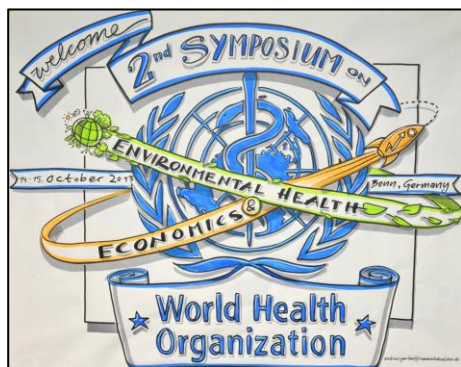


WELCOME to the second issue of the EHEN newsletter, an update of recent developments. We invite you to become involved with EHEN and to share the network's knowledge within your expert communities.

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Symposium brings together key stakeholders in Bonn

Forty experts gathered in Bonn, Germany, for the Second Symposium on Environmental Health and Economics on 14–15 October 2013. The event, organized by the WHO European

Kommunikationslotsen

Centre for Environment and Health, drew representatives of governments, United Nations agencies, the European Environment Agency, civil society organizations, policy institutes and the media. The WHO Regional Office for Europe appreciates the German government's contributions of financial resources and technical expertise. A professional illustrator was commissioned to visually express key symposium messages. This resulted in several drawings that visualize the meeting's results and make them more easily accessible and to a broad public health audience with less economic expertise.

See next page for illustrations and more Symposium information.



WHO/Christian Gapp

Reliable evidence on environmental health determinants is increasingly available for public health decision-making. We can nowadays predict what health impacts can be expected from certain decisions involving environmental exposures. But what about their costs? Which policy options are not only health friendly, but provide best returns? These questions are increasingly urgent, and will be addressed at the upcoming high-level Mid-term Review Meeting on Environment and Health in Europe in November 2014, as well as the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2016. Better, more transparent mechanisms based on more explicit assumptions are needed. Their sensitivity and their limitations must be clarified. This is important to foster multi-sectoral collaboration, attach appropriate value to health equity, promote data access and share success stories at the local and national levels. EHEN pursues these aims by pooling the knowledge and experience of its members.

Events and outputs of WHO: the Environmental Health Economics programme and the EHEN network

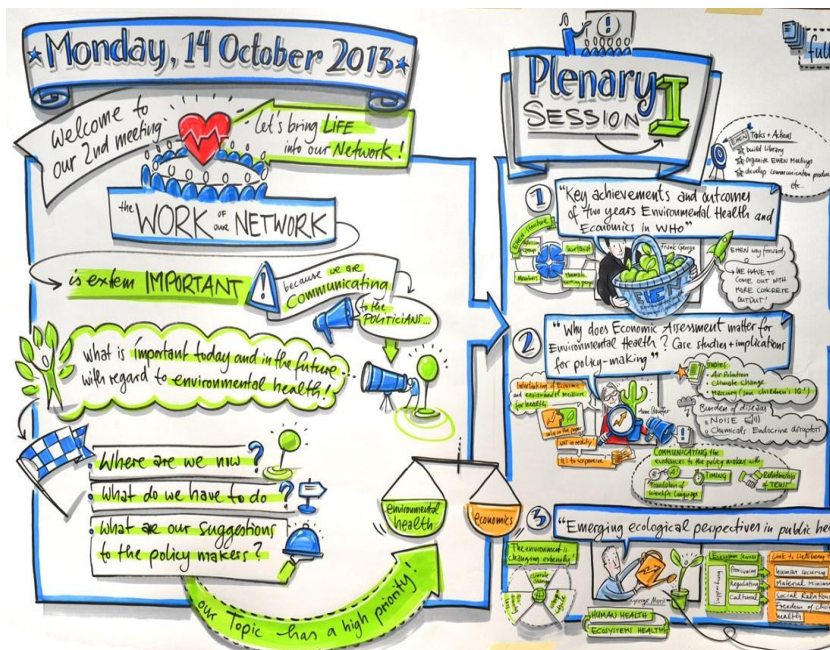
	2012	2013	2014 Jan-Jun	2014 Jul-Dec	2015/2016
EVENTS	Environmental Health Economics Network launched 1 st EHEN Symposium	Advisory Group Meeting Environmental Health and Economics launched 2 nd EHEN Symposium	3 rd EHEN Advisory Group Meeting	3 rd Environmental Health Economics Symposium	Yearly Symposium of EHEN and Advisory group meeting
OUTPUTS	WHO EHEN Network created Agreed on a 2- year work plan for the network Launched and continued EHEN reflection papers	Advisory group established including Vision statement and terms of reference Publication and distribution of Meeting Report (2012) Strategic framework for EHEN agreed Political decision-makers SURVEY Inaugural newsletter Publication of Environmental Health Economics Website Creation of literature database and expert roster	EHEN 2014-2017 draft work plan agreed Publication and distribution of Meeting Report (2013) 2 nd Newsletter Relevant topics & proposal for the Midterm Review meeting (2014)	Identify background documents to inform the Mid Term Review Explore additional funding opportunities for EHEN Design and propose innovative approach of "European Symposium on Environmental Health and Economics"	Preparation for the 6th Ministerial Conference (end 2016)

More about the Symposium...

The three major topics of the Symposium were: (i) use of economic tools, (ii) communication, and (iii) inequality in environmental health. The Symposium emphasized the significance of increased understanding and use of environmental health evidence with economic models and tools. It concluded with the importance of synergy between these fields. The clever and—from a communication point of view—smart combination of these factors will allow WHO and public health experts to reach and support policy-makers beyond public health (e.g. ministries of environment, transport, energy and finance). Furthermore, this new way of working would give the opportunity to highlight inequality from a country, intercountry and intergenerational standpoint. Notable examples discussed at the Symposium were:

- The economic crisis led to greater use of biomass for residential heating in Greece. Since inefficient biomass combustion is a source of substantial air pollution, limiting its use could save up to two billion Euros through reductions in mortality ([Sarigiannis, 2013](#)).
- The current (2010) European Union Climate Policy target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is defined by a 20% decrease by 2020 compared to 1990 levels. Changing the target modestly to even a 30% reduction is estimated to result in health benefits of 10 to 30 billion Euros per year in the European Union by 2020 ([HEAL & HCWH Europe, 2010](#)).
- Controlling environmental exposure to mercury could result in financial savings of eight to nine billion Euros per year for the European Union, mainly by protecting children's brain development ([Bellanger et al., 2013](#)).
- The WHO health economic assessment tool (HEAT) enables countries to measure the economic benefits of investing in cycling and walking ([WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2011](#)).

[\(Click here\)](#) to read the story about the Symposium, which was among the top 10 WHO/Europe news stories in 2013)



EHEN products in development

Literature database

Environmental health economics resources such as academic research, technical guidance and reports from international organizations.

[The webpage for Environmental health economics](#)

The primary source for EHEN information and products and one of the elements of the environment and health website of WHO/Europe.

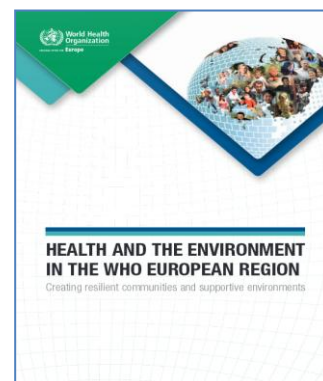
[A LinkedIn Group](#) has been created for easy discussions and instant exchange of information.

Expert roster

A tool for finding individual experts with the specific skills and knowledge needed for consultancy and other forms of collaboration.

Your contributions to the literature database and expert roster are strongly encouraged. Please email information and suggestions to georgef@who.int

WHO European Centre for Environment and Health



[This 2013 publication describes all environment and health programmes of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.](#)