

The role of health professionals in Climate Action (viewpoint of EUPHA ENV and Climate Pact Ambassadors)



FPH
Climate & Health
Conference –

What can we do?

22nd September 2022

Prof dr Marija Jevtic

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
 Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health,
Environment and Health Section European Public Health Association EUPHA
EU Climate Pact Ambassador



The role of preventive medicine

The role of public health

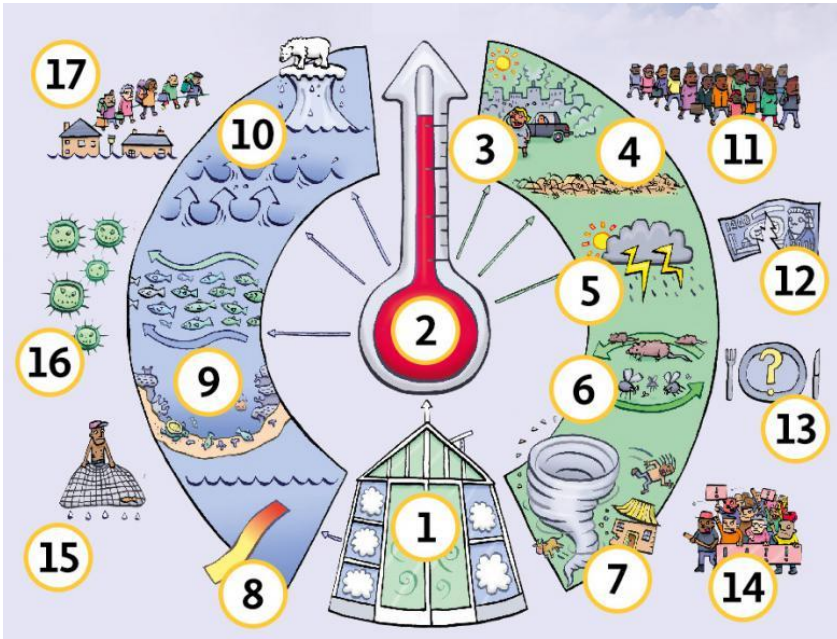
The role of all health professionals



Climate Change adaptation

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION





CLIMATE CHANGES

The challenge for education

New requirements for all systems

Preparedness

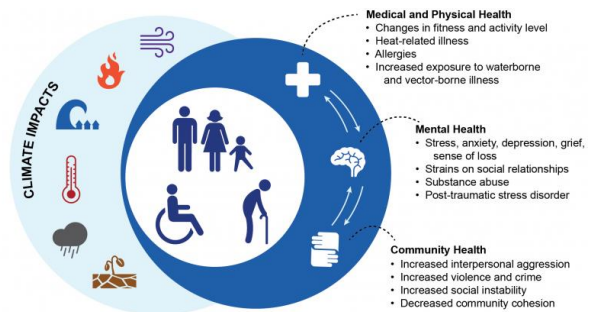
Personal responsibility

Awareness of the need for action to reduce climate change

<https://bigpictureeducation.com/how-does-climate-change-affect-human-health>



CLIMATE CHA(LE)NGE



Climate mitigation is win-win for public health

It is time for the health sector to react to the challenge of climate change by taking a moral and concrete leadership role in mitigation efforts, beginning with its own policies and practices.

The health sector should play a leadership role in mitigating climate change, in helping societies adapt to the climate change and the health risk it poses.



Climate change - the biggest health threat facing humanity



**Protecting healthcare workers
... environmental hazards
engaging them in climate action**



- The
- Climate
- Diet

Climate and Health here and now (Climate Pact Ambassadors network)

Prof. dr. Marija Jevtic
University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health,
Environment and Health Section European Public Health Association/EUPHA, EU Climate Pact Ambassador



Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future

Green Deal as a Climate Changes Dam on the Road to Health



Marija Jevtic^{1,2}, Catherine Bouland²

^{1,2}University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
²Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health



Environment and health as a driver of transformation



Marija Jevtic^{1,2}, Catherine Bouland²

^{1,2}University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
²Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health



Climate change, energy issues and air pollution – as a triad of health priorities

Chairperson(s):
Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)
Green Deal as a Climate Changes Dam on the Road to Health

Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)
Innovative ways in providing energy – towards improving health
Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV)
Clean air policy challenges in Europe: achieving air standards that prevent disease

Anne Stauffer - Belgium
Energy and Climate Change Scenarios in the Mediterranean: An opportunity for cooperation
Luis Lapao - Portugal
Climate-smart health care: the power of health care action on air pollution and climate change
Jennifer Wang - United States



2017 Workshop: **Energy transition as a challenge for public health** Chairperson(s): Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)

2017 Workshop: **Mental Health and Climate change** Chairperson(s): Jutta Lindert - EUPHA (PMH), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)

2018 Workshop: **Climate and Energy issues as a priorities In Environment and Health** Chairperson(s): Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)

2019 Workshop: **Building bridges between environmental and Public Mental health** Chairperson(s): Jutta Lindert - EUPHA (PMH), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)

2019 Workshop: **Climate change and energy issues in our life-course and our environment** Chairperson(s): Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV), Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)



Climate and energy issues as preconditions for health and well being



Marija Jevtic^{1,2}, Catherine Bouland²

^{1,2}University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
²Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health



ESOF2020
EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM
TRIESTE

Sustainable Development Goals – Planet on the diet for a healthy future- the most important challenge?

Prof. dr. Marija Jevtic
University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health,
president of Environment and Health Section European Public Health Association EUPHA



Medicinski fakultet Novi Sad
UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU



**Klimatske promene –
značaj za zdravlje i kvalitet života**

prof dr Marija Jevtic

Wed 14th - 14:30-15:30 - 13.D. - EUPHA-ENV - Workshop:

SDGs in the focus of environmental and health issues



Chairperson(s):
Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV), Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV)

Environment and health as a driver of transformation

Marija Jevtic - EUPHA (ENV)

Sustainable Development Goals and Global burden of disease stakeholders

Peter Van Den Hazel - EUPHA (ENV)

Urban Health as a Complex System

Gianfranco Damiani - Italy

Climate Change, Public Health impacts and the role of the new digital technologies

Luis Lapao - Portugal

Community Engagement: Reducing inequalities acting on environmental health.

A Systematic Review.

Martina Sapienza - Italy



Climate and Health here and now (Climate Pact Ambassadors network)

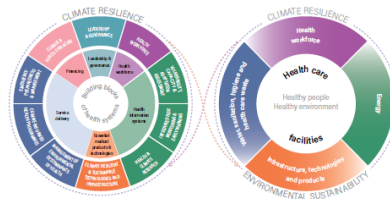
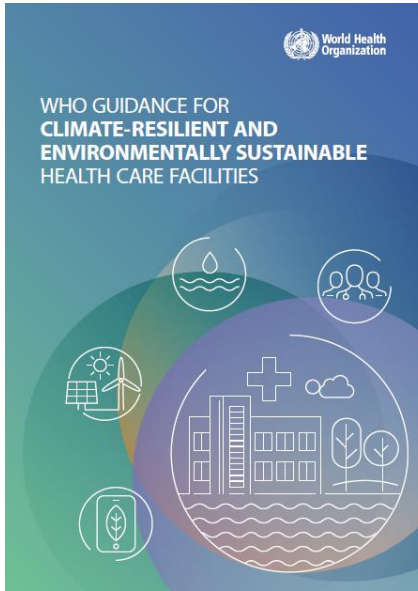
Prof dr Marija Jevtic

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), School of Public Health, Research Center on Environmental Health and Occupational Health,
Environment and Health Section European Public Health Association EUPHA, EU Climate Pact Ambassador



Climate change: a threat to
human wellbeing and
health of the planet.
Taking action now can
secure our future





This document highlights four fundamental requirements for providing safe and quality care.

- HEALTH WORKFORCE:** adequate numbers of skilled human resources with decent working conditions, empowered and informed to respond to these environmental challenges.
- WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT:** sustainable and safe management of water, sanitation and health care waste services.
- ENERGY:** sustainable energy services.
- INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS:** appropriate infrastructure, technologies, products and processes, including all the operations that allow for the efficient functioning of the health care facility.



#HealthyClimate Prescription

An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26



EUPHA Section on Environment and Health (EUPHA ENV)

Statement - shorturl.at/oCLU3

... **The environment in which we live greatly influences our health.**

The household, workplace, school environment and other outdoor and indoor environments may pose risks to health. The polluted air which we breathe, the contaminated water we may drink, noise and chemical pollution, climate change and the environment in which we live, determine our quality of life and play active role in increasing the risk for contracting various diseases, also decades later. ...

... The key purpose of this Statement is to **present strategies and exchange knowledge regarding action to health risk reduction from a polluted environment.** With the climate and environmental crises, the urgency to act is growing.



EUPHA Section on Environment and Health (EUPHA ENV)

Statement - shorturl.at/oCLU3

.... *The Global Paris Climate Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and the **EU Green Deal should be guiding principles and policy pathways for all the experts,** and society at large. Key principles from those documents should provide additional arguments for research, guide advocacy, and any other type of action that will contribute to improving the environment and health.*

EUPHA Section on Environment and Health



EUPHA Section on Environment and Health (EUPHA ENV)

<https://eupha.org/repository/advocacy/EUPHA%20ENV%20STATEMENT%20final%20October%202020.pdf>

Given the Covid-19 pandemic situation, which has produced profound disruption in all sectors and areas, we remain committed to action achieving environmental and health goals in the field of:

- **SDG and environmental health**
- **Climate, air pollution, energy and health**
- Mental health and environment
- Chemicals, consumers and environment
- Circular economy and healthy environment
- Children as vulnerable group and environment
- Food safety and environment
- Covid-19 pandemic and influence on environment and health issues



EUPHA Section on Environment and Health (EUPHA ENV)

<https://eupha.org/repository/advocacy/EUPHA%20ENV%20STATEMENT%20final%20October%202020.pdf>

- We support the **revisiting and examination of all topics of interest for the environment and health.**
- Bearing in mind that Covid-19 pandemic crisis has affected and in specific ways changed public health priorities, including influence on mental health, as well as urban/social/environment obstacles, produced changes in financial frameworks and brought disruptive organizational changes in the public health system and healthcare sector as well.



EUPHA Section on Environment and Health (EUPHA ENV)

Statement - shorturl.at/oCLU3

... We insist on comprehensive line to the environmental health management plans, which would be a systematic approach to estimate the burden of disease and injury due to different environmental pollutants.

*... We advocate to put the **environmental health protection** and evidence-based disease prevention at the heart of the world's and EU's Covid-19 recovery process.*

EUPHA Section on Environment and Health



Climate Pact prioritises actions focused on four areas that offer immediate benefits not only for the **climate and the environment**, but also for the **health and wellbeing** of citizens: **Green areas, Green transport, Green buildings, Green skills**

The Pact will expand over time to other areas, such as **sustainable consumption and production**, the quality of soils, **healthy food and sustainable diets**, oceans, rural and coastal areas and others.

The Pact has an open mandate and its scope will evolve based on the ideas and **contributions of the people and organisations** that become part of it.

2030 Climate Target Plan

- to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 sets Europe on a responsible path to becoming climate neutral by 2050.



Cooperation with citizens and the media

Strengths and weaknesses of health voice in climate change

Preparing health systems for new health challenges
 Preparation of health institutions for climate change
 Cooperation between health professionals

Monitoring
 Recommendations

Education and reprogramming for new challenges
 (health professionals)

Our role - past, present, future

work together to increase preparedness and resilience
 cooperation between the health sector and other sectors



Advocacy for action in other sectors
 Agriculture and climate change ...

Relation of climate change and energy
 Energy and Health

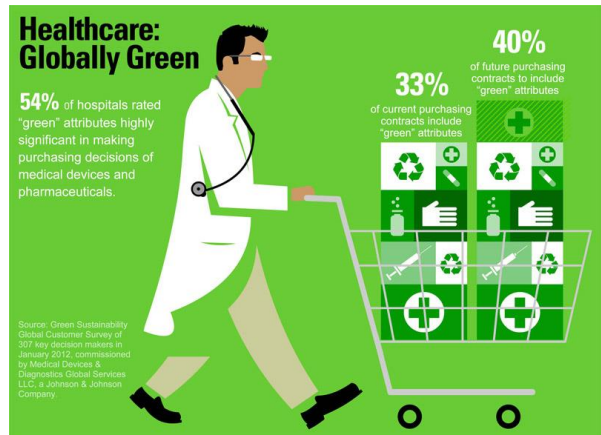
Healthcare workforce plays an important role in environmental health and climate protection



Healthcare workers are facing environmental hazards that create specific health risks, for instance, through chemicals or biological agents, as the COVID-19 pandemic has most clearly demonstrated

Health workforce is an important actor as a 'producer' of environmental hazards and climate damages

Healthcare workers can also play an important role in helping and influencing on patients to behave in a more climate-protective way



#HealthyClimate Prescription

An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26

Contribution in CLIMATE ACTION from different roles - citizen, parent, professor, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS... Climate Pact Ambassador





- ❑ The public health sector should consider the Green Deal as an argument for achieving goals at national levels, and align national public health policies with the goals of this document.
- ❑ Achieving goals requires the education process for healthcare professionals covering all of topics of climate change, energy and air pollution to a much greater extent than before.

#HealthyClimate Prescription

An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26



- ❑ Green Deal in in crisis due to Ukraina crisis
- ❑ Public health professionals should insist on health in Green Agenda and Green Deal priorities, use them to reduce externalities, activate citizens to contribute through certain individual and non-health-related decisions and invest in the health of future generations.





- ❑ Climate and health has to be included in education to improve collective understanding and allow proper mitigation and developed and implemented.
- ❑ Academic institutions should be forward-thinking and use their influence to be leaders in the area of climate change and public health.



- ❑ The best way to protect health care professionals is **education and training, respecting the procedures, building healthy and green hospitals, and be the part of climate action**
- ❑ Achieving goals requires the **education process** for healthcare professionals covering all of topics of **climate change and climate action and protecting them with knowledge and procedures**
- ❑ **consider the increased need to provide services due to climate change**



#HealthyClimate Prescription

An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26

The role of health professionals in Climate Action (viewpoint of EUPHA ENV and Climate Pact Ambassadors)



Stay healthy and environmentally friendly!

marija.jevtic@uns.ac.rs

#HealthyClimate Prescription

An urgent call for climate action from the health community ahead of COP26

