest time of day, stay in the shade, do not leave children or animals in parked vehicles and, if necessary, spend 2–3 hours of the day in a cool place (such as an air-conditioned public building).

- Keep your body cool and hydrated. Use light and loose-fitting clothing and bed linen, take cool showers or baths, and drink regularly while avoiding alcohol and caffeine.

The social media material for the #KeepCool campaign is available [here](#), and the video materials are available [here](#).



New climate change country profiles show key health risks and priority areas for action in European Region

The Health and Climate Change Country Profiles give an overview of critical areas for action to combat climate change health threats and provide links to available resources. Developed in collaboration with national health services, they summarize evidence of the climate hazards and health risks facing countries. They track national progress and highlight opportunities for gaining health benefits from climate mitigation action.

WHO published the [country profiles](#) of the first group of participating countries from the European Region for the current 2021–2022 global series (Bulgaria, Czechia, Iceland, Israel, Malta and Slovakia). Over 80 countries have participated in the Health and Climate Change Country Profile initiative since it began in 2015. More European Region country profiles (Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Sweden and Turkey) are in development and will follow shortly.

Policy brief on mental health and climate change



The world faces an incredible climate crisis. Climate change exacerbates many social, environmental and economic risk factors for problems of mental health and psychosocial well-being. Yet, despite this impact, large gaps also exist in many countries between mental health needs and the availability and accessibility of the mental health systems and services to address them. In response to these challenges, WHO has developed a [policy brief](#) describing the interconnections between climate change and mental health and providing five key recommendations on potential approaches to addressing the mental health impacts of the climate crisis.

App to protect from the dangers of the sun and promote public health



The [SunSmart Global UV app](#) is available free of charge at both the Apple App and Google Play stores. It provides personalized options so that users can take actions to protect themselves from prolonged, excessive ultra-violet (UV) light exposure, a major cause of skin cancer and other UV-related diseases. The app allows the inclusion of national and local data streams and adaptation to multiple languages. It is currently available in Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.



Summer pick-ups

Estimating the cost of achieving basic WASH and waste management services in public health care facilities

An alarming number of public health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries lack basic WASH and waste management services. This [study](#) estimates the costs of achieving full coverage of basic WASH and waste management services in existing public health facilities in the 46 United Nations designated least-developed countries.

Cycling through the COVID-19 pandemic to a more sustainable transport future

This [article](#) presents evidence from case studies of 14 large bicycle-friendly cities in Europe and North America and examines the impact of COVID-19 on cycling levels and government policies toward cycling during 2019–2021.



7. EHP CORNER

- To accelerate the preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which will take place in Budapest in July 2023, the **European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) Bureau gathered for its 9th meeting** on 9 May 2022. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss different aspects related to the ministerial conference preparatory process (overall concept of the conference, its structure and outcomes, and the roadmap towards the conference). More updates on the conference concept will become available for a wider audience later this year. As in previous meetings, this Bureau meeting was conducted in an extended format, and was therefore open for all members of the EHTF to participate.
- WHO ECEH outlined the collective progress of Member States in implementing the EHP, as well as the efforts made by WHO/Europe to support this implementation at the **special session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy**, which took place in Geneva on 9–12 May 2022. The meeting aimed to advance the preparations for the **Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference** (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022).
- On 25 May 2022, WHO ECEH and the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Working Group on Environment and Health organized the **fourth meeting of the Working Group on Collaboration of Local and Subnational Authorities** (CoLSA), a body established by the EHTF to advance implementation of the Ostrava Declaration. CoLSA working group members and partners from international

networks followed-up on the implementation of the CoLSA programme of work and discussed the preparatory steps towards the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, with a focus on how to identify possible contributions to the Conference bringing the perspective from local-level implementation, and on which possible outcomes could be proposed.



On 3 June 2022, WHO ECEH, under the auspices of the EHP, and in partnership with THE PEP, held the **third of a series of high-level Bonn Dialogues on**

Environment and Health, which was attended virtually by more than 200 participants. The event focused on the role of walking and cycling for green, healthy and sustainable mobility and marked World Bicycle Day. A new publication, “Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice”, was launched at the event (see “Publications” section). For more information on what countries can do to promote safe walking and cycling, click [here](#).

- The WHO/Europe website has recently been integrated into the main **WHO website**, as have all the websites of the six WHO regions. The European Region section of the website is available [here](#). Please bear with us if you experience any temporary inconvenience while navigating the various pages.



8. NEWS FROM EHP STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Towards better health and well-being in small countries of the WHO European Region

On 2–3 June ministers and other delegates from the 11 countries in the WHO European Region with populations of less than two million met in Bečići, Montenegro, for the Eighth High-level Meeting of the WHO/Europe [Small Countries Initiative](#).

Organized around the theme “Towards better health and well-being in small countries of the WHO European Region”, the ministerial event focused on two issues currently at the top of the

agenda for small countries: emergencies (long-term prevention, health system preparedness, response and recovery) and healthy and sustainable tourism.

The ministerial event also coincided with the launch of the first-ever regional strategy for small countries, titled “[Roadmap towards better health in small countries of the WHO European Region, 2022–2025](#)”.

Beating cancer with better environments

Roughly 1 in 10 cancer cases in Europe can be linked to the living and working environment, and many of those cases are preventable. As Europe rolls out new approaches to cancer prevention, addressing environmental risk factors presents an opportunity.

The European Environment Agency and Friends of Europe co-organized a [debate](#) on 28 June 2022, which considered what is needed to unlock the potential of disease prevention at home, work and play, the role of cities and their

inhabitants, the wider links between health and environment, and the unequal burden of disease across populations.

The [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) notes the link between environmental pollution and cancer, as well as the role of the Green Deal and the Zero Pollution Action Plan in improving the environment. Air quality is crucial: 91% of Europe's urban population is exposed to air pollution.



April–June 2022

UNECE 2021 report and Regional Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

This year, the UNECE marks 75 years of cooperation and achievements since its establishment in 1947. See the annual report for more information on how UNECE supported countries' circular transition and progress towards the SDGs in 2021 [here](#).

Also, on 13–14 June 2022, the [Regional Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation](#) was organized under the leadership of UNECE in cooperation with WHO ECEH, as part of the joint secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, in cooperation with the lead Parties, France and Hungary. The objectives of the

workshop were to discuss to what extent the [Equitable Access Score-card](#) developed under Protocol is still relevant and should be adapted to increase resilience in the water sector in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other potential epidemics. Participants also reviewed and discussed new policy developments in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region. The outcomes of the workshop will guide future activities in this area under the 2023–2025 programme of work of the Protocol.

Accelerating health care decarbonization in the Mediterranean region

The new Health Care Without Harm Europe [policy recommendations](#) set out how to build a resilient, zero-carbon health-care system that is protected from the worst impacts of climate change and supports a healthy society. They

also provide an overview of climate impacts in the Mediterranean region, as well as the current state of climate and health policy in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.



9. UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

High-level political forum on sustainable development (New York, 5–15 July 2022).

Meeting of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (virtual, 26–30 July 2022).

Health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) Europe 2022 Conference (Nice, 31 August–2 September 2022).

72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (Tel Aviv, 12–14 September 2022).

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Cyprus, 5–7 October 2022).

10th meeting of the Working Group on Health in Climate Change (virtual, 11–12 October 2022).

United Nations Climate Change Conference. The 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (Sharm El-Sheikh, 7–18 November 2022).

Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 16–18 November 2022).

Bonn Environment and Health School – 2022 courses forthcoming!

Following the first online edition of the Bonn Environment and Health School 2021, the School will be continued in 2022 with two separate capacity building courses on:

- Health impact assessment;
- Contaminated sites assessment and redevelopment.

Both courses will run in parallel, based on three sessions per day (9:00–14:00 CET, every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 24 November).

Each course has a maximum of 30 places and will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in Russian. The courses will be offered for free to staff of national as well as subnational authorities working in a respective technical field.

Detailed information on the course content, the application process and the criteria for participation will be released shortly and also distributed through the EHTF network.

Course applications need to be submitted by 9 September 2022.

For further information on the Bonn Environment and Health School 2022, please contact eurobonnschool@who.int.



10. CONTACT US

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