



Statement by the EUPHA Environment and health section (EUPHA-ENV)

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 environment is a major determinant of health, estimated to account more than 23% of all deaths globally.

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.

We, the undersigned the Section on Environment and Health, point out that:

- Simultaneously, with numerous efforts to preserve and improve the environment, there is still a great need to study the impact on the health of individuals and populations.
- 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.

Within the European Public Health Association, the Section for Environment and Health will work in cooperation with all other Sections to promote and act to improve the environment and health.

We are dedicated to supporting, initiating and empowering the academic community as well as citizens and local communities who are committed to better protect people's health from environmental and climate threats.

We are committed to connecting with all other organizations who are devoted to improve environmental health and with whom we can make a stronger contribution to improving the environment and health.

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

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.

Despite all the difficulties, the Covid-19 crisis pointed out a new way of understanding of our closest environments, like urban public transport, importance of urban green areas and walking zones.

The significance of digitalization and online communication has grown in the times of the pandemic. Thus, increase of remote work, presence of new, digital solutions for education, and uptake of digital social environments are also important topics for environment and health. We will recognize such examples and increase awareness of better solutions for environment and health.

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. Also 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.

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The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. Our network of national associations of public health represents around 20'000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes

to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

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