
The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution – activities and the workplan 2024-2025

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Joint Meeting of the Extended Bureaux of EMEP Steering Body and the Extended Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects, 28 February – 01 March 2024



27th Task Force on Health (TFH) meeting – 22-23 May 2024

Bonn, Germany, in person and on-line

- Updates on policies and processes on air quality and health – input from the UNECE Secretariat, the European Commission and WHO headquarters
- Sharing country experiences
- Progress in research of health aspects of air pollution
- Update on the tools, including AirQ+ and CLIMAQ-H and capacity building activities
- Communication on air pollution and health
- Relevant global and regional developments
 - Budapest Declaration of the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environmental and Health (July 2023)
 - 2nd Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health (Oct. 2024)

2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

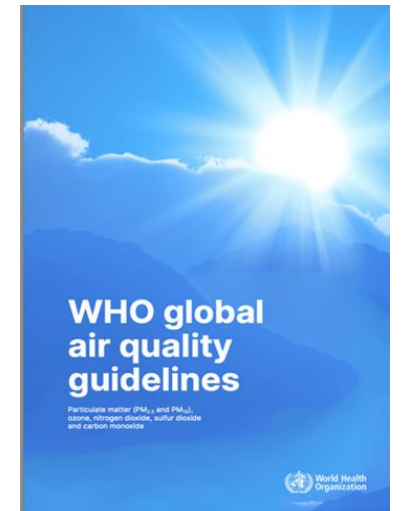
<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/ objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/ deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
1.1 Improving tools to assess air pollution and its effects in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region				
1.1.1 Monitoring and modelling tools				
1.1.1.32	Consolidate existing evidence on health outcomes of exposure to air pollution	<p>Report on methods for health risk/impact assessment of air pollution and cost-benefit analysis (update to HRAPIE project)</p> <p>Exploratory analysis of recent developments on O₃ and health</p>	TF-Health with other groups (TFIAM, TFMM)	<p>Recommended contributions, additional resources required</p> <p>Additional resources required</p>

Update of Health Risks of Air Pollution in Europe (HRAPIE-2) – the rationale

- New evidence providing CRFs published in 2012–2021
- Updated WHO global air quality guidelines using systematic reviews (SRs) on effects of PM2.5, PM10, O3 and NO2 on mortality
- Work of several groups using and recommending CRFs
- Opportunity: WHO HQ's Estimating the Morbidity from Air Pollution and its Economic Costs (EMAPEC) project, enabling HRAPIE-2 to focus on mortality



European Region



Overview

The health impacts of air pollution are well known, and efforts are being made worldwide to improve air quality and reduce exposure to harmful levels of air pollution.

WHO has created a new project, called **Estimating the Morbidity from Air Pollution and its Economic Costs (EMAPEC)**, to provide expert technical and advisory support on the adverse health effects of air pollution and the different methods it causes. The project has a special focus on the development of economic assessments.

EMAPEC will establish a methodology to estimate economic costs of selected morbidity outcomes of exposure to air pollution within a population. A pilot test for one or two case studies will explore challenges that may result from a lack of data, and address various geographical scales (regional, national, and global) and different contexts.

Currently EMAPEC is:

- reviewing the epidemiological scientific literature on morbidity impacts of air pollution, and select concentration-response functions for economically important diseases
- identifying suitable background morbidity statistics and compiling data sets for selected regions and countries; and
- developing methods for the quantification of the economic costs of morbidity, for different regions.

EMAPEC will also conduct an assessment of morbidity costs of air pollution for selected countries.

This project also benefits from the on-going project of the WHO European Center on Environment and Health to update the Health Risks of Air Pollution in Europe (HRAPIE-2).

Experts from different institutions are participating in the project. In particular, from Imperial College London (UK), Santé Publique (France), CNRS - IASPC - Aix-Marseille University (France), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis - IIASA (Austria), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas - CONICET (Argentina), Instituto for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (Argentina), Ministry of Public Health (Chad),

A systematic review on "Choice of morbidity outcomes and concentration-response functions for quantitative health impact assessment of air pollution: an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses" was submitted to the PROSPERO register (International prospective register of systematic reviews) in February 2023.

If you are interested in the work, please contact the Air Quality and Health Unit at airq@who.int

Scoping of HRAPIE-2

- Air pollutants included: PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO₂, ozone
- Health outcomes:
 - Mortality: CRFs included in HRAPIE + AQG + few others
 - Morbidity: from EMAPEC
- Main focus on long-term effects
- Additional sections on short-term effects
- Emphasis on systematic review results, with discussion on results of pooled analyses or individual major studies (e.g. ELAPSE, MCC)
- Associated information for health impact assessment (e.g., health data, CRF shape)
- Geographical scope: main focus on WHO European Region

2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

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1.1 Improving tools to assess air pollution and its effects in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

1.1.1 Monitoring and modelling tools

1.1.1.33	Further develop methodologies for assessment of direct and indirect impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution on human health	Update of tools for quantification of health impacts of air pollution, including links to climate change mitigation Case studies of estimating health co-benefits and trade-offs between climate change and clean air agendas	TF-Health	Recommended contributions, additional resources required
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EH TOOLS



Health impact assessment of air pollution: introductory manual to AirQ+



15 Feb 2024



Home / Newsroom / Events / Detail / Webinar: Launch of AirQ+ Spanish version - tool to evaluate the health impacts of air pollution



European Region

[AirQ+ software tool for health risk assessment of air pollution \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/airqplus)

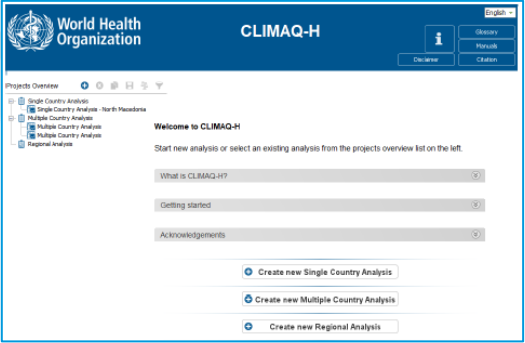


Achieving health benefits from carbon reductions

Manual for the climate change mitigation, air quality and health tool

CLIMAQ-H

Version 1.0.

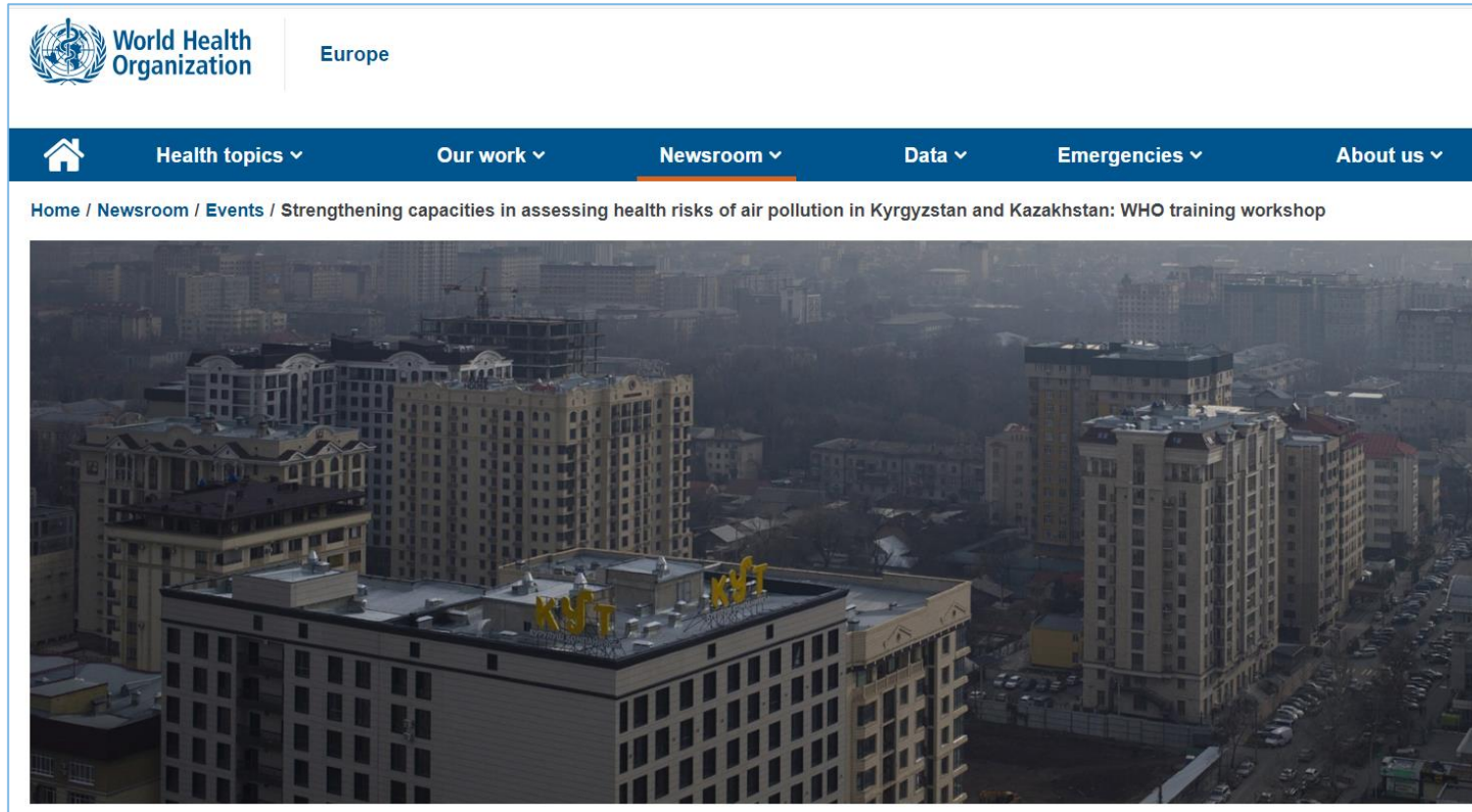


[Climate Change Mitigation, Air Quality and Health \(CLIMAQ-H\) \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/climaq-h)

2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

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1.2 Cooperation with Parties				
1.2.1	Capacity-building for health impact assessment of air pollution at regional and subregional levels	Development and implementation of capacity-building curriculum to address different needs	TF-Health	Recommended contributions, additional resources required
1.2.2	Stimulate national integrated assessment capacity in EECCA, Türkiye and West Balkan countries	Application of updated GAINS multiscale model/EMEP/uEMEP Workshop on GAINS scenarios	MSC-W and CIAM with CEIP, TFIAM, TFTEI	
1.2.3	Regular coordination with task forces and expert groups on CH ₄ , O ₃ , N	Meeting notes	TFIAM, TFHTAP, TF-Health, TFRN, FICAP	

Capacity building activities



The screenshot shows the WHO website interface. At the top left is the WHO logo and the text 'World Health Organization'. To its right is the 'Europe' region selector. Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with a home icon and menu items: 'Health topics', 'Our work', 'Newsroom' (highlighted with an orange underline), 'Data', 'Emergencies', and 'About us'. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Newsroom / Events / Strengthening capacities in assessing health risks of air pollution in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: WHO training workshop'. The main content area features a large photograph of a cityscape with several tall apartment buildings under a hazy sky. A building in the foreground has 'KNT' signs on its roof.

- Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 04-08 December 2023
- 30 environmental and public health experts from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan
- To increase awareness and knowledge of the health effects of air pollution and improve ability to assess the related health risks
- Group discussion and hands-on exercises

2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

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1.3 Cooperation with other projects and bodies (outreach activities)				
1.3.5	Contribute to update of WMO low-cost sensor review	Report	TFMM, WMO/GAW	Additional resources required
1.3.6	Promote health messages related to air pollution in Europe	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> Formulation of health messages in air pollution Risk communication activities for different stakeholders </div>	TF-Health, secretariat	Additional resources required
1.3.7	Cooperation with Climate and Clean Air Coalition	Report to annual joint sessions of EMEP SB/WGE	EMEP with TFEIP, TFHTAP, TFMM, secretariat	Additional resources required

Recent WHO publications to support the planned activities

Continuation of activities

- Formulation of health messages in air pollution
- Risk communication activities for different stakeholders

Supporting emerging interventions

- Applying Behavioral and Cultural Insight (BCI) approach for individual protective behaviors, including for vulnerable groups



Report of personal-level actions to reduce air pollution exposure in the WHO European Region (2024)



Summary of information and formulating practical advice for general and vulnerable population by 5 main categories

Uniform set of criteria: Effectiveness in enhancing health and reducing exposure to air pollution, personal costs, social factors, barriers, etc.

- Reducing time spent in polluted outdoor environments
- Adjusting the location and timing of physical activity
- Using air cleaners (portable and central/ventilation/air condition)
- Wearing face coverings (respirators and face masks)
- Mobility options (transport, active transportation, routes, driving style and vehicle settings)

TFH in the wider regional and global context



World Health
Organization

European Region

The **Budapest Declaration** and its Road Map to 2030 accelerate progress and action towards **addressing health challenges** related to **environmental pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity**, while recovering from the COVID-19 crisis

Our commitment: We will continue and enhance our efforts to reduce the substantial burden of diseases caused by different types of pollution and work to reduce exposure and prevent adverse health impacts of pollution in the future, by:

14. updating policies and taking action, including revisions and gradual setting of stricter air quality standards, taking into account available technology and economic conditions, to achieve reduction of exposure to air pollution and its health impacts, together with measures that improve air quality, in particular source control;

25. using the WHO guidelines on air quality, on water quality, on safe use of wastewater, on environmental noise, and on the establishment of poison centres, as evidence informed reference for national standard setting or actions/interventions;

26. leveraging the existing platforms, like the Joint Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, and tools to strengthen capacities and systems to monitor air pollutants and to assess the health impacts of air pollution;



WHO/TFH presentations at the annual EANET seminars – 2022, 2023



European Region

[Seminar on the Effects of Acid Deposition and Air Pollution on Human Health and Ecosystems \(eanet.asia\)](http://eanet.asia)

Forthcoming regional event – TFH participation in the panel on AQ

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[🏠](#) > [Events calendar](#) > [V4+ Conference on Environment and Health in Central and Eastern Europe](#)

V4+ Conference on Environment and Health in Central and Eastern Europe

11 March 2024

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM



**World Health
Organization**

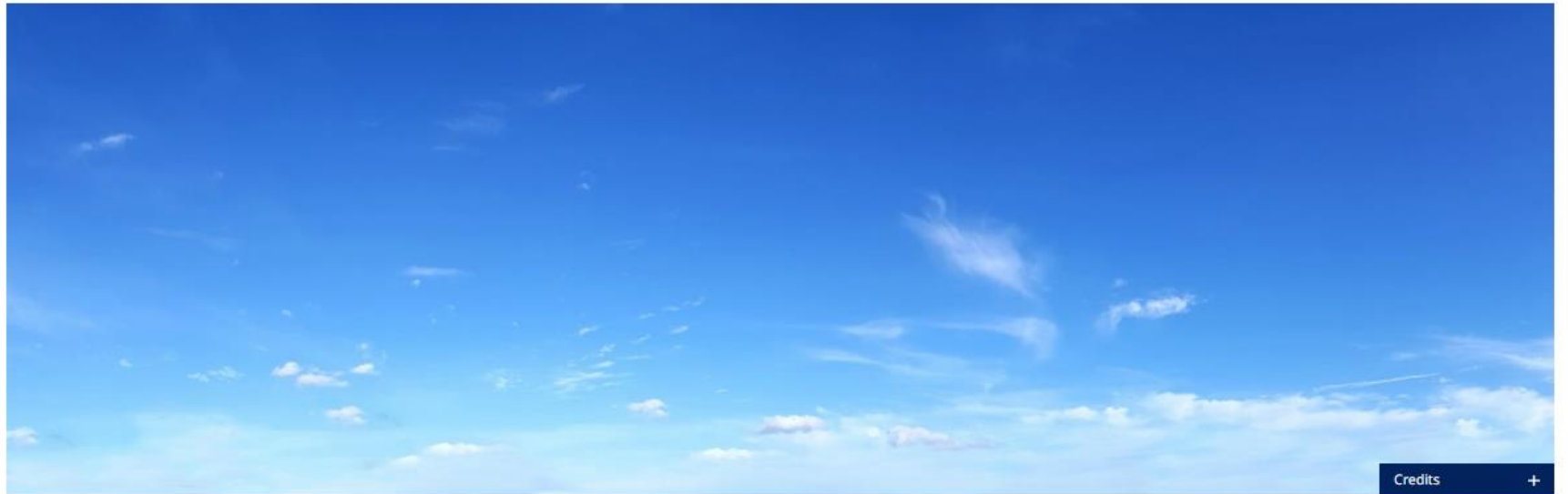
European Region

[V4+ Conference on Environment and Health in Central and Eastern Europe | RECETOX \(muni.cz\)](#)

Forthcoming global WHO conference on air pollution and health



Home / Newsroom / Events / Detail / Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health



Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

[Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/newsroom/detail/20240828-second-global-conference-on-air-pollution-and-health)



European Region

- 29-31 October, 2024
- Ghana

Thank you