Outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

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Environment and health in Europe

1.4 m
1.4 million deaths in the WHO European Region are caused by environmental risks, corresponding to at least 15% of Europe’s total deaths.

50%
Around half of these deaths are due to outdoor and indoor air pollution.

50 m
Altogether, European citizens annually lose 50 million years of healthy life due to environmental risks.

26% of ischemic heart disease
25% of strokes
17% of cancers.

Cardiovascular deaths and diseases from environmental exposures are 3 times higher in lower-middle income countries than high-income countries.

The Conference

• Hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic, Moravian-Silesian Region and City of Ostrava
• Co-organized by WHO, UNECE and UNEP
• 350 delegates of 46 EURO and 2 non-EURO MS
• 100 representatives of stakeholders
• 220 observers from 24 countries, including NGOs, cities and regions
• 17 official side events, general public programme
The Ostrava Declaration


Ministerial Declaration

- Compendium of possible actions
- Institutional arrangements
The Ostrava Declaration


1. Leverage the European Environment and Health Process to achieve selected SDGs

2. Address the “unfinished business” in environment and health in Europe

3. Promote coherence across all policy levels and establish inclusive platforms for dialogue

4. Develop national portfolios of action by 2018 and strong intersectoral coordination
Ostrava Public Health Priorities

• Improve air quality for all;
• Ensure access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all;
• Minimize the adverse effects of chemicals;
• Prevent and eliminate the adverse effects of waste management and contaminated sites;
• Strengthen adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
• Support cities and regions to become healthier;
• Build the environmental sustainability of health systems
ENDORSES the Ostrava Declaration

CALLS on Member States to:
- develop national portfolios for action by the end of 2018;
- participate in the EHP to implement relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;
- advance the coherent implementation of existing commitments and partnerships;
- allocate the necessary means for the achievement of the EHP and of the Declaration.

CALLS on international institutions and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to support the implementation of this resolution

REQUESTS the Regional Director to:
- pursue the aims and to promote the values of the Declaration;
- work with Member States, regions and cities to integrate the environmental determinants of health and well-being into the public health agenda;
- take account of, and to develop synergy with, existing international initiatives in this area;
- continue to act as the secretariat of the EHP, in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- report annually to the WHO Regional Committee and, at request, the Committee on Environmental Policy of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
- support the implementation of the Ostrava commitments from the WHO programme budget, while making every effort to mobilize voluntary contributions to that end.
Concluding remarks

• EHP as a mechanism to implement environment-related health goals and targets of the 2030 SD Agenda;
• Building further coherence across UN agencies, bodies and programmes is required;
• Ensuring cross-sectoral action and developing synergies among stakeholders is essential;
THANK YOU!