
The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution

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The Eighth Joint Session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects; UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

12 – 16 September 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland



European Region

25th Task Force on Health (TFH) meeting

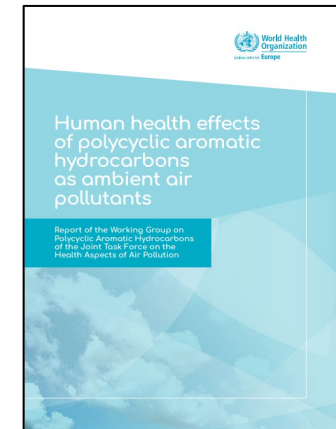
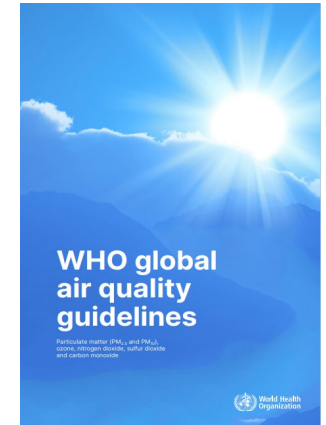
Hold online on **10-11 May 2022**

Attended by:

- 38 representatives of 36 Parties to the Convention
- The European Union - represented by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency
- 16 temporary advisors
- 12 observers

25th Task Force on Health (TFH) meeting – main agenda items

- International policies and processes on air quality and health
- WHO global air quality guidelines and implementation support work
- Report on the health effects of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- Progress in research on air pollution and health
 - Quantification of mortality or morbidity attributable to air pollution
 - Source sector and fuel contributions to PM and attributable mortality
 - Systematic review of health effects to traffic-related air pollution
 - WHO Ambient Air Quality Database
- Tools for air quality and health
- Communication and public health messages on air pollution
- Implementation of the TFH workplan
- Presentation of TF for International Cooperation on Air Pollution



WHO AQGs – support to implementation

Communication and dissemination

- WHO AQGs executive summaries – translations
- Continuing to disseminate AQGs in different expert conferences, webinars
- More than 100 000 downloads from WHO website since the launch



Science - policy dialogues in Member States

- To discuss with national stakeholders the health impacts of air pollution, links between AQ and CC agendas; to facilitate discussing national priorities
- Poland (hybrid, 16 Feb 2022), Bulgaria (online 25 Feb 2022)
- Other Member States – under discussion



Resource package – compendium of tools to support implementation of AQG

2022-2023 Workplan

- **1.1. Improving tools to assess air pollution and its effects in the ECE region**
- **1.1.1. Monitoring and modelling tools**
- **1.1.1.27. Consolidate existing evidence** on health outcomes of exposure to air pollution
 - A report on **methods** for health risk/impact assessment of air pollution and cost-benefit analysis (update to **HRAPIE** project)
 - An overview on air pollution and COVID-19 (optional, pending resources)
- **1.1.1.28. Further develop methodologies for assessment of direct and indirect impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution on human health**
 - Update of **tools** for quantification of the health impacts of **air pollution**, including links to **climate change mitigation**
 - Assessment of health co-benefits and trade-offs between climate change and clean air agendas (optional, pending resources)

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HRAPIE-2 – an update of Health Risks of Air Pollution in Europe

The rationale:

- new evidence for concentration-response functions (CRFs);
- new WHO AQGs;
- ongoing work of several groups on CRFs

Coordinated with the WHO Estimation of Morbidity from Air Pollution and its Economic Costs (EMAPEC) project

Focus on: PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO₂, ozone and mortality, long-term effects, the WHO European Region

New analyses and literature reviews planned

HRAPIE-2 report expected by the end of 2023

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EH tools

AirQ+

- Update of software parameters based on the WHO AQGs; improved Life Table module; GEMM function available

CaRBonH CLIMAQ-H

- Application of CaRBonH – case study in North Macedonia
- New interface and name: **C**limate **M**itigation, **A**ir **Q**uality and **H**ealth (CLIMAQ-H)
- Improved calculation methods of health and economic benefits of climate mitigation actions; updated default input data; greater flexibility to manipulate parameters; improved user-friendly interface
- Expected to be launched by the end of 2022

2022-2023 Workplan

- **1.2. Cooperation with Parties**
- **1.3 Cooperation with other projects and bodies (outreach activities)**
- **1.2.3./1.3.5. Capacity-building for the health impact assessment of air pollution at regional and subregional levels**
 - Development and implementation of the **capacity-building** curriculum to address different needs
- **1.3.6. Promote health messages related to air pollution in Europe**
 - Formulation of health messages in air pollution, including on personal-level interventions
 - Workshop on risk communication, including for medical professionals, on health messages related to air pollution to the public and at individual level

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Personal-level actions to reduce air pollution exposure

- A summary of the evidence on personal-level interventions to reduce ambient air pollution exposure
- Interventions considered: time spent in polluted outdoor environments; physical activity location and time; portable air cleaners; central air cleaners, ventilation, air conditioning; respirators; face masks; active transport and routes; driving style and vehicle settings
- Key features analysed: effectiveness, limitations, risks/harms, environmental impacts, cost, social factors
- Expected to be published by early 2023

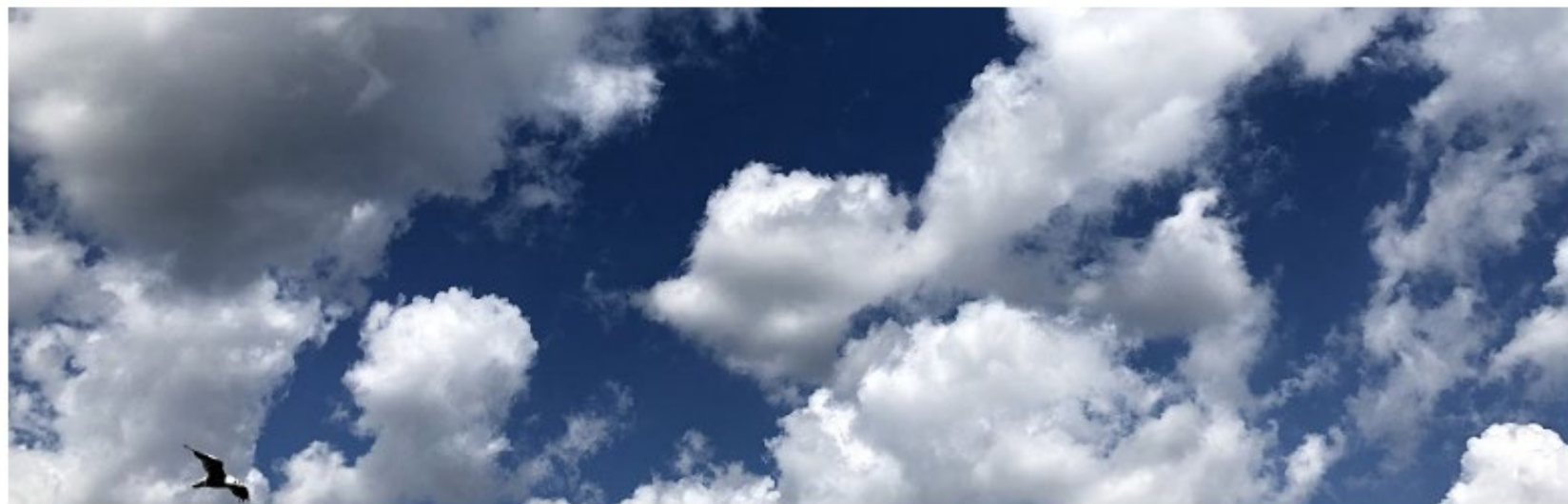
Risk communication - Air Quality Index in Europe

- Review of the air quality indices from 39 countries in the WHO European Region
- A need to validate air quality indices using local health data
- Expected to be published by early 2023





Home / News / International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: joint efforts needed to tackle air pollution driving climate change and affecting health



International Day of Clean Air for blue skies: joint efforts needed to tackle air pollution driving climate change and affecting health

Рукопий

7 September 2022 | News release | Reading time: 3 min (779 words)

Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, alongside climate change. It is responsible for half a million premature deaths in the WHO European Region per year, primarily due to noncommunicable diseases, such as ischaemic heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. On this International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, on 7 September, WHO/Europe recognizes the value of "the air we share" and the need for a concerted cooperative effort to tackle the persisting burden of air pollution that is driving climate change and damaging people's health.

Related

[International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#)

[WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin 2022](#)

[WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines: executive summary](#)

Thank you

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution>

