

Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ECEH)

Organization: World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ECEH)

Title:

To improve knowledge and provide scientific evidence of health impact of air pollution in cooperation with Member States, international organizations and experts (BACA Actions 4, 28, 29 and 33).

Description: Fostering cooperation and the exchange of information; holding annual meetings of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution of the WHO ECEH and the UNECE Executive Body for the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution; assessing how long-range transboundary air pollution affects human health; helping define priorities to guide future monitoring and abatement strategies; providing advice and tools on monitoring and modelling health impact of air pollution.

Further information: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/air-quality/activities/health-aspects-of-long-range-transboundary-air-pollution>

Expected outcome: Strengthened capacity of the MS, parties to the CLRTAP, in implementing the provisions of the conventions by taking into account health effects of the related pollutants; Improved understanding on health impacts of air pollution; identified new emerging issues of health impacts of air pollution; enhanced capacity on understanding on health impacts of air pollution; prioritized future directions of international policies and processes on air quality and health; prioritized policies on air pollution in a cost effective manner.

Partners: UNECE, Member States of the WHO European Region parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols, experts and stakeholders

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Title:

Update of WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (BACA Actions 4, 24 and 28)

Description: WHO Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) are used as a reference tool to help decision-makers in setting standards and goals for air quality management. The last edition of WHO AQGs for ambient air quality was published in 2006, providing recommendations for the classical air pollutants: particulate matter (PM), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). Since then, considerable new evidence on health effects from short- and long-term exposure to these pollutants and CO has become available. In addition, questions over the adverse health effects of desert dust have acquired a more prominent role in recent discussions among Member States. As a result, WHO started the update of the global AQGs for ambient air in 2016, covering the classical air pollutants, CO and desert dust. The project is expected to take several years (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/air-quality/activities/update-of-who-global-air-quality-guidelines>).

Expected outcome: The resulting evidence-informed recommendations will provide support to Member States in developing sound air quality management policies and standards to protect populations from the adverse health effects of ambient air pollution.

Partners: (providing financial support): European Commission, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, US Environmental Protection Agency and Government of the Republic of Korea. Other partners: International experts and stakeholders.

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Title:

Capacity building on health impact assessment of air pollution (including use of AirQ+) in the WHO European Region (BACA Action 28)

Description: The WHO ECEH will develop a training curriculum on air pollution and health, including the use of AirQ+ tool, in order to strengthen capacities in the Member States of the WHO European Region, enhance public awareness, and encourage national action to address air pollution through evidence-based policy making. WHO ECEH will assess the feasibility of setting up a summer/winter school of air pollution and health in Bonn, Germany, to serve the member states of the WHO European Region.

For further information please visit

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/air-quality/activities/airq-software-tool-for-health-risk-assessment-of-air-pollution>).

Expected outcome:

- Maintenance and updated version of the AirQ+ tool
- Development of a curriculum for capacity building on quantification of health impacts of air pollution
- Feasibility plan for a summer/winter school of air pollution and health in Bonn

Partners: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, UNECE, and Member States of the WHO European Region

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