

Pre-conference: sustainable primary health care; lessons learned, quick wins and challenges

**Wednesday 8 November, 13:30 – 17:00 Dublin time
(network lunch included)**

Organised by:

NHG - Dutch College for General Practitioners, the Netherlands; European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), Netherlands;

With support of the **EUPHA HSR Section** and **EQUIP**, The European Society for Quality & Safety in Family Medicine

Introduction

The climate crisis is the greatest threat to public health. Climate change and environmental pollution are leading to a vast increase of (different) healthcare challenges, such as infectious diseases and heat stress.

The healthcare sector makes people better, helps prevent illness and offers people a good quality of life. In Europe, the healthcare sector is jointly responsible for about 5 - 10% of CO2 emissions. In addition, around 5% of the waste and more than 10% of the use of raw materials comes from healthcare. By providing care, the sector contributes to the climate crisis. In several countries throughout Europe, programmes, projects and 'Green deals' and other initiatives are working on Sustainable Care.

In this Preconference we start with the broader picture on sustainable care and the main challenges we have by attributing positively to climate change and its health consequences.

Then we focus on Primary care. What is needed to get started with making your practice more sustainable? What support and information is already available? Working more sustainably is not only about major investments, but also about small daily actions that can make a difference. Health promotion and Global health go well together, as experts teach us. So Public Health and Primary health care have shared objectives.

We describe lessons learned from initiatives and programmes in different European countries and share our experiences during an interactive session.

Programme

Chair:

Diederik Aarendonk.

Coordinator European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), Netherlands

We start with some key-lectures and short presentations by experts from science and practice.

- ✓ **Andrée Rochfort,**
Director Quality Improvement Irish College of General Practitioners
Assistant Clinical Professor, University College Dublin;
President of EQUIP, The European Society for Quality & Safety in Family Medicine
- Title: Leadership and Multidisciplinary Collaboration is needed for Planetary Health and One Health

Andrée will describe the demonstration of Leadership in General Practice / Family Medicine when WONCA Europe Council endorsed the 2023 Revision of the European Definition of General Practice / Family Medicine in Brussels in June 2023. <https://www.woncaeurope.org/news/view/2023-revision-of-the-definition-of-general-practice-family-medicine>

She will also outline transdisciplinary leadership developments at European level involving public health and primary care with others <https://www.mdpi.com/2078-1547/14/3/33>.

Frontline family doctors in Ireland and other countries are also demonstrating leadership within their general practice teams and implementing practical actions as described in the Glas Toolkit https://www.icgp.ie/go/in_the_practice/planetary_health

Family doctors together with Public Health and others in the health sector are working to develop public awareness and to inform decision makers in Ireland. <https://climateandhealthalliance.wordpress.com/>

- ✓ **Maria Lorena Dini Pou del Castillo,**
Institute of General Practice, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Vice President EUPHA HSR Section
- Title: Current approaches to green primary care – examples from research and interdisciplinary practice
- ✓ **Yasmine El-Hage**
Health Policy Research and Innovation Working Group Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin;
University of California
- Title: Community-Based Participatory Research Methods in Environmental Crises: Citizen Science (recorded presentation)

- ✓ **Jan Jansen,**
Department Quality in Practice, Dutch College for General Practitioners
- Title: Sustainable Primary Health Care in the Netherlands; lessons learned, quick wins and challenges

During the plenary discussion of this first part of the programme we address the quick wins for sustainable health care (which amongst others have been described in an e-book in the Netherlands). Furthermore we talk about the bottlenecks and barriers experienced when implementing a more sustainable practice. Hopefully the participants can provide each other with (first steps to) solutions.

In the second part, we discuss, interactively in small groups, statements, such as:

- Environmental issues in relation to primary care are negligible in comparison to what is produced at secondary care level.
- If you want to have less environmental impact on the health of your patients you need to pay attention to your own footprint as well.
- Besides what our respective governments should be doing, what could be a preventive role for professionals in **public health and primary healthcare** towards citizens in terms of lowering the impact of climate change on general health?
- For the surgery, patient and staff travel dominate the footprint. So the more remote consultations, the less impact on environment. We should invest in digital health care, also in in **primary healthcare**
- Preventing and reducing the impact of pharmaceuticals on the environment is a crucial area in which primary care professionals can play an important role.

Coordinators

- Jan Jansen, Dutch College for General Practitioners, Netherlands.
- Diederik Aarendonk. European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC), Netherlands
- Andrée Rochfort, Irish College of General Practitioners, University College Dublin, European Society for Quality & Safety in Family Medicine
- Wim Klein Nagelvoort. EFPC Greener Primary Care Working Group, Netherlands
- Béatrice Scholtes, Université Liège, Belgium