

**Chapter Name:**

Europe Chapter

**Date of Report:**

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (covers period August to November 2024)

**Chapter Chair:**

Elaine Fuertes and Rajini Nagrani

**Chapter Leadership:**

Elections for one open elected member position are currently underway (ballot closes December 13th). We have 3 individuals who stood in the election, from Sweden, Luxembourg and Germany (all female). We take the opportunity here to sincerely thank Ebba Malmqvist who will be rotating off as an elected member, but who is staying on as an associate member and has recently taken up the position of co-chair of the Policy Committee.

The remaining 6 elected members of the Chapter are based throughout Europe: Rajini Nagrani (Germany), Elaine Fuertes (UK), Ana M. Vicedo-Cabrera (Switzerland), Lilian Tzivian (Liliāna Cijvāne) (Latvia), Konstantinos Makris (Cyprus), and Kurt Straif (Spain).

We also have 27 active associate members. This number has grown slightly since the last report due to the recruitment of new members during the ISEE annual conference.

Associate: Adjani Peralta (the Netherlands), Aina Roca-Barceló (UK), Alexandra Schneider (Germany), Annette Peters (Germany), Artur Badyda (Poland), Barbara Hoffmann (Germany), Bénédicte Jacquemin (France), Danielle Vienneau (Switzerland), Dimitris Evangelopoulos (UK), Garyfallos Konstantinoudis (UK), Giovanni Veronesi (Italy), Hanna Boogaard (the Netherlands), Jiawei Zhang (Denmark), Marine Savouré (France), Meltem Kutlar Joss (Switzerland), Mette Sørensen (Denmark), Michelle Turner (Spain), Mireille Toledano (UK), Payam Dadvand (Spain), Petter Ljungman (Sweden), Sierra Clark (UK), Susanne Breitner-Busch (Germany), Torben Sigsgaard (Denmark), Tamara Schikowski (Germany), Ulrike Gehring (the Netherlands), Valentina Gallo (the Netherlands), Zorana Andersen (Denmark).

We continue to have monthly calls including elected and associate members to organize our work, to which all ISEE members are invited to participate. We also have an active ISEE Europe website where we keep members informed about upcoming events and key activities. We are planning a Winter newsletter early next year to highlight the results of the current election and upcoming goals/activities of the Chapter in 2025.

## Overview of recent chapter activities:

ISEE Europe is looking back at a very **successful ISEE conference in Chile**. Together with the Policy Committee, we organized two events at this year's conference

- A symposium entitled "*Stories of Policy Success: Real Examples of Inspiring Science-based Air Quality and Climate Action Around the World*."
- A preconference workshop entitled "*Climate crisis and health – from research to policy. A primer with the focus on United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) climate negotiations*".

We also held our annual lunch meeting for all Chapter members from Europe and beyond to talk about the Chapter's current and future activities. Several suggestions were made, including interest in doing work related to pesticides, noise, health economics, chemicals, science communication, wildfires and reducing disparities.

The final **outputs of the ISEE Europe Young Conference** held in Rennes in June last year are taking shape. The conference abstracts were recently [published](#) in Environmental Epidemiology, and a paper linked to this event, entitled 'Air pollution inequalities in Europe: addressing the gaps in exposure and health burden between East and West' led by Zorana Andersen (associate member) is currently under review.

In collaboration with the ERS, the Europe Chapter responded to the targeted consultation conducted as part of the **evaluation of the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive (NEC-D)**. This Directive sets national emission reduction commitments for the EU Member States' anthropogenic emissions of several pollutants and is currently being evaluated by the European Commission. ISEE Europe members contributed substantially to the revisions of the EU Air Quality Directive over the last few years with several important activities and have learned a lot in the process! We are keen to put these skills into action in relation to the NEC-D.

Several ISEE Europe members are actively involved in many activities linked to **climate and health**, including regular participation and contribution to meetings of GCHA, WHO, NDC 3.0 partnership, and Climate change, health and Fossil Fuels. For example, Ana Vicedo-Cabrera and Kurt Straif (both elected members) are engaged with activities related to the next IPCC assessment report, Kurt Straif organized ISEE Observer badges for virtual participation in COP29, and Rajini Nagrani (co-chair) is co-organizing a [workshop](#) in Germany on planetary health.

## Planned activities and goals for the coming year:

In addition to keeping a strong focus on air pollution, climate change, and health, work to raise the profile of several other areas of environmental risk is ongoing. For example, Konstantinos Makris (elected member) has taken the lead in addressing challenges related to pesticide research and is exploring how best ISEE Europe can contribute and in what format (e.g. an editorial highlighting challenges, formation of a Special Interest Group). This work will be done in collaboration with the Policy Committee and others interested in this topic given the global effects of pesticides.

We are also currently gathering suggestions for activities to be held in 2025, for example, a workshop on 'How the European grant system works, and how to make it work for ISEE Europe?', which could include a specific focus on Southeastern and Eastern Europe. We are also continuing our efforts in Southeastern and Eastern Europe with long-term planning. For example, the next ISEE Europe Young Conference (in 2027 or 2028, depending on location of the main ISEE Conference) is likely to be planned in Poland (led

by Arthur Babyda, an associate member of the Chapter). Finally, we will continue to work with the Policy committee and other research societies to support and influence policy makers in relation to future relevant aspects, such as the 'National Emission reduction Commitments Directive' and post-COP29 activities (and planning for COP30).

**Please provide an assessment of your chapter spending, and planned expenditures for the rest of the year**

We recently received the new budget of 5,140 US for spending from October 2024 through September 2025. A small proportion of this will be spent on Secretariat support for the Chapter (e.g. running the ISEE Europe elections) and maintaining our website. We currently have earmarked 3,568 USD to cover the publication costs of the [abstracts](#) published in Environmental Epidemiology, from the ISEE Europe young conference held last year. We are now brainstorming new initiatives for this coming year which could be supported by the remaining budget.