











Twinning Project

Support to implementation of Health Impact Assessment Practice in Georgia

Study visit to France from 19 to 24th of June 2023

Focus: Heatwaves, water resources risk assessment and management, coordination between health and environmental authorities at national and local levels for risks related to climate changes and protection of water resources

More information on the project : Project sheet - Expertise France

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Context of the project

Health and environment are very linked with one another. Human activities are the main source of and emission of harmful substances and the main source of climate change. Foreseen impacts of climate change in Georgia include:

- more frequent, stronger and longer heatwaves, especially in urban settings (Telavi, Tbilisi and Zugdidi) and affecting primary vulnerable populations;
- more regular and stronger natural disasters like floods;
- change of infectious patterns: higher incidence of foodborne and waterborne infections, but also in a higher incidence of infections transmitted by vectors (transmitting insects).

The Government of Georgia and its international partners are active in addressing environmental health and the impacts of climate change on health. The second National Environmental Health Action Plan (2018-2022) identified 5 priority areas for public policy and action: promotion of a healthy lifestyle, reduction of outdoor and indoor air pollution, improvement of water quality through safe water and sanitation, prevent morbidity caused by exposure to chemicals and integration of health issues in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

Georgia is committed to fulfill its international obligations, as well as those taken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement to address environmental health and the impacts of climate change on health: the National Environmental Health Action Plan (2018-2022) identified 5 priority areas for public policy and action: promotion of a healthy lifestyle, reduction of outdoor and indoor air pollution, improvement of water quality through safe water and sanitation, prevent morbidity caused by exposure to chemicals and integration of health issues in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

The Government of Georgia in cooperation with the UNECE Secretariat is taking active steps to develop a national system to apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedures and Health Impact Assessment under the SEA framework. In this strategic framework, the twinning project supports the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) in improving the practice of Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

In the framework of the Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia (2017) human HIA is a mandatory process for strategic planning in different sectors. HIA relies on the concept of health determinants (environmental but also socio-economic), public participation and health promotion. The NCDC is responsible for the elaboration of a health statement and different recommendations to planning authorities in order to mitigate health negative impacts and maximize health benefits of the strategic plan/programme/policy.

The twinning project is funded by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France, a public agency for international cooperation, and the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL). Its main objectives are to:

- Support to the NCDC for its role in the approximation of Georgian legislation to EU directives in environmental health and in line with the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia
- Support technical and administrative implementation of HIA in NCDC
- Build partnerships between Georgian institutions and improve data value chain for HIA



















Improving public participation, involving civil society and disseminating results in HIA

Context of the study visit with a focus on heat waves adaptation and mitigation and water resources for public health

Heatwaves

According to one definition, heatwave is a condition when air temperature exceeds a temperature threshold for three consecutive days. Heatwave is a climate change phenomenon having serious detrimental effects on human health. Exposure to extremely high temperatures over several days may deteriorate various diseases, especially cardiovascular ones, and have catastrophic effects, including death. In 2003, heatwaves killed 35,000 people (50,000-70,000 according to some estimates) in Europe, including 14,000 in France. According to WHO data, extremely high temperatures are one of the leading causes of death from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, especially in the elderly. Heatwaves impact public health (mortality, morbidity and general discomfort and poor well-being), but also economic activity of a territory (as a consequence of suffering workforce for instance).

Heatwaves are already a public health concern in many countries and Georgia is not safe from them too. The 4th Communication of the Government of Georgia to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2021) has identified that heatwaves will be more frequent, stronger and longer, especially in urban settings (Telavi, Tbilisi and Zugdidi) and affecting primary vulnerable populations (elderly, seasonal and outdoor workers, newborns, those already affected by a health condition, ...).

Heatwave Trends in Georgia According to the climate scenario, in the first (2041-2070) and second (2071-2100) forecast periods the number of heatwaves on the territory of Georgia will increase by 157% and 187% respectively as compared to the base 30-year period (1971-2000). The increase will be the most significant in Zugdidi (213% and 432%), Tbilisi (180% and 307%) and Telavi (168% and 302%). Heatwaves are considered a serious urban problem ("urban heat island" - a rise in temperature caused by heat emitted by asphalt and buildings in urban environments), therefore a special focus was on assessing vulnerability and adaptation capacity of some large cities.

The UNFCC report recommended that at the local level planning and initiate heatwave adaptation measures by local governments, especially in vulnerable cities; Develop an action plan or a roadmap on city's adaptation to heatwave

Since the 2003 heatwave in France, public authorities have considered heatwaves as a major public health issue and a surveillance system has been set up. National and local authorities take part in it. More than preparing the impact of the heatwaves, cities are adapting and mitigating climate change impacts and especially to heatwave in order to offer long-term solutions to cool the cities (greater value to green and blue spaces, specific urban designs and materials) but also to use specific measures when a heatwave hit (for labor and exposition to sun, access to cooling spaces dedicated to refreshment, gardens open all night, access to water, ...).

Water resources in Georgia



















The main existing laws regarding water quality and quantity in Georgia are: Law on Water (1997), which regulates use and protection of surface waters and Law on Mineral Resources (1996) which regulates groundwater-related issues. The existing legal system is fragmented, and the Law on Water fails to meet modern standards for water resources management. In addition to legal deficiencies, there are also problems with institutional/governance deficiencies of water resources, lack of modern water resources management mechanisms in line with European standards, access to drinking water in rural and mountainous areas, challenges in the State surveillance of the drinking water system to guarantee safe water.

Accordingly, there was a necessity of developing a new legislation, based on the European standards and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles to ensure sustainable management of water resources. Thus, a new draft Law on Water Resources Management, had already been developed, which was approved by the Government of Georgia and was submitted to the Parliament of Georgia in November 2021. The draft Law is based on the principles of Integrated water resources management and meets requirements of the EU water legislation (2000/60/EC – Water Framework Directive; 2006/7/EC - Bathing Water Directive; 91/271/EEC - Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD); 2007/60/EC - Floods Directive (2007/60/EC); 91/676/EEC – Nitrates Directive; 98/83/EC - Drinking Water Directive).

Article 6.3. of the Draft law on water resources management mentions the competences of the MoIDPLHSA include:

- A. development of norms on drinking water quality and submission to the Government of Georgia for approval;
- A. submission of a recommendation to municipalities on the restriction or prohibition of common water use on a separate water body (the mentioned information is also sent to the Ministry in the form of a notification);
- B. Creation of a sanitary protection zone of drinking water supply water bodies, establishment of boundaries, allocation of zones and the list of activities allowed within them and the development of the rules for the implementation of activities.

Objectives of the study visit

- Risk assessment and risk management of heatwaves impacts on public health
 - National legislation
 - National and local measures for heatwave preparation and mitigation
 - o Adaptation: Long-term and short-term solutions in spatial planning
- Information and experience sharing on **coordination of environment and health authorities** at national and local level, platforms and institutions for water and heatwaves
- Implementation and transposition of EU legislation related to drinking water and new directives
- Presentation of tools and data for quantifying the environmental burden of disease of heatwaves and other risks related to climate change
 - Alert thresholds and risk communication for heatwaves
 - Quantifying health impacts of heatwaves and its economic impact



















Participants

- 1. Ekaterine Adamia Deputy Director General of NCDC -Head of Delegation
- 2. Nia Giuashvili Adviser to the Director General of NCDC, RTA Counterpart
- 3. Lela Sturua Head of Non-communicable Diseases Department, NCDC
- 4. Maia Kereselidze Head of Medical Statistics Department, NCDC
- 5. Nana Kavtaradze Head of International Relations and Communication Division, NCDC
- 6. Nana Gabriadze Head of Environmental Health Department, NCDC
- 7. Lali ebanoidze Head of Legal Division, NCDC
- 8. Mariam Gordadze Head of Non-Animal Food and Beverages division, National Food Agency
- 9. Antoine Pogorzelski Resident Twinning Advisor, Expertise France
- 10. Ekaterine Lobzhanidze RTA Assistant, Expertise France
- 11. Ketevan Kvantaliani Interpret (French Georgian French)

Institutions visited



As a scientific agency and expert in the health field, Santé Publique France (Accueil (santepubliquefrance.fr)) is in charge of: i) epidemiological observation and surveillance of the health status of populations; ii) monitoring health risks publique threatening populations; - the launch of the health alerts; iii) health promotion and reduction of health risks; iv) the development of prevention and health education; v) preparedness and response to health threats, alerts and crises.





In each region, the ARS (Regional Health Agency) implements public health policy in conjunction with the services responsible for occupational health, school and university health and maternal and child protection.

Agence régionale de santé Bretagne | Agir ensemble pour la santé des Bretons (sante.fr) / Agence régionale

de santé Ile-de-France | Agir pour la santé en Île-de-France (sante.fr)

In the health-environment sector, its competence includes:

- water & food: quality of water for human consumption, quality of bathing water, swimming pools and recreational sites, protection of water resources;
- indoor environment: in the habitat, indoor air quality, fight against undignified housing;
- outdoor environment: noise pollution, outdoor air quality, waste from healthcare activities, impact on health of human activities.

According to the Environmental Code and within environmental assessment, the regional health agencies are consulted by the environmental authorities at the screening stage of the EIA/SEA and may be involved in the SEA in a consultative way. The RHA decides whether or not they will be involved in the EA. Their inputs can focus on sanitary elements (especially related to water quality protection), environmental health and health and urban planning.





















Eaux de Paris - In charge of the production, transport and distribution of water in the capital, Eau de Paris was born in 2009 from the political will of the City of Paris for integrated, direct and public water management. At the service of everyone, Eau de Paris meets the major objectives related to water and set by the roadmap of the City of Paris. If this roadmap guarantees Parisians water of irreproachable quality and its access to the greatest number, it also recalls the unique capacity

of Eau de Paris to stimulate the ecological transition through the protection of the resource, the contribution to the cooling and greening of the city, and cooperation with rural areas.



Paris Municipality - 8th Committee; The committee deals with the issues related to Environment, Climate and Biodiversity, Cleanliness; and especially with ecological transition, climate, water and energy plan - Greening of public spaces, green spaces, biodiversity and

animal condition - Sustainable food, agriculture and short supply chain - Cleanliness of public space sorting and waste reduction, sanitation, recycling and reuse - Circular economy, contribution to the zero waste strategy.



Marseille Municipality - Direction Ecological transition, outdoors and life quality. The climate emergency and social injustices require local authorities to mobilize to implement and defend global approaches, through the integration of climate objectives in all operations to redevelop their spaces and repair their buildings and homes, but also by encouraging changes in lifestyles and transitions towards more sustainable models of society. The City of Marseille wanted to concretize its climate commitment by declaring a state

of climate emergency at the City Council meeting on 8 February 2021



AVITEM - Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories

AVITEM is a French cooperation agency dedicated to a strategic region for France and the European Union: the Mediterranean area. It conveys the political will to contribute to the creation of a community of sustainable development and solidarity amongst Mediterranean territories. Through training, expertise, networking and European cooperation, AVITEM takes part in the collective construction of innovative strategies and projects for urban

development, the sustainability of ecosystems and the well-being of populations.

Agenda

Sunday 18 June

2023 Departure from Tbilisi - Morning 06h25 – Arrival 9h30 in Paris
Hotel Ibis Budget Paris Porte D'Italie Est
20, Rue Voltaire 94270 Le Kremlin Bicêtre Le Kremlin Bicetre

















publique

Monday 19 June 2023

Santé Publique France

144 av. de Gravelle (taxi)

Santé publique France - Sébastien Denys, Department Santé Environnement Travail and its team,

- Surveillance and management : Monitoring and prevention of the health impacts of heatwaves
 - Guillaume Boulanger, Head of Quality of Living and Working Environments and Population Health Unit
 - □ HIA georgia heatwaves.pptx / □ Sante environnement canicule GB.pptx
- Advocacy
 - Valérie Pernelet-Joly, Unit Manager, Development, Structuring and Partnerships Health-Environment-Work Division
 - English presentation Plaidoyer.pptx
 - Sandrine Randriamampianina, Advertising Manager



- International Association of National Public Health Institutes

 Anne-Catherine Viso, IANPHI Secretariat and Director, Scientific and International Department at Santé Publique France
- **Climate Change and One Health Observatory**, Jean Gaudard, Biostatiscian in charge of the "Planetary Health" methodological framework

Tuesday 20 June 2023

Expertise France

(40 boulevard de Port Royal, 75005 Paris) Regional Health Agency - Guidelines and tools for health impact assessment in EA

Benoit Van Gastel, feedback on tools

- Presentation of guideline and tools
- Focus on content and template for the final opinion of the health authority in the EA process

2023 06 20, Presentation of the Guidelines and the tools - ...





11h-12h30: "Paris à 50 degré" - Adaptation of Paris to 50 degrees





















Alexandre Florentin, Councilor of Paris Municipality:

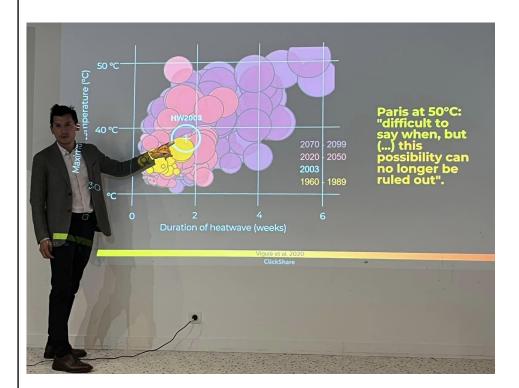
Paris could hit 50 degrees by 2050, a new report warns.

How can the city adapt? | Euronews



Solutions for adapting the city and mitigating the impacts on health and quality of life of the people :

www.paris50degres.fr _20062023 en-GB.pptx



Eaux de Paris

- Quality of water : M. Laurent Moulin,
 Responsable du pôle recherche à la Direction de la
 Recherche et de la Qualité de l'Eau
- Présentation Eau de Paris English.pdf
 - Water resources protection in rural areas: Mme
 Manon Zakeossian, Head of Water Resources
 Protection and Biodiversity, Eau de Paris
 - Protecting water resources.pdf

	- Protecting water resources.pdf
Wednesday 21	14h- 17h : Regional Health Agency - Health impact assessment
June 2023	and Health in Environmental Assessment - Thomas Margueron,
	Director of Environmental Health Department
	Climate change, health and protection of water resources
	- Sanitary Control of bathing waters
	ARS PACA - Sanitary control of bathing waters.pptx
	- Water safety plans (Plan de gestion de la sécurité sanitaire des eaux)
Marseille	ARS PACA Water Safety Plans.pptx

- Heatwave management plan P ARS PACA Heatwave management system.pptx

Thursday 22 June 2023 10h30 - 13h



















AVITEM (Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories) - 81 Bd de

Dunkerque, 13002, Marseille

Marseille

H.E Philippe Meunier, Ambassador and Director General

Alice CUCCHIARO – AVITEM Agathe LAFORET - AVITEM Lucie CATTANEO – AP-HM

Rethinking nature in the city to improve health and well-being of city dwellers :

Recetas - PPTxGeorgie.pdf / More information on <u>RECETAS - Recetas (recetasproject.eu)</u> and <u>Marseille - Recetas (recetasproject.eu)</u>



14:30 - 16h00: Marseille Municipality

Muriel Andrieu-Semmel, Director of Ecological Transition and Living Environments, former head of Environmental Health Department at the Regional Health Agency



- Protecting biodiversity and health
- Heatwave management : maps of access to water and cooling areas











MARSEILLE







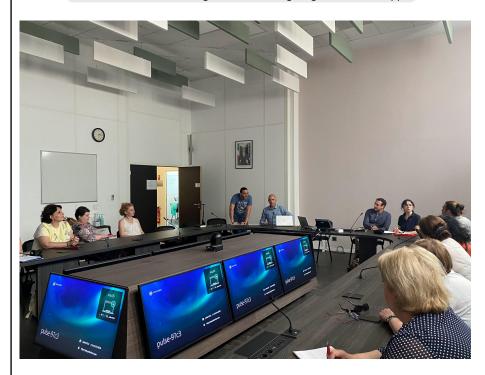


Friday 23 June 2023

Miramas

Regional Health Agency - Health impact assessment and Health in Environmental Assessment - Thomas Margueron, Director of **Environmental Health Department**

- "One health": biodiversity, health and fight against vector-borne
 - ARS PACA Climate Change Mosquitoes.pptx
 - ARS PACA Climate change and health Fight against ambrosia.pptx



Aix-Marseille Metropolis -Health impacts of local urban plans



Urban Renovation Department, Urban Dynamics and Sustainable Development Unit for Istres-Ouest-Provence, Aix-Marseille Provence

Urban planning dedicated to health 2022 - Google Drive

Saturday 24 June 2023

Miramas municipality - HIA in Miramas Jerome Marcillac - Aix Marseille Metropolis

Miramas

The city of Miramas is renovating a district with a high concentration of social housing. Before demolishing, renovating and rebuilding, it considered the impact of urban planning on health via four criteria which are determinants of health:

- air quality,
- access to care and social services,
- social cohesion,
- physical activity and diet

HIA Miramas - Healty Urban Planning.pdf - Visit of the Quartier Maille district



LA**metropole**

AIX-MARSEILLE-PROVENCE





















Sunday 25 June 2023

Train + flight back to Tbilisi

06h33 from Marseille Saint-Charles Station to Paris Airport CDG at 10h32 Flight AF Departure 1510 CDG. Arrival 2140 TBS.

Contacts:

Antoine Pogorzelski, RTA:

- Tel: +995 551 115 754 in Georgia / +33 6 63 23 08 47 in France

- Whatsapp: +33 6 63 23 08 47

Ekaterine Lobzhanidze, RTA Assistant

- Tel: +995 599 50 71 67





