

**Chapter Name:**

Europe Chapter

Date of Report:

November 27th, 2023 (covers June – November 2023)

Leadership:

Elaine Fuertes and Hanna Boogaard (co-chairs)

Membership

We recently held elections to fill 4 open positions for elected members. We had 5 people who stood in the election, 3 of which were from Eastern European countries and 2 of which were female. We had record voting, with 411 ISEE Europe members casting a vote. Ultimately, Elaine Fuertes and Kurt Straif were re-elected for a second term, and Lilian Tzivian and Konstantinos Makris were newly elected for their first term.

We would like to thank Carla Ancona who recently decided to step down from her role as Elected member due to a need to focus on other work.

Elaine Fuertes also became co-chair of the Chapter, alongside Hanna Boogaard. We would like to thank Peter Ljungman who stepped down from his role as co-chair of the Chapter. Peter plans to stay engaged as an Associate member.

Currently, the Chapter consists of 7 elected members who are based throughout Europe.

Hanna Boogaard (the Netherlands), Elaine Fuertes (UK), Ana M. Vicedo-Cabrera (Switzerland), Ebba Malmqvist (Sweden), Lilian Tzivian (Liliāna Civjāne) (Latvia), Konstantinos Makris (Cyprus), and Kurt Straif (Spain).

We also have 23 active associate members.

Adjani Peralta (the Netherlands), Aina Roca-Barceló (UK), Alexandra Schneider (Germany), Annette Peters (Germany), Artur Babyda (Poland), Barbara Hoffmann (Germany), Bénédicte Jaquemin (France) Danielle Vienneau (Switzerland), Marine Savouré (France), Massimo Stafoggia (Italy), Meltem Kutlar Joss (Switzerland), Mette Sørensen (Denmark), Michelle Turner (Spain), Mireille Toledano (UK), Payam Dadvand (Spain), Petter Ljungman (Sweden), Rajini Nagrani (Germany), Sierra Clark (UK), Susanne Breitner-Busch (Germany), Tamara Schikowski (Germany), Ulrike Gehring (the Netherlands), Valentina Gallo (the Netherlands), Zorana Andersen (Denmark)

We have monthly calls including elected and associated 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 our members informed about upcoming events and key activities.

Several of our associate members and council members also participate in other committees, including the policy committee, the main council, and the communications committee.

Main activities during 2022-2023 in relation to the strategic plan

We have been very active in using scientific knowledge and engagement to inform public health and influence public health and environmental policy, in close collaboration with the ISEE Policy Committee and ERS, among others.

There have been numerous recent activities related to the *revision of the EU air quality directive*.

- Written a joint [letter](#) to the EU Environmental Ministers calling for more ambitious actions towards healthy air in Europe, highlighting the insufficiency of the current proposal for AAQD
- Organized, with the Health and environment alliance (HEAL) and the European Environment Bureau (EEB), four well attended training sessions dedicated to improving our communication and understanding of the decision-making process, so we can identify effective ways to bring the science to the decision makers.
- Providing key information material to be used by dedicated members to reach out to their member state key policy brokers to disseminate the science at the member state level.
- Participated in the Clean Air Forum in Rotterdam in November from the European Commission.

Members of the Chapter are also heavily involved in activities related to this year's **COP28** and are working closely with the Policy committee. Examples of these activities include application of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) observer status, ISEE membership to the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA), and the coordination of our future presence at COP28 and future conferences.

We developed a short [Policy Brief](#) for distribution to the Parties at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2023, a critical meeting on the path to COP28. Also we developed a joint ISEE ERS statement on the tight links between climate and health, and we have collected by now more than 50 endorsements from other scientific and medical organizations. This joint statement is about to be published, ahead of COP28. Some Europe Chapter Elected and Associate members are contributing to pre-meetings including the Climate Action and Health 2023 COP28 Pre-Conference that George Thurston is spearheading together with the ISEE policy committee, and are attending COP28 in person.

Networking and capacity building is an important part of ISEE's strategic plan. In 2023, we actively strived to expand engagement in *research and capacity building in SE and Eastern Europe*, where our membership is less strong, yet environmental risks continue to be high. For example, we

- Specifically sought candidates from SE and Eastern Europe to run in our recent elections for Elected Members to increase representation from those European areas.
- Plan to have specific sessions at the ISEE Europe Young Conference dedicated to research and networking in SE and Eastern Europe.

Planned activities for the coming year in relation to Strategic Plan

1. ISEE Europe Young Conference

A major event in the coming year is the next European conference for young researchers to be held in Rennes, France, June 5-7, 2024. This will be an in-person conference only, although keynotes will be recorded and posted on the ISEE channel.

To promote networking and training in south-eastern/eastern Europe, there will be workshops and sessions focused specifically on research in those areas.

Overall, the progress of this meeting is well underway:

- The logo has been developed
- The website is ready (although not public yet)
- A timeline is set. Abstract submission will start in December and close end of January, with abstract notification end of March.
- A preliminary schedule has been developed
- There are a lot of ideas to make the conference as green as possible
- There will be only speed talks and oral presentations (no posters)

There will be different conference rates according to status (PhD, Post-doc, seniors) and according to membership. The ones that want to pay the member conference fee, will have to first prove they are members, and the difference in conference fee between member vs non member is exactly the same amount as the membership.

The organization committee has also secured free accommodation for many participants.

2. Raise profile of other research areas

In addition to keeping a strong focus on air pollution and health, work is ongoing to raise the profile of several other areas of environmental risk, such as climate (and climate change) and noise. This includes establishing networking activities with researchers in related disciplines (e.g. climate discipline who are interested in pairing with epidemiologists). We are also continuing to focus our efforts on expanding the Chapter's activities and membership to more countries in SE and Eastern Europe.

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

From October 2022 to September 2023, we spent €3000 on the Brussels meeting, some funds on our website and membership support.

A substantial proportion of the new budget will be dedicated towards supporting some costs of the ISEE Europe Young conference in Rennes, as well as the dedicated activities and events specifically related to the Eastern and SE Europe activities (e.g. travel grants). We are also grateful for the additional budget of \$15,000 provided to support the ISEE Young meeting in Rennes.