



**“Methods for assessing health-related costs of environmental stressors”.**

**Topic: HORIZON-HLTH-2022-ENVHLTH-04-01 (Methods for assessing health-related costs of environmental stressors) and grant agreements 101094639 (UBDPOLICY), 101095611 (VALESOR), 101095430 (MARCHES), 101095408 (BEST-COST) and 101095119 (MISTRAL).**

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		CO = Confidential
		CI = Classified



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## 1. Disclaimer

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## 2. Executive Summary

METEOR is a cluster of five Horizon Europe projects researching the health impacts of environmental stressors and related socioeconomic costs. Each METEOR project explores a different aspect of the socioeconomic cost of environmental stressors, and brings their unique findings to the overall work of the cluster to broaden our understanding of how health is impacted by the environment. Based on their findings, each project looks to suggest national and international policy recommendations to protect our health and the planet. The cluster is active from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2026.

METEOR aims to gather the key outcomes and findings from the five projects to deepen our understanding of the health impacts of environmental stressors. METEOR's work takes place in 6 working groups which bring together partners from different fields to synergise the outcomes from each project and create joint activities.

Working Group 3 (WG3), led by BEST-COST, endeavours to harmonise communication and dissemination activities between the projects for maximum impact. The working group has developed a cluster web portal, visual identity branding guidelines, social media platforms and a brochure to raise awareness of the cluster and its work within the policy, scientific and civil society communities and keep them informed on the most up-to-date findings around the health impact of environmental stressors.

### 2.1 Role of deliverable

This deliverable was prepared by BEST-COST, in collaboration with the members of METEOR WG3. The report summarises how the first newsletter was prepared, the contents, how it will be disseminated, and how the future editions will be prepared.

### 2.2 Relationship to other deliverables

The newsletter is a key deliverable for the cluster, as it serves to disseminate key cluster activities as well as project outputs. It raises awareness about METEOR's work and encourages readers to follow the cluster's progress in the coming years.



### 3. Overview

The following details the process underlying the preparation and dissemination of the first newsletter, as well as the next steps for newsletters 2 and 3.

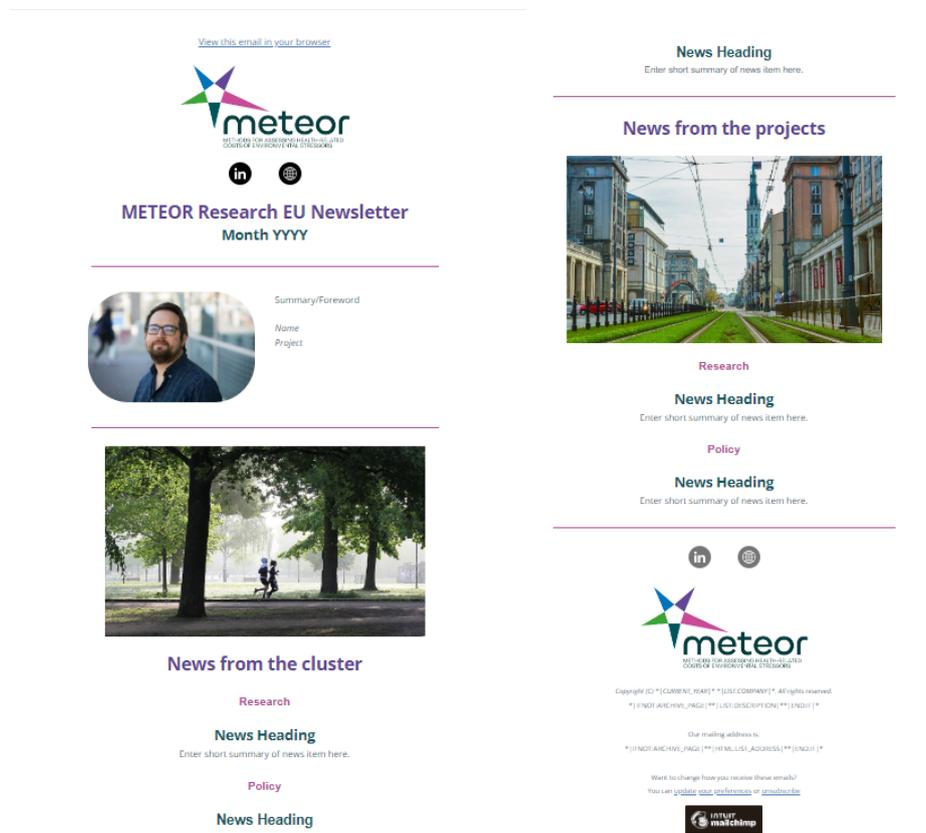
#### 3.1 Development

The newsletter was developed as a collaborative exercise between all members of the working group, led by BEST-COST. Starting in 2023 and throughout the first half of 2024, partners held a series of online meetings to agree on the format, content, and dissemination process. All partners contributed in written to the content of the newsletter, providing entries on their projects. BEST-COST drafted the entries for the cluster.

#### 3.2 Design

BEST-COST was responsible for designing the template of the newsletter, which integrated the visual identity designed by MISTRAL. This includes the colour scheme and typeface to mark the newsletter as a recognisable product of METEOR. It will include a few images related to the projects to mark each section, but will prioritise a streamline design to not overwhelm readers with content.

The newsletter will be formatted and disseminated through Mailchimp.





### 3.3 Dissemination

The target audience for the newsletter are those stakeholders identified in the METEOR Communications and Dissemination Strategy, as follows:

- **Researchers, professionals, and the scientific community** in the field of public health, environment and sustainability, with a specific interest in environmental stressors. This can include universities with public health programmes, and public health national institutions, and health professionals with an interest in the impact of environmental stressors on health.
- **EU and (sub)national policymakers** and advisors on health, environmental, economic and social affairs.
- **METEOR cluster project members** who are not involved in Working Group 3 but would be interested in learning more about the other projects involved and how they relate to the projects they work on.

Partners agreed that the newsletter will be disseminated through:

- The **five projects' mailing lists** as the primary means of dissemination. Each project has an already established mailing list, which combined are far larger than the METEOR cluster mailing list. Each project has therefore agreed to disseminate the METEOR newsletter in their own project newsletters, also encouraging readers to subscribe to the METEOR specific mailing list.
- The **METEOR mailing list**, which has been built organically through social media promotion and advertised on the website. The cluster hopes that the number of subscribers (currently 17) will grow after the first edition of the newsletter has been widely disseminated. Subscribers to the METEOR mailing list will continue be collected by advertising the newsletter subscription form on the website, social media, and the project newsletters while adhering to GDPR rules.
- **METEOR and projects' social media** – both the cluster and the five individual projects will post about the newsletter on their social media, also as a way to gain more subscribers to METEOR mailing list and social media.
- **METEOR website** – finally, the newsletter will also be available on the METEOR website, as a resource on the news section.

### 3.4 Next steps

The next two editions of the newsletter will be respectively led by:

- VALESOR (M36 – December 2025)
- UBDPolicy (M48 – December 2026)

As the template has now been prepared on MailChimp, the account ownership will be handed over by BEST-COST to VALESOR. BEST-COST will share the log in information (email and password), and change the account verification details to the VALESOR owner. Following the second edition, VALESOR can share the account details to UBDPolicy. The password should be changed each time.



## 4. Content

In terms of content, partners agreed that the METEOR newsletter should include both key updates from the cluster as well as from each individual project. This helps to draw attention to cluster activities but also drives continued engagement with the five individual projects. Within each section, updates are organised according to “policy”, “research” or “communications”.

Partners also agreed that the newsletter would begin with a foreword from the BEST-COST coordinator (as the partner responsible for this deliverable), giving the newsletter a personal touch and helping to engage the reader.

This section includes all the content from the newsletter.

### 4.1 Foreword

On behalf of the METEOR Cluster, [BEST-COST](#) is pleased to share with you the first edition of the METEOR Newsletter. METEOR brings together five Horizon Europe projects that are researching the health impacts of environmental stressors and resulting socioeconomic costs. Such stressors, including air pollution, noise pollution, and chemicals, can be found in many aspects of our lives and threaten our physical and mental wellbeing. Inequalities felt across Europe not only affect the impact of these stressors but also our ability to prevent exposure. The research conducted by the METEOR projects will broaden our understanding of how health is impacted by our environments, and propose policy recommendations to protect our health and the planet.

In this edition, we are pleased to share with you the latest reports and publications from the METEOR cluster projects, as well as upcoming events which provide an opportunity to engage with the ongoing research and shape the resulting recommendations. A key output from this first period is a new policy brief on ‘How science can support a swift, health-based implementation of the new EU clean air law’, which assesses the EU’s Ambient Air Quality Directive and how the METEOR projects contribute to its effective implementation.

We invite you to check out the websites of each project involved in the Cluster, all of which you can find on the [METEOR website](#). Follow METEOR [on social media](#) for the latest updates.

*Brecht Devleeschauwer,  
BEST-COST Project Coordinator and Head of Health information at Sciensano*

### 4.2 News from the cluster

#### Policy

#### **METEOR Policy Brief on how science can support a health-based implementation of the new EU clean air law**

The newly revised Ambient Air Quality Directive is at the core of comprehensive EU legislative frameworks tackling air emissions and setting out to improve the quality of the air that people breathe. The new METEOR Cluster briefing, ‘How science can support a swift, health-based implementation of the new EU clean air law’,



showcases how the cluster projects can assist policy-makers in the application of the new EU clean air standards, using scientific evidence as a foundation.

[Read more.](#)

### **METEOR Cluster to take stock of current progress in autumn**

METEOR partners will meet in person in October to update one another on the progress achieved so far and share research findings, as well as to mark the next steps for the Cluster activities. The Cluster will also hear interventions from EU authorities on relevant policy issues to explore translating science into policy. The Cluster will also organise a workshop on Exposure Response Analysis, led by UBDPolicy and BEST-COST. The half-day workshop is open to anyone interested in discussing the research behind Exposure Response Analysis. Please [get in touch](#) if you would like more information on how to participate.

#### **Communications**

### **Launch of the METEOR cluster website and social media channels**

Over the next three years, the website and social media of the METEOR cluster will share activities from the Cluster as well as highlights from the five individual projects. The website will serve as a hub for resources and updates, from research tools to policy briefings. You can also follow METEOR [on LinkedIn](#) to receive the latest updates. Use the hashtag #MeteorEU to join the conversation around methods to protect our health and the environment.

[Read more](#)

### **METEOR launches brochure**

METEOR launched its brochure, a digital tool that provides an overview of the cluster work and its objectives, as well as highlights each project's specific aims.

[View the brochure.](#)

## **4.3 News from the projects**

### **Research**

#### **BEST-COST: Publication on quantifying social inequalities using a multiple deprivation index**

BEST-COST has been researching methods to assess social inequalities from health costs of environmental stressors, with a focus on air pollution and traffic-related noise. The project is identifying a methodological framework to develop a multiple deprivation index (MDI) in five European case study countries (Belgium, Estonia, France, Norway and Portugal). [Stay tuned](#) for further developments from BEST-COST.

#### **MARCHES: Project connects with stakeholders**

The MARCHES project conducted 4 stakeholder consultations on air pollution mitigation measures in the following cities: Tallinn (Estonia), Pristina (Kosovo), Barcelona (Spain) and Copenhagen (Denmark). In each location, stakeholders shared their ideas about mitigation measures. With this feedback, the MARCHES



project will use its innovative health economic evaluation method to conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis of these selected measures to support policy makers in their decision-making.

In addition to air pollution mitigation measures, MARCHES hosted two more stakeholder consultations in Prague (Czech Republic) and Copenhagen (Denmark) to define relevant mitigation measures to decrease nitrates in drinking water in those locations.

#### **MARCHES: Publication on health outcomes of prenatal exposure to nitrate in drinking water**

MARCHES published a paper on ‘Prenatal Exposure to Nitrate in Drinking Water and Adverse Health Outcomes in the Offspring: a Review of Current Epidemiological Research’. The paper provides an overview of the latest knowledge on the potential health effects of prenatal exposure to nitrate from drinking water.

[Read more.](#)

#### **MISTRAL: First community engagement event connects with local stakeholders**

APS PLANET, along with the Local Health Authority of Taranto and the University of Oxford, organised the first community engagement event in the Tamburi neighbourhood of Taranto, Italy - one of the three European cities involved in the project.

The event gathered residents, civil society and local institutional stakeholders to introduce the MISTRAL project with a focus on the ZEPHYR study. ZEPHYR is a multi-centre observational study which collects data on lifestyle and specific health and socioeconomic conditions from a population of all ages. The workshop allowed participants to share concerns around pollution levels and towards epidemiological studies, and for researchers to understand of the particular needs of the community. As a result, almost 500 participants gave their informed consent to participate in the ZEPHYR study.

#### **MISTRAL: Editorial on Influence of Diet and Maternal Environment on Neuropsychological Development Early in Life**

MISTRAL published an editorial on ‘*Influence of Diet and Maternal Environment on Neuropsychological Development Early in Life*’. The editorial develops understanding of the composite network of direct and indirect environmental effects on the neuropsychological health of children and adolescents. The baseline assumption is that different and complex environmental dimensions, including maternal environment, physical and chemical environment, socioeconomic environment, and living environment, can be further studied to have far-reaching effects on public health practices and policy development.

[Read more.](#)

#### **MISTRAL: Multidimensional Assessment Tools in ‘Networks, Markets & People’ Thematic Sessions**

MISTRAL hosted a workshop on ‘Industrial Polluting Sites and the Effects on the Surrounding Context’ at the symposium ‘Networks, Markets & People’ (NMP 2024) in Reggio Calabria. The workshop identified strategies for minimising the impacts on human health by supporting the socioeconomic development of the territories in which these polluting sites are present.

[Read more.](#)



### **UBDPolicy: Publication on large-scale urban health studies**

UBDPolicy published a paper on ‘Exploring the nexus of urban form, transport, environment and health in large-scale urban studies: A state-of-the-art scoping review’. The paper determines common methodologies used to understand the interaction between urban form, transport, environmental exposures, and health. With this knowledge, a multi-faceted approach is encouraged for evidence-informed urban planning and policies that considers environmental health.

[Read more.](#)

### **UBDPolicy: Publication on Health Impact Assessments on ambient air pollution and mortality in European cities**

UBDPolicy published a paper on ‘Spatial and sector-specific contributions of emissions to ambient air pollution and mortality in European cities: a health impact assessment’. The paper sets out to estimate spatial and sector-specific contributions of emissions to ambient air pollution, and evaluates the effects of source-specific reductions in pollutants on mortality in European cities.

[Read more.](#)

### **UBDPolicy: Publication on the Superblock model in Barcelona**

UBDPolicy published a paper on ‘The Superblock model: A review of an innovative urban model for sustainability, liveability, health and well-being’. This paper reviews key aspects of the Superblock model, its implementation, and initial evaluations in Barcelona and the potential international uptake of the model in Europe and globally, focusing on environmental, climate, lifestyle, liveability and health aspects.

[Read more.](#)

### **Policy**

#### **MARCHES: Publication of policy briefs on air pollution and nitrates**

MARCHES [published two policy briefs](#) on the methodology used by the project to define new exposure response functions. One policy brief, ‘What do we know about the health risks of nitrate in drinking water?’, will address air pollution and its effects on depression and Inflammatory Bowel disease, and the second, ‘How do scientists determine the health risks from air pollution?’, will explore how exposure to nitrates in drinking water increase the risk of colorectal cancer.

#### **MISTRAL: Taranto hosted the G7 satellite event “Turning Goals into Action - Research and Innovation for Climate Change Mitigation”**

On June 14, the MISTRAL Project was invited to the G7 satellite event ‘Turning Goals into Action – Research and Innovation for Climate Change Mitigation’, organised by the Municipality of Taranto, in collaboration with the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, and CTE Taranto (CALLIOPE Project). The event was dedicated to translating climate goals into concrete and tangible actions, bringing together several international speakers with different backgrounds to discuss best practices, emerging technologies, and the necessary policies to drive meaningful transformation towards a low environmental impact economy.



[Read more.](#)

#### **UBDPolicy: Science to Policy Workshops**

The UBDPolicy project conducted 4 scientific workshops: one on [Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) in Barcelona \(Spain\)](#); one on [cities, form, environmental exposures, and health impacts in Sitges \(Spain\)](#); one on [HIA indicators and well-being in Utrecht \(The Netherlands\)](#); and the last one on [Cost-Benefit Analysis in Transport](#).

#### **UBDPolicy: Project connects with stakeholders**

The UBDPolicy project conducted 3 stakeholder consultations in the following cities: [Brussels \(Belgium\)](#), [Zagreb \(Croatia\)](#), and [Warsaw \(Poland\)](#). In each location, possible scenarios on health and wellbeing relevant for preparing or evaluating current and future policies and strategies were explored. Stakeholders shared their input on data calculations and policy scenarios where more health evidence is needed, so UBDPolicy can provide the scientific expertise to support the decision-making process. In addition, a fourth workshop in [Sofia \(Bulgaria\)](#) is planned for next month.

#### **VALESOR: Policy session on standardised economic valuation during EAERE 2024**

VALESOR will host a policy session during the Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Leuven, Belgium. Chaired by Stefan Åström, the session will focus on “Using standardised economic valuation of environmental stressors to support environmental policies, recent developments, opportunities, and risks”. It will address and discuss data and methodological challenges in the development and policy use of standardised tools for economic assessments of damages from environmental stressors. The results and objectives from VALESOR’s research will form the basis of discussions, with perspectives from the other METEOR Cluster projects invited to share their views.

[Read more.](#)

## **4.4 End matter**

The newsletter ends with the funding disclaimer, links to social media, and a call to sign up to the mailing list.



[www.meteor-research.eu](http://www.meteor-research.eu)



[#MeteorEU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/meteor-eu)

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