



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Europe

Joint Webinar on Environment and Health in Seaport Cities

Monday, 4 July 2022, from 09:30 to 11:00 hrs (Brussels time)

Concept Note and Agenda

Seaports are vital connecting hubs for international trade, port-related industry, and passenger travel. As such they influence urban spatial planning and development. They also attract thousands of employees who work on ships and onshore to operate various port- and industry-related activities. While seaports and their related activities contribute to urban economies, they also add to pollution of, for example, air, soil, noise, and water, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions can potentially have negative consequences for human health and the environment, including through climate change.

Life quality and health concerns extend from port employees/workers to local residents, and the rest of the city-region can be affected by shipping activities, terminal operations, and port-related industrial or transport activities (e.g. petrochemical plants, trucking). European port cities vary greatly in terms of the scale and scope of their activity. They also differ widely in their response to local tensions and issues regarding health and environment, being more or less environmentally aware in tackling these problems.

In this workshop, an overview of environmental and health aspects in seaport cities will be presented, and consequences of port-related air, soil, noise, and water pollution for health conditions of inhabitants of seaport cities will be discussed. Participants will be reflecting upon how those conditions could be addressed from an urban perspective. The cases of the ports of Dunkirk (France), Haifa (Israel), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Skikda (Algeria), and Southampton (United Kingdom) will be presented, in addition to a summary of good practices in various cities and ports.

The UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development was launched in 2017 to deliver on the mandate of the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in implementing the UfM Urban Agenda. Since then, the UfM Thematic Working Groups on “Urban Regeneration” and “Affordable and Sustainable Housing” have been working for the operationalisation of the UfM Urban Agenda, along with the UfM Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Systems, and the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee.

The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 highlights nine priority axes of intervention to facilitate the translation of ideas and frameworks contained therein into strategic projects to enhance integrated territorial development. One of those axes of intervention is “Forelands, port areas, port cities and their hinterlands, as drivers of sustainable and resilient economic prosperity”, which will be developed separately in collaboration with partner institutions.

The WHO European Centre for Environment and Health supports the European Process on Environment and Health, initiated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 1989. The process provides a unique intersectoral policy platform, which brings together relevant sectors and partners to help shape policies and actions on environment and health, and supports the implementation of effective, evidence-based policies and preventive actions on environment, health and well-being in the WHO European Region. Current activities focus on priorities established at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held in Ostrava, Czechia, in 2017, reflecting commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Ministerial Conference adopted the Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health¹, by which Member States committed themselves to drawing up a tailored national portfolio for action in seven priority areas for the European Environment and Health Process. Priorities include “Supporting the efforts of European cities and regions to become healthier and more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through an integrated, smart and health-promoting approach to urban and spatial planning,...”². In this context, WHO is developing an overview on the subject of environment and health in seaport cities, also reviewing a few case studies.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2020 to collaborate across sectors in reinforcing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This institutional partnership aims to support UfM and WHO Member States in building capacity and promoting action for health, including through health research, health education and advocacy for health, in all policy domains. In this context, the webinar will help to raise awareness about and promote healthy environments through urban development and governance in seaport cities.

Target audience

The webinar is addressed to National Coordinators and Focal Points of UfM and WHO Member States for urban development, urban regeneration, and housing, environment and health, also to representatives of seaport cities and port authorities, public authorities dealing with urban projects at national, regional and local levels, universities, NGOs and other key stakeholders.

Participants are kindly requested to confirm their participation in the meeting by registering online, as soon as possible, at the following <https://ufmsecretariat.org/form-webinar-on-environment-and-health-in-seaport-cities/>

¹ Ostrava Declaration

https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/341944/OstravaDeclaration_SIGNED.pdf
https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/342277/170574F_OstravaDeclaration-FRENCH.pdf

² Report of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health/documentation/anchored-list/report-of-the-sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health>
https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/364392/ostrava-report-fra.pdf

Agenda

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	<i>Moderator: James Creswick, Communication Officer, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health</i>
09:30 – 09:40	Opening remarks and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Sinaia Netanyahu, Programme Manager, Environment and Health Impact Assessment, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health</i>- <i>Victoria Jimenez, Head of Sector for Urban Development, Union for the Mediterranean</i>
09:40 – 09:50	An overview of the WHO report on environment and health in seaport cities: key findings and research gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Cesar Ducruet, Research Director for the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) at the research laboratory Economix</i>
09:50 – 10:00	Link to epidemiology <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Viola Graef, Independent Public Health Consultant</i>
10:00 – 10:10	Link to urban planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Carola Hein, Full Professor and Chair, History of Architecture and Urban Planning at Delft University of Technology</i>
10:10 – 10:30	Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Limassol, Angelos Menelaou, Head of the Department of Maritime Trade & Commerce at Frederick University</i>- <i>Port of Barcelona, Jordi Torrent, Head of Business Strategy, Port of Barcelona</i>- <i>Tanger, representative of Zone Portuaire Tanger Ville (TBC)</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Q&A and discussion <p><i>Discussion led by James Creswick, Communication Officer, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health</i></p>
11:00	Conclusion