

Report on the Activities of the ISEE European Chapter

Period March 2021 – June 2021

Organization

The European chapter, including elected and associated members, has continued its work with monthly conference calls and committee interactions.

Currently the Chapter consists of 7 elected members and 10 associated members. Just recently we welcomed a new associate member to our Chapter: Meltem Kutlar Joss from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel.

We are constantly looking actively for new members, in particular to advance diversity, equity and inclusion. Recently we added a member from Eastern Europe and 2 young researchers.

Virtual workshop on June 8 & 9 on Air pollution and Health in Southeast Europe

To increase our Chapter activities in Eastern Europe, ISEE Europe in collaboration with the Health Effects Institute, the European Respiratory Society and environmental health institutions in Bulgaria and Serbia will host a virtual workshop on June 8 & 9, 2021 (1- 4 PM CEST) to review the status of current evidence on health effects of air pollution in the Southeast European region and its interlinkage to current policy debate and actions. Work in this particular region is important as fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) levels in Southeast Europe have remained higher than in those of Western Europe for decades, public and governmental interest in the topic increases, and the demand for data and evidence on air pollution levels and trends as well as health effects is growing.

We have assembled a great line up of speakers, with ample time of discussion and Q&A. For more information on sessions and speakers and to register <https://www.healtheffects.org/meeting/virtual-workshop-air-pollution-and-health-southeast-europe>.

The workshop is open to the public. We encourage participation from colleagues across the Southeast Europe region from academic/research institutes, healthcare organizations, professional societies, national and regional nonprofit groups, bi- and multi-lateral organizations, federal and local government agencies, ministries, and other organizations.

Webinar Series on Climate Change and Health

This webinar series will give an overview on the latest developments in climate change epidemiology in terms of methods, data and approaches. It consists of three webinars: 1) New data sources and applications (June 22, 2021 from 3-4 CEST), 2) New methods and study designs (September 2021), 3) New communication and visualization tools (October 2021). The webinars will be held in zoom and registration to the event will be required. Details will be soon posted on the ISEE Europe Website and will be widely disseminated.

Education and Communication

A document with key lessons learned was recently finalized and shared after our very successful virtual **ISEE Young** conference was held in Basel on February 17-19, 2021. We are starting to begin early planning for the next ISEE Young conference, which will be hosted at INSERM, Rennes in France. We are currently thinking about possible dates of this meeting – most likely somewhere in 2023-2024, depending on the location of the ISEE main conference, and other considerations.

We published our Spring newsletter in May 2021. The newsletter was sent to all ISEE Europe members to keep them abreast of the latest activities. We continuously revamp our website to keep it up to date with the latest information.

Other Activities

In close collaboration with the main Policy Committee, we are planning several activities around the much-anticipated updated Global Air Quality Guidelines, which are expected to be released in July 2021. Activities include preparing statements, local materials, and potentially a meeting in Brussels this fall or winter, together with many other organizations. This meeting would be of a similar structure as the very successful meeting we had in January 2020. Please find a summary of that meeting in the ERS journal <https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/56/5/2002575.article-info>

In regards to actively involve countries from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the chapter, we are planning a networking meeting in June 2021. With this first networking meeting we would like to provide a forum for ideas and exchange between different partners working in the field of Environmental Health research in Eastern or South Eastern Europe and to promote ISEE membership.

A common theme is how to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in all of the Chapter's work. We continue to have this discussion and ISEE Europe is fully committed to do its part in addressing the longstanding exclusions that challenge our world and to promote inclusion in all of its work.