



## EUROHEALTHNET ANNUAL SEMINAR 2025

### Climate change and health

Using the health argument to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change

11 June 2025, 13:30-17:30 CEST

Location: Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union (Brussels) and online



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**Venue:** Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union (Brussels) and online  
Entry to conference room: 89-93 Rue Ducale, 1000 Brussels (backside of the building)

2024 was globally the warmest year on record. Across Europe and the world, communities were devastated by floods and wildfires. People are losing their lives and their livelihoods, with the most vulnerable likely to suffer most and be least able to cope and recover.

The call for urgent action is starting to sound like a broken record. Yet greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and with each passing year, the Paris Agreement goals move further out of reach. What can we do to change course?

The imperative of protecting people from death, disease and displacement, and of giving everyone the conditions in which to thrive and live a healthy life, can be a powerful argument to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The 2025 EuroHealthNet Annual Seminar will begin by setting out the evidence of the health and health equity impacts of climate change, including the costs of inaction. Experts will explore what difference we can make – as public health professionals and beyond. How can we take action, advocate for, and achieve change, bringing everyone on board? A high-level policy panel will discuss how initiatives across sectors and across levels of governance can create a healthier planet and protect everyone's health and wellbeing.

The hybrid seminar will encourage interactive discussions with the audience, as together we debate what needs to be done to inform and act now. All of us have a role to play. We hope you will join us.

## AGENDA

13.30                      **Registration and coffee**

14.00 – 14.20            **Welcome and introduction**

- **Marcos Alonso**, Ambassador of Spain to the EU - *Welcome*
- **Suzanne Costello**, President of EuroHealthNet & Chief Executive of the Institute of Public Health in Ireland - *Introduction to the seminar*
- **Pedro Gullón Tosio**, Director General of Public Health and Equity, Spanish Ministry of Health - *Spanish Strategy of Global Health*

14.20 – 14.45

## Session 1: The evidence: the health and health equity impact of climate change

Moderated by **Suzanne Costello**, President of EuroHealthNet & Chief Executive of the Institute of Public Health in Ireland

- **Joacim Rocklöv**, Regional Co-Director for Europe of Lancet Countdown on Climate Change & Health - *Setting the scene: the health impacts of climate change*
- **Sinaia Netanyahu**, Programme Manager, WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Center for Environment and Health (online) - *Putting health equity at the heart of conversations on climate change*

14.45 – 15.45

## Session 2: The tools and practices: getting everyone on board and taking action

Moderated by **Sumina Azam**, Vice-President of EuroHealthNet & National Director of Policy and International Health at Public Health Wales, together with **Alba Godfrey**, EuroHealthNet Senior Project Coordinator on Climate and Health

- **Launch of new video** on climate-friendly hospital in Vienna produced by EuroHealthNet and the Austrian National Public Health Institute
- **Christoph Csoklich**, Senior Expert Climate protection, Climate and Health Competence Center, Austrian National Public Health Institute - *Getting healthcare on board: liaising with health systems to take action on climate change*
- **Brigit Staatsen**, Senior Researcher Healthy Living Environments at RIVM, the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands - *Getting public health practitioners on board: what difference can we make and how can we advocate for and take action on climate change?*
- **Dorothea Baltruks**, Director of the Centre for Planetary Health Policy - *Getting citizens on board: shaping an engaging narrative and navigating backlash*
- **Brecht Devleeschauwer**, Head of Service Health Information at Sciensano, the Belgian Institute for Health - *Connecting research with policymakers: tools for advocating for policy action from a public health perspective*
- **Audience Q&A** – Co-moderated by the session chairs

15.45

## Coffee/tea break

16.15 – 17.20

### Session 3: The policies: promoting the health and wellbeing of all people and our planet across sectors and levels of governance

Moderated by **Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš**, Honorary Advisor of EuroHealthNet & Head of the Healthy Lifestyle Department at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) Slovenia, together with **Silvia Ganzerla**, EuroHealthNet Policy Manager

#### Panel discussion and audience Q&A:

- **Sandra Gallina**, Director General, European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- **Florika Fink-Hooijer**, Director General Head of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
- **Dirk Ramaekers**, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- **MEP Tilly Metz**, Greens/ EFA, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Health in the European Parliament

17.20 – 17.30

### Closing and reflections

- **MEP Leire Pajín**, S&D, member of the Committee on Public Health and the Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety in the European Parliament
- **Pedro Gullón Tosio**, Director General of Public Health and Equity, Spanish Ministry of Health
- **Caroline Costongs**, Director of EuroHealthNet

17.30 – 18.30

### Non-alcoholic reception



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