



Chapter Name:

Europe Chapter

Date of Report:

March 4, 2024 (covers November 2023 to February 2024)

Chapter Chair:

Elaine Fuertes and Hanna Boogaard (co-chairs)

Membership:

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, the communications committee, the awards committee, and the Antiracism Task Force/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.

Overview of recent chapter activities:

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 (AAQD)*.

- While the European Council, Parliament, and Commission were engaged in trilateral discussions of the revision of the AAQD, several members published a [Commentary](#) in the International Journal of Public Health. The Commentary specifically calls to fight inequalities and oppose delays in action in the Council's version of the AAQD that was published in November 2023. As described, proposed delays to EU air pollution limits would mean hundreds of thousands more people dying early and would "widen the inequality gap" between eastern and western Europe. The commentary was part of the IJPH Special Issue "[Science To Foster The Who Air Quality Guideline Values](#)", with Nino Kunzli and Hanna Boogaard as issue editors. The commentary attracted significant media attention, including a [Guardian](#) article.
- Written a [joint press release](#) targeting the European Parliament and EU member states to swiftly adopt the provisional agreement reached in trilogue on updating EU's clean air standards. The [agreement](#) reached on February 20, 2024 still has to be confirmed by the European Parliament and by member states, hopefully before the EU elections this June.
- 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.
- Together with the ISEE Policy Committee, we submitted an ISEE 2024 Symposium entitled "Stories of Policy Success: Real Examples of Inspiring Science-based Air Quality and Climate Action Around the World", which was recently accepted. The goal of this symposium is to highlight recent policy success stories around the world, the challenges, best practice solutions and the lessons learned for future air quality and climate action. Hanna Boogaard and Ebba Malmqvist are co-chairs of the symposium.

Members of the Chapter are also heavily involved in activities related to some post-COP28 activities and are working closely with the Policy committee. Examples of recent **climate and health** activities include the development of an ISEE comment that will cover the Triple Planetary Crisis (climate, pollution, biodiversity) and health, submission of an ISEE 2024 preconference workshop on climate change and health, which was recently accepted, and the coordination of our future presence at COP29 and future conferences. Several members participated in important climate and health meetings, including the [ATACH](#) meeting in Madrid, [the CAFÉ Climate & Health Conference](#) and the European Commission's meeting on [Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change](#).

Planned activities and goals for the coming year:

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 website is [online](#) and the registration will open in March. Also the travel awards application will open around the same time, and there will be a consideration for whether applicants are applying from south-eastern/eastern Europe.
- There is no registration fee for ISEE members that are students and PhD students, and for those who are not, the registration fee is the same as the price of becoming an ISEE member.
- Abstracts are submitted and currently being reviewed. A staggering 303 abstracts were received, which is very encouraging. Most of the abstracts were from students, as intended. Also there were quite some abstracts from Eastern European countries (21), representing a notable increase in abstract submissions from this area compared to previous ISEE Young conferences. The abstract notification is scheduled for March.
- The first ISEE Young [newsletter](#) was developed early February, which gives an overview of the abstracts submitted.
- Keynote speakers are being invited, and we are working on the agenda.

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). For example, there is a plan to have a specific climate-focused networking session at the ISEE Young to facilitate the development of these interactions. 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:

Most of the new budget (4,500 euros) is dedicated towards supporting some costs of the ISEE Europe Young conference in Rennes, including the dedicated activities and events specifically related to the Eastern and SE Europe activities in the conference (e.g. travel grants). We are also grateful for the additional budget of \$15,000 provided to support the ISEE Young meeting in Rennes.

The remainder of the funds will be spent on our website and membership support.