



The Department of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia
is organizing a Research Conference entitled

Climate Change and Public Health

Friday, June 24th, 2011
18:00 – 20:00

UNESCO Amphitheater, University of Nicosia

Program

Chair: Dr. Edna Yamasaki,
Associate Professor, Chair Department of Life and Health Sciences of the
University of Nicosia

Connectivity of Environmental and Health Information Systems
Dr. Pavlos Kassomenos, Associate Professor, Department of Physics,
Laboratory of Meteorology, University of Ioannina, Hellas

Protecting Public Health Through Environmental Interventions
Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis, Health Protection Agency, UK



Το Έργο συγχρηματοδοτείται από τη Δέσμη Προγραμμάτων για Έρευνα, Τεχνολογική Ανάπτυξη και Καινοτομία 2009-2010», του Ιδρύματος Προώθησης Έρευνας (ΔΕΣΜΗ 2009-2010) και από την Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία και το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ).

R.S.V.P.: 22841609, e-mail: georgiou.k@unic.ac.cy

Abstracts

Connectivity of Environmental and Health Information Systems

In the Laboratory of Meteorology at the University of Ioannina, Greece, research concerns most of the phenomena in the fields of Meteorology, Climatology and Physics of the Atmospheric Environment, as well as their spatial and temporal evolution. Focus is placed on local and wide-scale climatic variations. Investigations are also performed on the long transport and budget of sulfur and nitrogen compounds and other pollutants in Greece, the Mediterranean and SE Europe. Other activities include the study of the hydrological budget and hydrological cycle, the total infrared and disperse solar radiation as well as bio-meteorological issues.

The improvement of citizen's quality of life and the protection of public health are subject to recent regulatory efforts from the European Commission in the frame of the Environment and Health Strategy COM(2003)338 and the Environment and Health Action Plan COM(2004)416. The main target focused on the integration of Environment and Health Information Systems (EHIS) in member states. Nevertheless, the implementation multiplied the needs for Shared Environmental Information Systems for which the European Commission adopted on February 2008 the Communication COM(2008)46 for a pan-European information systems for the environment.

Toward these directions the EHIS have multiplied the benefits for the citizens and the public, generating extra added value through contribution in several sectors of the economic and social environment. The connectivity of EHIS enables evidence-based priority-setting and planning of preventive measures, identifies cases of good practice among participating countries in terms of the effectiveness and efficacy of environment and health policy. EHIS were demonstrated to be helpful in monitoring progress in the status of the environment and health by observing time trends in individual Member States or a group of countries. This function represents a very important added value of EHIS, if international agencies and the countries themselves would introduce internationally collaborative policies on the environment and health in the near future in Europe.

Protecting Public Health Through Environmental Interventions

The Health Protection Agency is an independent UK organisation that was set up by the government in 2003 to protect the public from threats to their health from infectious diseases and environmental hazards. It does this by providing advice and information to the general public, to health professionals such as doctors and nurses, and to national and local government.

Environmental interventions aiming at reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, calming road traffic and regenerating urban areas can bring significant public health benefits. Road traffic management strategies in particular can have a wide range of direct and indirect impacts on the environment, human health and quality of life. This presentation will show how epidemiological evidence, mathematical modelling and multi-criteria decision analysis techniques can be used to quantify the impact of environmental interventions taking into account several indicators, such as air pollution related mortality and morbidity, carbon emissions, traffic noise, road injuries and road congestion. Local stakeholder engagement is also discussed in the context of environmental justice and effective implementation of interventions.