



Chapter/Committee Name: Europe Chapter

Leadership: Elaine Fuertes and Hanna Boogaard (outgoing co-chair), and as of September 2024, Rajini Nagrani (incoming chair)

Members: Currently, the Chapter consists of 7 elected members who are based throughout Europe, as well as 23 active associate members.

Elected: [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).

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), [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).

Chapter/Committee objectives:

Our objectives are to support the translation of research into timely and effective environmental health policy across Europe as well as provide a forum for research networking and training in our region. We 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](#) and recently published an [ISEE Europe Spring Newsletter](#), with which we keep our members informed about key activities.

Main activities during 2023-2024 in relation to the strategic plan:

Our major recent activity was the successful **ISEE Europe Young conference**, held in Rennes, France in June. Key highlights included

- Promoting young researchers via the scientific program (each session was co-chaired by a young researcher) and by offering free registration for students and low registration costs for early career researchers
- Promoting research in Eastern Europe: 20 travel awards were provided, and there was one workshop and one 'not so early' morning session related to Southeastern and Eastern Europe
- Promoting sustainability by offering vegetarian meals, having minimum waste and printing, and promoting sustainable travel (via an award)
- Promoting networking via badges, a treasure hunt, and a conference Fest-Noz

Overall, there were 291 participants (159 students/PhD, 68 early career) from Europe but also a small number from North America, South America, and Africa. There was also relatively good representation from Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The scientific program included 8 'not so early' morning sessions, 5 keynotes, and 251 abstracts (18 classic and 12 speed talks).



The conference was very well run and received, and we sincerely congratulate Bénédicte Jacquemin and the entire local organization committee, as well as the scientific committee, for their hard work in putting together such a successful event.

Throughout the year, we have also had numerous activities related to the revision of the **EU air quality directive (AAQD), which is in its final stages after years of negotiations**. We continue to work closely with the Policy Committee, the European Respiratory Society (ERS), Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Health Effects Institute (HEI), and others. Examples of key activities include:

- Workshop [report](#) in the European Respiratory Journal summarizing key discussions from a successful full day meeting of stakeholders and scientists in Brussels on May 24th 2023 discussing the current AAQD.
- ISEE [letter](#) to EU Environment Ministers calling to accelerate action for clean air for health instead of delaying.
- Members of ISEE Europe wrote a [Commentary](#) on the Council's version of the proposed AAQD. The Council's proposal was less ambitious than the European Parliament position and lacked a path to reach full alignment with WHO Air Quality Guidelines.
- Providing key information material for use by members reaching out to their member state key policy brokers to disseminate the science at the member state level, as well as finalizing a series of training sessions to support those engaging with decision makers.

Members of the Chapter, in collaboration with the Policy Committee, are also heavily involved in activities related to **climate change and health**. This included attending the COP28 and other related climate and health meetings throughout the year (Climate Action and Health 2023 COP28 Pre-Conference, the ATACH meeting, CAFÉ Climate & Health Conference, and the European Commission's meeting on Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change). ISEE Europe members also contributed to a [joint ISEE ERS statement](#) on the tight links between climate and health.

Together with the Policy Committee, we organized **two events at this year's ISEE 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*".

Planned activities during 2024-2025 in relation to the strategic plan:

We will **continue our engagement in Southeastern and Eastern Europe**, both with activities in the coming year, but also 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 currently likely to be planned in Poland (led by Arthur Babyda, an associate member of the Chapter). We will continue to work with the Policy committee and other research societies to support and **influence policy makers** in relation to the EU air quality directive and post-COP28 activities, but also regarding future aspects, such as the 'National Emission reduction Commitments Directive' and COP29. Finally, we plan on organizing events and focusing efforts to **raise the profile of other environmental health areas**, such as climate change, noise and pesticides.