Health, environment, climate: an EU agenda to reduce the burden of disease and inequalities

Joint final conference of the Horizon Europe METEOR cluster projects: co-led by BEST-COST & UBDPolicy, with MARCHES, MISTRAL & VALESOR

25 November 2026 | 9:15-17:45 CET | The Renaissance, Brussels

This event is recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

8:45 – 9:15 **Registration and coffee**

9:15 – 9:20 **Welcome**

- **Suzanne Costello**, CEO All Island Institute of Public Health, Ireland

9:20 – 9:35 **Keynote – Reducing burden of disease, protecting the environment, and ensuring competitiveness: delivering on EU priorities**

- **Jessika Roswall**, Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy (tbc)

9:35 – 10:20 **Panel 1: Setting the scene – What is at stake for people's health from pollution and climate threats, especially for vulnerable groups?**

Moderator: Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet

- **Leena Ylä-Mononen,** Executive Director, European Environment Agency
- **Suzanne Costello**, CEO All Island Institute of Public Health, Ireland
- **Jennifer Murnane O'Connor**, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy, Ireland (tbc)
- **Alexander Simidchiev**, Member of the Bulgarian Parliament & Founder of Air4Health (tbc)
- **Jessika Roswall**, Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy (tbc)

10:20 – 10:45 **Keynote – Translating cutting-edge research into policy: lessons learnt from the METEOR cluster**

- **Mark Nieuwenhuijsen**, Director, Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative, ISGlobal

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 – 12:45 **Panel 2: From research to impact at local level – Scaling up good practices, tools and key research results for healthier cities and communities**

Moderator: Anne Stauffer, HEAL

- UBDPolicy: **Sasha Khomenko**, Postdoctoral Researcher on Nature and Urban Health, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) – *Transferring and scaling good practices to reduce the environmental burden of disease at urban level*
- MISTRAL: **Rodolfo Sardone**, Head of Unit of Research Innovation and Technology Transfer, Urban Health Center, Local Health Authority of Taranto, Italy – *Transforming complex urban systems into predictive intelligence to build healthier, more resilient cities*
- MARCHES: **Jörg Schullehner,** Associate Professor in Public Health, Aarhus University – *Integrating economic and health modelling in impact assessments at local level for cleaner drinking water*

Panel discussion:

Researchers from UBDPolicy, MISTRAL and MARCHES are joined by:

- **Karen Vancluysen,** Secretary General, POLIS
- WHO European Healthy Cities Network
- **Michal Olzewski**, Deputy Major of Warsaw (tbc)

12:45 – 13:45 **Lunch**

13:45 – 15:15 **Panel 3: From research to policy and action – Cost-effective approaches to reduce health inequalities from environmental stressors**

Moderator: Alba Godfrey, EuroHealthNet

- BEST-COST: **Brecht Devleesschauwer**, Head of Service Health Information, Sciensano – *Policy tools to tackle social inequalities in environmental burden of disease*
- VALESOR: **Ståle Navrud**, Professor in Environmental and Resource Economics, Norwegian University of Life Sciences – *Importance of economic valuation of health impacts from environmental stressors for decision-making*

Panel discussion:

Researchers from BEST-COST and VALESOR are joined by:

- **Frank Siebern-Thomas**, Heat of Unit Green Transition, DG EMPL
- **Gerardo Sanchez,** Expert in Environment, Health and Wellbeing, European Environment Agency
- **Marta Moya Diaz**, Acting Director One Health Directorate, DG SANTE (tbc)
- **Monika Kosinska**, Global Lead Health Equity and Social Determinants, WHO (tbc)

15:15 – 16:15	**Panel 4: Moving ahead through EU policy – Learning from research to invest in people's health, reduce disease cost, and lessen inequalities: which EU agenda to 2030?** *Moderator: Anne Stauffer, HEAL* • **Keynote: Sophie Hermans**, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands (tbc) • **Sir Andy Haines**, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, London Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine & Chief Scientist of the WHO Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health • **Robb Butler**, Professor at the London School of Economics and WHO Special Representative for Climate and Health • **Veronica Manfredi**, Director for Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition, DG ENV • **Chiara Martinelli**, Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe
16:15	**Closing remarks** • **Sir Andy Haines**, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, London Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine & Chief Scientist of the WHO Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health
16:30	**Reception**

METEOR is a cluster of five Horizon Europe projects researching the health impacts of environmental stressors, such as air and noise pollution, and chemicals, and related socioeconomic costs. Together they lay out abroad and detailed view of how health is impacted by the environment and suggest policy recommendations to protect our health and the planet.

Funded by the European Union

These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-HLTH-2022-ENVHLTH-04-01 (Methods for assessing health-related costs of environmental stressors) and grant agreements 101094639 (UBDPOLICY), 101095611 (VALESOR), 101095430 (MARCHES), 101095408 (BEST-COST) and 101095119 (MISTRAL).

REGISTRATION LINKS:

to join in person: https://crm.eurohealthnet.eu/civicrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=150

to join online: https://crm.eurohealthnet.eu/civicrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=157