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# The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution – activities and the workplan 2024-2025

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# 26<sup>th</sup> Task Force on Health (TFH) meeting – 16-17 May 2023

## Bonn, Germany, in person and on-line

- 41 representatives from 38 Parties to the Convention, 8 observers and 10 temporary advisers
- Updates on national and international policies and processes on air quality and health, with contributions from the UNECE secretariat, the European Commission and WHO headquarters
- An overview of the 7<sup>th</sup> Saltsjöbaden workshop - focusing on policy-relevant understanding of air pollution effects on health
- Country examples and updates from the research
- Update on the tools, including improved functions in AirQ+ and update on the status of a new tool, CLIMAQ-H, linking climate change mitigation and air quality agendas
- Risk communication session
- Discussion on the TFH Workplan 2022-2023 and the plans for 2024-2025



# 2022-2023 Workplan of TFH

<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
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## 1.1 Improving tools to assess air pollution and its effects in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 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)	Task Force on Health in collaboration with other groups, for example, TFIAM	Expected to be covered by recommended contribution; further funding needed
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An overview on air pollution and COVID-19 (optional, pending resources)

Task Force on Health





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# Proposals for 2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

## Consolidating existing evidence on health outcomes of exposure to air pollution

- **Continuation of HRAPIE-2 project**
  - Focus on concentration-response functions (CRFs) for exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub> and mortality
  - Coordinated with the Estimation of Morbidity from Air Pollution and its Economic Costs (EMAPEC) project
  - Based on advice provided by group of external experts and commissioned systematic reviews
  - HRAPIE-2 systematic reviews are commissioned – the work will continue in 2024
- **The work on ozone and health** - exploratory analysis of the recent developments on ozone and health (optional, pending resources)



# 2022-2023 Workplan of TFH

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## 1.1 Improving tools to assess air pollution and its effects in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

### 1.1.1 Monitoring and modelling tools

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 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)	Task Force on Health	Expected to be covered by recommended contribution and other potential donors; further funding needed
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# Achieving health benefits from carbon reductions

Manual for the climate change mitigation, air quality and health tool

CLIMAQ-H

Version 1.0.



## Climate Change Mitigation, Air Quality and Health (CLIMAQ-H)

Climate change mitigation policies that reduce emissions also improve air quality, bringing health co-benefits – the so-called Health Climate Bonus. The CLIMAQ-H software can be used to estimate the health and related economic gains achieved by Member States of the WHO European Region by implementing actions and measures aimed at mitigating climate change by reducing domestic carbon emissions. These actions and measures, specifically intended to decrease carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases, are those defined by the Paris Agreement and reported by governments in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

CLIMAQ-H is a tool for Member States to assess the outcomes of climate-driven policies and support decision-making, or for screening “what-if” scenarios – such as different carbon-reduction options – by comparing the potential health co-benefits achieved by implementing their NDC targets.

### How it works

Using methodologies based on evidence from epidemiological studies, CLIMAQ-H calculates the annual benefit of averted long-term mortality and morbidity from exposure to ambient air pollution. Pollutants considered include:

- primary emission reductions of particulate matter (PM) with a diameter less than 2.5µm (PM<sub>2.5</sub>); and
- changes in the secondary PM aerosols from emission reductions of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).

Relevant demographic and other data are pre-loaded for most countries in the WHO European Region.

The manual, available both online and as a software package, provides information on how to install CLIMAQ-H, run the software and perform example analyses. It also introduces users to analysing the impact of air pollution on public health, considering data from different countries. Ensuring the support of an epidemiologist or health impact assessment expert is recommended to help set up CLIMAQ-H and interpret results.

CLIMAQ-H replaces and advances the Carbon Reduction Benefits on Health (CaRBonH) calculation tool, released by WHO/Europe in 2018. CaRBonH users can find information on key differences and improvements between CaRBonH and CLIMAQ-H in the manual.

Together with AirQ+, CLIMAQ-H is part of the set of software tools developed by WHO/Europe to quantify the health impacts of air pollution.

### The Paris Agreement and the NDCs

### Tool link

Download CLIMAQ-H software - Windows (Zip file, 40 MB / EN) [↗](#)

Download CLIMAQ-H software - Macintosh (Zip file, 40 MB / EN) [↗](#)

### Manual



4 JULY 2023

**Achieving health benefits from carbon reductions. Manual for use of the climate change...**

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Read More



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# Proposals for 2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

**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**

- AirQ+
- CLIMAQ-H

**Case studies of estimating health co-benefits and trade-offs between climate change and clean air agendas**



# 2022-2023 Workplan of TFH

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<i>Workplan item</i>	<i>Activity description/ objective</i>	<i>Expected outcome/ deliverable</i>	<i>Lead body(ies)</i>	<i>Resource requirements and/or funding source</i>
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## 1.2 Cooperation with Parties

1.2.3	Capacity-building for health impact assessment of air pollution at regional and subregional levels	Development and implementation of capacity-building curriculum to address different needs	Task Force on Health	Expected to be covered by recommended contribution and other potential donors
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# Proposals for 2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

## Capacity-building for the health impact assessment of air pollution at regional and subregional levels

### **Continuation of capacity building activities**

- Science-policy dialogues with Member States
- Subregional training on air quality and health

### **Revision and further development of training curricula**

- Development and implementation of the capacity-building curriculum to address different needs

### **Contribution to the planned work on e-learning for the effects related activities of the CLRTAP**

# 2022-2023 Workplan of TFH

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## **1.3 Cooperation with other projects and bodies (outreach activities)**

1.3.5	Capacity-building on health impact assessment of air pollution at regional and subregional levels	Development and implementation of capacity-building curriculum to address different needs	Task Force on Health	Expected to be covered by recommended contribution and other potential donors
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1.3.6	Promote health messages related to air pollution in Europe	Formulation of health messages on 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	Task Force on Health	Partly funded via European Commission grant; further funding needed
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# Proposals for 2024-2025 Workplan of TFH

## Promote health messages related to air pollution in Europe

### Continuation of activities

- Formulation of health messages in air pollution
- Risk communication activities for different stakeholders

The proposed activities will benefit and use recently published WHO documents, in particular:



The **Budapest Declaration** and its **Road Map to 2030** accelerate progress and **action** towards **addressing health challenges** related to:

- ✓ climate change
- ✓ environmental pollution and
- ✓ loss of biodiversity

while recovering from the COVID-19 crisis

Our commitment: We will continue and enhance efforts to reduce the substantial burden of diseases caused by pollution and work to reduce exposure and prevent adverse health impacts of pollution in the future, by:

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26. leveraging the existing platforms, like the Joint Task Force on Health Aspects of Air Pollution under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, and tools to strengthen capacities and systems to monitor air pollutants and to assess the health impacts of air pollution;



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Thank you