

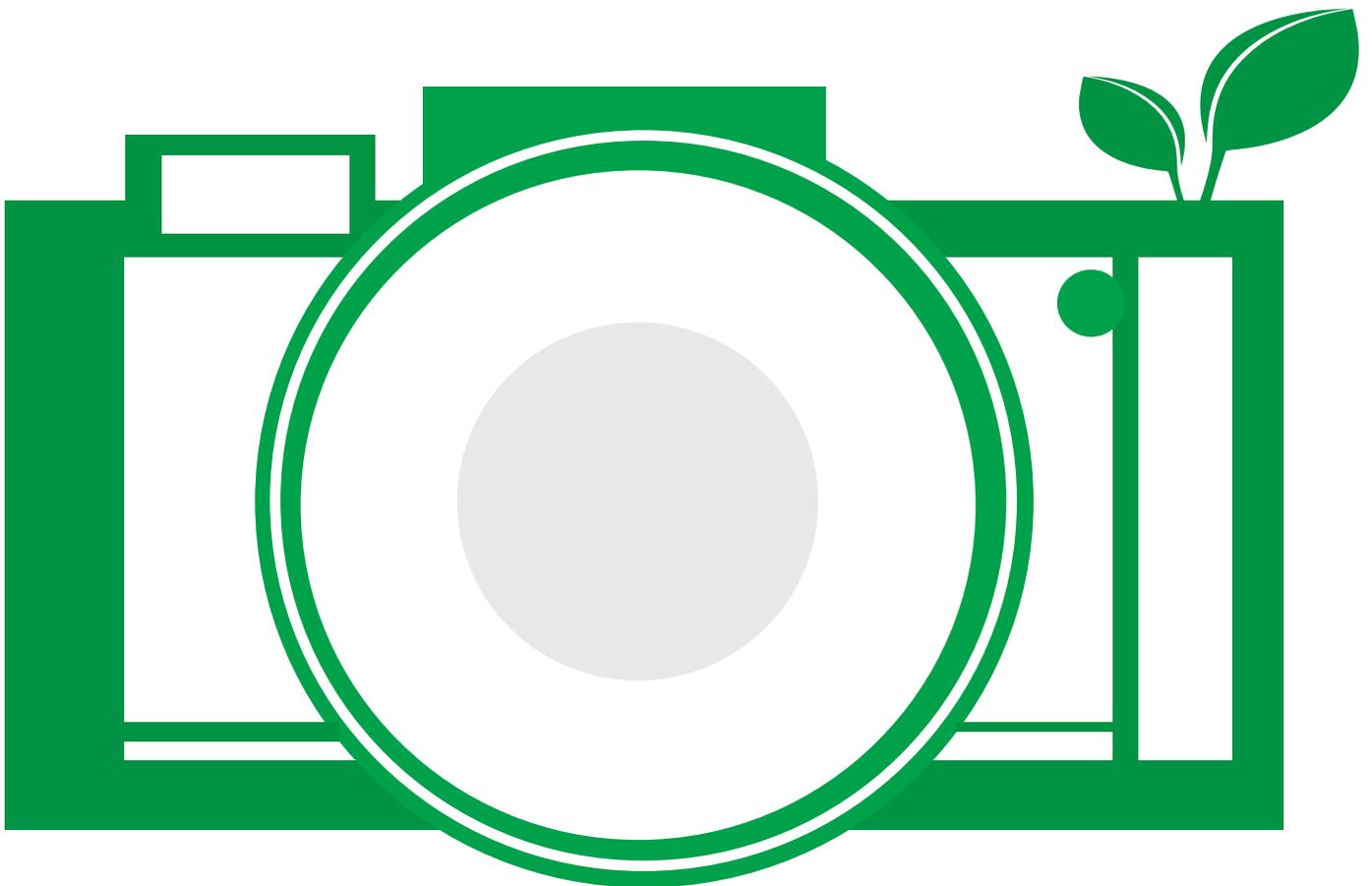
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Wow!



European
Environment
and Health
Youth Coalition

Youth photo competition for better health and environment!

PHOTO COMPETITION



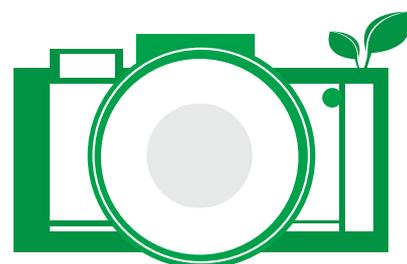
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The competition aimed to draw the attention of the public, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders to the views of young people on issues related to environment and health in Europe.

The competition was organized by the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition in partnership with Women in Europe for a Common Future to coincide with the World Health Organization's Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health which took place in Ostrava, the Czech Republic 13 -15 June 2017.

We asked young people to send photos which shows their view on the issues connected with environment and health in one of the following categories: air pollution; inadequate water and sanitation services; hazardous chemicals; waste and contaminated sites; climate change; sustainable cities, sustainable health systems.

We received entries from young people from Croatia, Georgia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine.



Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

Ostrava, Czech Republic, 13–15 June 2017

The ministerial conferences of the European Environment and Health Process provided a unique intersectoral policy platform and brought together relevant sectors and partners that shaped policies and actions on environment and health; supported the implementation of effective evidence-based policies and advanced actions on environment, health and well-being in the WHO European Region.

Defining Europe's environment and health priorities in the 21st century

Almost one and a half million deaths per year in the WHO European Region are caused by environmental risks that could be avoided and/or eliminated. There is therefore urgent need to continue and strengthen efforts addressing the leading environmental determinants of ill health. These include:

- air pollution
- inadequate water and sanitation services
- hazardous chemicals
- waste and contaminated sites
- climate change
- sustainable cities
- sustainable health systems

Addressing old and new challenges

The budgetary constraints of Member States, socioeconomic and gender inequalities, extreme climate events, increases in noncommunicable diseases, ageing of the population and an unprecedented level of migration between and within countries in the Region exacerbate those challenges. The complex relationships between environmental, biological, demographic, economic, social and other factors call for improving the resilience of communities to the physical, natural and social pressures of the 21st century. Participants in the Sixth Ministerial Conference discussed new responses to these multiple challenges. They took into account new evidence demonstrating that preserving the environment is essential to the survival of humankind. They also recognized the cross-border nature of environmental challenges; the necessity to focus actions not only at national level, but also at subnational and city levels; the importance of identifying the most vulnerable; and the need for good governance, which includes involving stakeholders and citizens.

Ministerial declaration for a future-looking Europe

The European Environment and Health Task Force, supported by its Ad-hoc Working Group, served as the steering body for the preparation of this Conference. The priorities for the Sixth Ministerial Conference were identified and negotiated through a broad, inclusive consultation process initiated at the High-Level Mid-term Review Meeting in Haifa, Israel, in 2015. At the Conference, Member States adopted a declaration, which included an action plan for its implementation and agreement on revised institutional arrangements for the European Environment and Health Process after 2017. (WHO, 2017)



Thematic Areas

Air Pollution

Air pollution is contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. Household combustion devices, motor vehicles, industrial facilities and forest fires are common sources of air pollution. Pollutants of major public health concern include particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Outdoor and indoor air pollution cause respiratory and other diseases, which can be fatal. (WHO, 2017)

Inadequate water and sanitation services

A child's well-being is highly dependent on both the quality and the availability of water, and on how well this precious resource is managed. Around the world, both biological disease agents and chemical pollutants are compromising drinking-water quality. Contaminated water causes a range of diseases which are often life-threatening. Of the waterborne diseases affecting children, the most deadly are diarrhoeal infections. Childhood diarrhoea is closely associated with insufficient water supply, inadequate sanitation, water contaminated with communicable disease agents, and poor hygiene practices. (WHO, 2017)

Hazardous chemicals

The use of chemicals has increased dramatically due to the economic development in various sectors including industry, agriculture and transport. As a consequence, children are exposed to a large number of chemicals of both natural and man-made origin. Exposure occurs through the air they breathe, the water they drink or bathe in, the food they eat, and the soil they touch (or ingest as toddlers). They are exposed virtually wherever they are: at home, in the school, on the playground, and during transport. (WHO, 2017)

Waste and contaminated sites

Europe has thousands of contaminated sites. They are the result of earlier industrialization and poor environmental management practices. Past and current activities can cause local and diffuse accumulation of environmental stressors to an extent that might threaten human health and the environment, by altering air quality, hampering soil functions, and polluting groundwater and surface water (WHO, 2012).



Climate change

It is now generally acknowledged that the global climate is changing, as the earth becomes warmer. This change has the potential to affect human health in a number of ways, for instance by altering the geographic range and seasonality of certain infectious diseases, disturbing food-producing ecosystems, and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes (WHO, 2017).

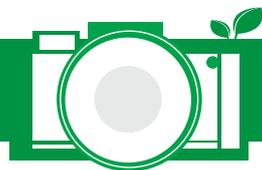
Sustainable cities

Action to mitigate urban health risks can have important co-benefits for multiple policy objectives. Well-planned cities can offer unique opportunities to create urban patterns that minimize health risks from air pollution, traffic injury, and physical inactivity, while also mitigating climate change. While smaller-scale plans may not have the energy conservation or emissions reduction benefits of larger-scale developments, urban areas are products of thousands of individual site-level development and design decisions (WHO, 2017).

Sustainable health systems

Health systems are responsible for delivering services that improve, maintain or restore the health of individuals and their communities. This includes the care provided by hospitals and family doctors, but also less visible tasks such as the prevention and control of communicable disease, health promotion, health workforce planning and improving the social, economic or environmental conditions in which people live. Health systems are also responsible for the careful management (or stewardship) of these services to ensure that they reach everyone equally, are responsive to individual needs and vulnerabilities, and do not impose an excessive financial burden on individuals or families (WHO, 2017).



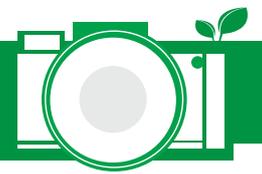


1st place



Jovanka Jankovic from Serbia
Photo name: **Despair**
Thematic area: Climate change





Jovanka Jankovic

My name is Jovanka Jankovic and I'm 29 years old. I live in Belgrade, Serbia and I'm a dentist. I adore literature and art in general. Since I'm an avid reader I spend most of my time enjoying all kinds of books. Theater is also one of my passions. I love travelling because it broadens your mind in so many ways. I'm able to experience new cultures, history, scenery and food.

What was the inspiration for your photo?

I always seek to see beauty in everything around me, but also sorrow, fear and a whole array of different feelings which can generate a vision that carries a certain message. The power of a photograph lies in its openness to interpretation.

Why do you think this issue is important?

I think that physical and psychological health of a human being is of major importance, and since it is greatly influenced by the environment, we need to keep in great condition.

Do you think involving young people in the decision-making process about environment and health is important. Why/why not?

Young people who have been taught to appreciate the importance of environment and health from the very beginning of their active participation in its preservation make for a great foundation for a better future.

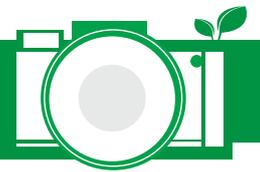
Is there anything you would like to say to the decision-makers at the 6th Ministerial conference on environment and health?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministerial conference on environment and health for the great work they are doing to improve the environmental conditions. In the future, I hope to see the emphasis put on the countries lesser-educated about this issue.

What do you think young people can do to improve the environment we live in today?

It is of utmost importance that young people connect, communicate and spread the word about this subject. Young people are effective social initiators of change.



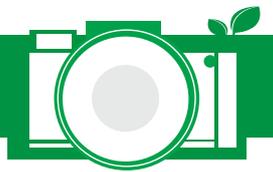


2nd place



Iuliia Kotelnikova
Photo name: **Footprint**
Thematic area: Waste and contaminated sites





Luliia Kotelnikova

My name is Luliia (Julia). I live in Ukraine, in sunny and warm city Odesa. By profession, I am environmental engineer and work at the Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea (UkrSCES). I provide monitoring of the marine litter as on the mainland (the beach area) and in the sea. However, I am engaged in social activities and I am the Head of an NGO. I implement various activities and projects aimed at young people, and promote the involvement of young people in social and environmental activities.

What was the inspiration for your photo?

I am very concerned about pollution of beaches of our city, as well as water bodies. Therefore, I could not go calmly at this pile of litter, and do not take pictures, and then make a simple and necessary manipulation – clean the beach.

Why do you think this issue is important?

We already live in a time when the garbage problem became critical and global. Unless do implement urgent measures by all States, do not implement quite strict policy of environmental protection, our planet will soon become the first planet-landfill in the universe.

Do you think involving young people in the decision-making process about environment and health is important. Why/why not ?

Young people are the future, if not include young people in decision-making, we cannot achieve / create / provide that future in which our descendants will live.

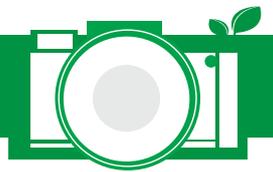
Is there anything you would like to say to the decision-makers at the 6th Ministerial conference on environment and health?

A clear position on environmental protection, the specific actions and tough sanctions to implement specified obligations. The only way we can save our planet.

What do you think young people can do to improve the environment we live in today?

First, understand / feel our responsibility for our future. Unite in a critical mass and start to defend our position on the protection of the environment. And at the same time, at the individual level help to preserve the environment.



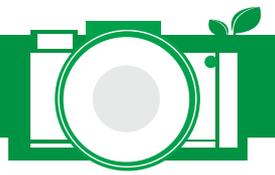


3rd place



Aleksander Zarzeka from Poland
Photo name: **Expectations vs. reality**
Thematic area: Sustainable cities





Aleksander Zarzeka

I'm a young lawyer working in Warsaw. PhD candidate in health sciences. Green and healthy lifestyle enthusiast. Teacher of nursing and medical students. Fan of travels and good wine.

What was the inspiration for your photo?

Every city should be designed for people. Activity of municipalities is only the first step. The real change have to be done in our minds.

Why do you think this issue is important?

If the city is more friendly for people and cyclists, the society will be happier.

Do you think involving young people in the decision-making process about environment and health is important. Why/why not?

Yes, they should learn involvement from child.

Is there anything you would like to say to the decision-makers at the 6th Ministerial conference on environment and health?

Be brave!

What do you think young people can do to improve the environment we live in today?

They can learn to think about environment and public health in every single activity and decide how to execute this activity in environmental friendly and healthy way.





The European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC) is the first European youth participation network that emphasizes and promotes the understanding of the inherent links between environment and health. Youth participation in the decision making process is central to the Coalition's activities and is supported by ministers of health and environment through commitments made in the Declaration of the WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health held in Parma, 2010.

The EEHYC is a hub for young people that acts through different organizational structures. Its membership is broad and includes youth organizations, informal groups, students, youth professionals, young researchers and activists, young entrepreneurs and young government employees. Through its membership, it interlinks the activities of different organisations, bringing experiences and ideas to international fora instigated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, such as the Ministerial Board and the Task Force of the European Environment and Health Process.

Our Mission

The EEHYC seeks to support, legitimize and give visibility to young people's participation in processes aimed at achieving a healthy and sustainable environment. The EEHYC will act to unite and focus youth-led activities to implement, monitor and strengthen the Parma Declaration commitments on environment and health. Primarily, this will be achieved by helping young people to establish platforms and networks and supporting ministries in creating effective mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in the European environment and health process.

Women in Europe for a Common Future

The WECF network was created 22 years ago with the idea to build a network of women taking action for sustainability and equality, while joining forces with men to mobilise all of society behind a common vision of a sustainable future.

WECF Foundation

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in the Netherlands in 1994. The philosophy of WECF has always been to support local project partners and network members in conducting advocacy work themselves, whether at local, national or international levels - thus giving direct voices to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work has proved to be very successful and has become one of the strongest distinguishing aspects of the WECF network.



Our Vision: A just, healthy and sustainable planet for all!

We envision a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all women, men and children live in dignity and share responsibilities for a healthy environment, and a just and sustainable world.

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a catalyst for change to bring women's priorities and leadership equality into policies and actions that will shape a just and sustainable world: Our Common Future.



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