




First WHO Conference on Health and Climate: Europe urges promoting health while mitigating climate change

First WHO Conference on Health and Climate: Europe urges promoting health while mitigating climate change
Participants from 33 Member States in the WHO European Region are taking part in the Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland on 27-29 August 2014. The Conference is intended to promote a more systematic approach to health protection in coordination with national and international efforts to address climate change. Key objectives include: to widen access to the most up-to-date evidence, tools and knowledge to enhance resilience and protect health from climate change; to identify the health benefits associated with reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants; and to support policies on climate change that promote health. The participants include high-level government representatives, development partners and technical experts. The environment and health sectors in the WHO European Region have a long history of collaboration, consolidated in 2010 through the establishment of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board. In a session on day 1 of the Conference that focused on linking the international climate, sustainable development and health policy, Valentina Tapis, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, representing the Board, said: "Today, the question is not anymore if and what to do, but how to do it. This has been prominent on our agenda in the European Region since the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in 1999 in London. The European Environment and Health Ministerial Board has identified climate change as one of the most important environment and health challenges of our time. The most effective adaptation measures for health in the near term are programmes that focus on prevention; ensure basic public health services; reduce inequalities; provide clean water, air and food; increase capacity for disaster preparedness and response; and alleviate poverty. For this reason, a more intensified inclusion of climate change into public health planning and programs is required." Relevance for the European environment and health process
Participants from the European Region will shape Conference outcomes through sessions on policies, mechanisms and tools for building health resilience to climate change, issues in urban settings and the leveraging of environment and climate finance to strengthen health systems. This will contribute to the Boards work on commitments made in the 2010 Parma Declaration on Environment and Health, which is guided by the European Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC). HIC drives change and promotes the exchange of experience and pilot projects through 38 countries in the European Region and 5 contributing agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL). The HIC co-chairs - Louise Newport of the Department of Health, United Kingdom, and Jutta Litvinovitch, of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in Germany - made a statement, saying: "Climate change responses have been rather reactive, as was seen recently in the multiple floods hitting Europe this year. Advance planning for what climate change will likely bring is an important component of the health-in-climate-change response, so capacities need to be evaluated and actively developed." Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO)
Marmorvej 51 - DK-2100 Kopenhagen - Dänemark
Telefon: +45 45 33 70 00
Telefax: +45 45 33 70 01
Mail: postmaster@euro.who.int
URL: <http://www.euro.who.int/> 

Pressekontakt

Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO)

DK-2100 Kopenhagen

euro.who.int/
postmaster@euro.who.int

Firmenkontakt

Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO)

DK-2100 Kopenhagen

euro.who.int/
postmaster@euro.who.int

Die WHO wurde 1948 mit dem Ziel gegründet, für alle Völker das höchstmögliche Gesundheitsniveau zu erreichen. Mit ihren 194 Mitgliedstaaten ist die WHO federführend in globalen Gesundheitsfragen und in der Gestaltung der Forschungsagenda für Gesundheit, im Aufstellen von Normen und Standards und in der Formulierung evidenzbasierter Grundsatzoptionen. Die WHO bietet ihren Mitgliedstaaten fachliche Unterstützung, sie überwacht und bewertet gesundheitliche Entwicklungen, sie unterstützt medizinische Forschung und leistet Soforthilfe bei Katastrophen. Die WHO setzt sich weltweit für bessere Ernährung und für eine Verbesserung der Wohn- und Arbeitsbedingungen sowie der sanitären Verhältnisse ein. Ihr Hauptbüro ist in der Schweiz in Genf angesiedelt. Sechs Regionalbüros sind über die ganze Welt verteilt. Die WHO arbeitet in einem zunehmend komplexen und sich rapide verändernden Umfeld. Gesundheitspolitik ist heute weniger deutlich von anderen Bereichen zu trennen und sie erreicht inzwischen auch die Sektoren, die Auswirkungen auf gesundheitliche Chancen und Ergebnisse haben können. Die Agenda der WHO angesichts solcher Herausforderungen enthält sechs Punkte: zwei gesundheitliche Ziele: Förderung der Entwicklung und Förderung der Gesundheitssicherheit; zwei strategische Bedürfnisse: Stärkung der Gesundheitssysteme und Nutzbarmachung von Forschungsergebnissen, -daten und -erkenntnissen; zwei operative Ansätze: Ausweitung der Partnerschaften und Verbesserung der Leistung.