



CLIMATE AND HEALTH CRISIS SYMPOSIUM

Innovative policies for mitigation and
adaptation in the Health sector

Barcelona, October, 9th and 10th



Organized by:



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE SANIDAD



Generalitat
de Catalunya



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA



Mútua Terrassa

Càtedra Salut i Canvi
Climàtic



CLIMATE AND HEALTH CRISIS SYMPOSIUM

Innovative policies for mitigation and adaptation in the Health sector

Program

Thursday, October 9th

Location: Auditorium, Historical Building University of Barcelona
Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585 – 08007 Barcelona

8:30h

Welcome coffee

9:00 – 9:45 h

Opening, Introduction, and Objectives of the Symposium

This session will open with a formal welcome from representatives of the host institutions, who will outline their respective commitments to addressing the climate and health crises and the urgency of coordinated policy action. A brief thematic introduction will set the stage for the Symposium, presenting its objectives, structure, and approach, and emphasizing the importance of knowledge sharing and cross-sector collaboration.

Welcome and introduction

David Dalmau, Director, Chair of Health and Climate Change, University of Barcelona / MútuaTerrassa.

Javier Padilla, Secretary of State. Ministry of Health. Government of Spain

Sílvia Paneque, Minister for Territory. Housing and Ecological Transition. Government of Catalonia.

Joan Guàrdia, Rector University of Barcelona

Antoni Abad, MútuaTerrassa President

9:45 – 11:15 h

Climate Change and Health: Priority Policies

This session will showcase national and regional strategies for addressing the health impacts of climate change, based on a policy and evidence framework developed by the European Observatory. The Department of Health of the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Spanish Ministry of Health will present their perspectives and policy priorities, along with insights from research conducted at the University of Barcelona. The discussion will highlight key priorities, innovations, and challenges in implementing effective climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for health.

Moderator:

Josep Figueras, Director Emeritus, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.



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Presenters:

Dimitra Pantelli, Program Manager, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. "A Framework for Policy Implementation".

Javier Padilla, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health. "Spain's Policy Vision".

Sonsoles Letang, Director, Directorate-General for Climate Change and Environmental Quality. Department of Territory, Housing and Ecological Transition. Government of Catalonia. "Catalonia's Policy Vision"

David Dalmau, Director, Chair of Health and Climate Change, University of Barcelona / MútuaTerrassa. "Science and Policy: Towards an integrated approach".

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Pedro Gullón, Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Spain

11:15 – 11:45 h

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 13:30 h

The International Health Response to the Climate and Health Crisis: Policies and Priorities

This session will bring together key international actors to share strategies, priorities, and commitments for addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and health. Discussions will cover global and regional policies, humanitarian responses, and ways to integrate international policy frameworks, foster cooperation between countries, and draw on practical implementation experience to accelerate action.

Moderator:

Ewout Van Ginneken, Director, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Speakers:

Robb Butler, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, Environment, and Health (WHO EURO).

Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO.

Roser Domènech, Director One Health. General Directorate of Health and Food Safety DG SANTE of the European Commission.

Rita Araujo, Team Leader of the Environment, Climate and Health team in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission.



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Raquel González. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Spain Coordinator & Institutional Relations Responsible / OCBA. "MSF's Response and Strategies for Vulnerable Populations."

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Josep Figueras, Director Emeritus, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

13:30 – 14:30 h

LUNCH

Gardens and Cloister, Historic UB Building.

14:30 – 16:00 h

Mitigation: Energy Efficiency, Waste Management, and Transport Policies

This session will analyze how the healthcare sector can reduce its environmental footprint through measures such as energy efficiency, improved waste management, and sustainable transportation. Speakers will share practical experiences and lessons learned, explore key barriers and enablers of change, highlight opportunities for policy innovation and cross-sector partnerships, and outline concrete steps toward achieving a clean, zero-emission healthcare sector.

Moderator:

Mercè Segarra, Professor of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Barcelona

Keynote:

Erik Ruiz, Health Policy Lead and Head of the Safer Pharma programme. Health Care without Harm Europe.

Presenters:

Susana Reverter, Head of Sustainability and Agenda 2030, La Paz University Hospital.

Laia Zarza & Ignasi Canal. Compromís Verd MútuaTerrassa. "Decarbonization of a Health Institution: MútuaTerrassa".

Leonardo Bejarano, Director, Catalan Office for Climate Change. "Integrated Energy and Climate Plan: Catalonia's Mitigation Framework".

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Héctor Tejero, Head of Health and Climate Change in the Office of the Minister of Health, Spain.



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16:00 – 16:30 h

COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 18:00 h

Mitigation: Research and Innovation, Green Technologies and partnerships with the Industry

Building on the previous discussion, this session will explore how research, innovation, and cross-sector and industry partnerships can drive mitigation strategies in the healthcare sector. Speakers will share examples of green technologies, data-driven approaches, and cross-sector partnerships, including the pharmaceutical industry, that are helping to reduce emissions and environmental impact. The session will emphasize actionable solutions, the translation of research into practice, and the development of innovation ecosystems by identifying the policies, incentives, and partnerships needed for effective climate change mitigation in healthcare.

Moderator:

Pedro Gullón, Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Spain

Keynote:

Fiona Adshead, Chair, Sustainable Healthcare Coalition.

Presenters:

David Elvira, Global Head of Public Policy, Sanofi. *"Sustainable Markets Initiative: Decarbonizing Patient Care Pathways"*.

Héctor Tejero, Health and Climate Change Advisor, Ministry of Health. Madrid.

Jacobo Mendioroz, Deputy Director for Public Health Emergencies, Department of Health. *"From Research to Decision-Making: The Project of the Epidemiological Intelligence Network of Catalonia"*.

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Teresa Hernández, Head of the Strategy and Communication Service of the Secretariat of Public Health, Department of Health, Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

Program

Friday, October 10th

Location: Aula Magna, Faculty of Biology, University of Barcelona
Av. Diagonal, 643 – 08028 Barcelona

8:30 h

Welcome coffee



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9:00 – 10:30 h

Adaptation: Public Health – Risk Assessment and Prevention

This session will address the public-health dimension of climate change adaptation, focusing on risk assessment and prevention strategies to protect vulnerable populations. It will encourage discussion on how evidence-based risk assessments and targeted prevention measures can be integrated into public-health strategies to safeguard those more at risk from climate change-related health risks.

Moderator:

Tomàs Pérez-Porcuna, Public Health Secretariat. Department of Health, Catalonia

Keynote:

Pierre Masselot, Department of Public Health Environment & Society, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. London, UK.

Presenters:

Montse Bosch, Associate Professor of Architecture, UPC & **Rosa Abellana**, Associate Professor, Biostatistics Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Barcelona. "Climate Comfort and Housing: Impact on the Health of Vulnerable Populations".

Rachel Lowe, ICREA Research Professor, Global Health Resilience Group Leader, BSC Earth Sciences Department. "Digital Technology to Build Resilience to Emerging Climate and Health Threats"

Carolina Sánchez, President, Spanish Society for Environmental Health (SESA).

Joan Ballester, IS Global. Barcelona. "Heat-related mortality in Europe".

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Esteve Fernández, Secretary of Public Health, Department of Health, Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

10:30 – 11:00 h

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 h

Adaptation: Health System Organization

This session will focus on how health systems can adapt their structures, strategies, and operations to meet the growing challenges of climate change. It will highlight how innovative policies, education, technology, meteorological expertise, and interdisciplinary collaboration can drive the transformation of health systems to effectively respond to the climate crisis.



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Moderator:

Pedro Gullón, Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Spain

Keynote:

Antoni Plasència, director general for Research and Innovation, Department of Health.

Presenters:

Marc Prohom, Meteorological Service of Catalonia (Meteocat). *"From Climate Emergency to Health Emergency: Extreme Heat and Public Response"*.

Antoni Trilla & Anna González, Dean & Student, Faculty of Medicine, UB. *"ENCHE: European Network for Climate Health Education"*.

Alexandre Perera, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) - Institute of Health Research and Innovation (IRIS). *"Health, AI, and Climate Change: A Translational Synergy"*.

Elena Codina, Paediatrician and Head of Environmental Health, Sant Joan de Déu Hospital, Barcelona.

Debate with presenters and participants

Rapporteur:

Tomàs Pérez-Porcuna. Public Health Secretariat. Department of Health, Catalonia

12:30 – 14:00 h

Conclusions and Call to Action

This session will synthesize the symposium's key messages into a Conclusions Document compiling policy recommendations, strategic priorities, and opportunities for innovation, research, and collaboration. It will also reaffirm its commitment to action, promote cross-sector partnerships, and help mobilize political will.

To this end, representatives of the organizing institutions will first summarize the forum's conclusions and translate them into concrete policy, legislative, regulatory, and programmatic recommendations from their respective institutional perspectives. An open discussion will then invite participants to refine these proposals and define next steps for their implementation and future lines of research, with a view to their inclusion in the Conclusions Document. The session will conclude with closing reflections on the forum's overall outcomes, led by the Symposium's organizing institutions.

Moderator:

Josep Figueras, Director Emeritus, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Presenters:

Pedro Gullón, Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health.

Esteve Fernández, Secretary of Public Health, Department of Health, Catalonia.



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David Dalmau, Director of the Chair of Health and Climate Change, University of Barcelona / Fundació Docència i Recerca MútuaTerrassa.

Debate with presenters and participants

Final reflections

Presenters:

Pedro Gullón, Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Spain.

Esteve Fernández, Secretary of Public Health, Department of Health, Catalonia.

Maria Teresa Sauras, Vice-Rector for Sustainability and Climate Action, University of Barcelona.

Josep Rull, President of the Parliament of Catalonia.

14:00 – 15:00 h

LIGHT BUFFET LUNCH





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Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585, L'Eixample, 08007 Barcelona

Friday, October 10th

Location: Aula Magna, Faculty of Biology, University of Barcelona,
Ramon Margalef Building, floor 0.
643, Diagonal Avenue, 08028 Barcelona

Registrations and more information

Free

<https://tuit.cat/5vr1F>

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