* Health and Environment in WHO European Region: Creating Resilient Communities and Supportive Environments
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In the WHO European Region 16% of all deaths as well as of all burden of disease are caused by environmental factors that can be eliminated and avoided, which means that these deaths and diseases can be prevented.

In spite of these facts, environment must be recognized as not only a source of potential hazards, but also a health-promoting and health-protecting asset that can extend life, improve its quality and increase overall well-being. A comprehensive understanding of the relationship between health and the environment requires a forward-looking perspective and insight into the composite interactions among the physical, biological and social spheres.

Health 2020: The European policy for health and wellbeing recognizes that the environmental determinants of health are of equal importance for creating, maintaining and restoring health as biological, social and behavioural determinants and identifies the creation of resilient communities and supportive environments as one of the four priority areas for action in the WHO European Region. Its goal is to significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure sustainable people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable, of high quality and steered through good intersectoral governance.

WHO Regional Office for Europe supports its Member States and partners to understand and navigate this complexity and identify policies and actions in different sectors, nationally and internationally, that can benefit the environment and human health. WHO role as the science policy interface in providing the advices, methodologies and tools in creating scientifically based policy solutions and interventions is of great importance in supporting Member States to address environmental challenges to health in the 21st century.

Great opportunities for progress lie in changing consumption patterns and fostering healthy and environmentally friendly developments in energy, transport, housing, urban management and agriculture, as well as in the health sector itself. Yet, there is a need to further develop the evidence and arguments that would support these changes, as well as the guidance to address new and emerging issues, which are often characterized by a very high degree of uncertainty and complexity.