

CEHAPE Awards

Environmental-friendly measures that improve child health



The Best Practice Awards of the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) were presented to winners, as part of the World Health Organization's Pan European Environment and Health process, at

The Inter-governmental Mid-term Review Conference, Vienna
Wednesday 13 June 2007

Winners and nominees

Category 1 Water and sanitation

Community acts to make drinking water safe
Women for a Clean Future, Romania

School creates model toilets
Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
(AWHHE)

Clean toilets: "It is not a luxury – It is a human right"
Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria



Category 2 Accidents and injury

Mobility managed for children's health
Climate Alliance Austria

Measures enforced for safe journeys to school
Portuguese Association for Child Safety Promotion

Paediatricians offer parents "Child safety tips"
Grosse schützen Kleine (Safe Kids Austria)

Category 3 Air pollution

Doctors who stop smoking before it starts
Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units
(PEHSU), Spain

"I walk like a grown up and don't travel alone!"
"Cremona of the Kid's Laboratory" in the Municipality of
Cremona and ISDE-Cremona, Italy

Authorities check toxics in nurseries
Public Hygiene in Hainaut

Category 4 Chemicals

Public health leaders promote "sun-safe"
Western-Transdanubian Regional Institute of National
Public Health and Medical Officers' Service, Hungary

Medical investigation keeps focus on hotspot
Chapaevsk Medical Association, Russia

Bio-monitoring used to highlight lead levels
Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring
Association

Category 5 Youth participation

Young Norwegians turn their city green
Municipality of Ålesund

Teenagers monitor harm from waste in the Danube
Danube Delta Teens, Romania

Youth network at their own "Environment Days"
Youth Environment Network, Austria

Environment-friendly action to protect children's health

We were delighted earlier this year to learn that the Austrian government was willing to support an award contest for children's environment and health. The winners would be invited to the World Health Organization's inter-governmental meeting in Vienna, 12-15 June 2007.

The plans, eligibility and judges for the competition were agreed in March, and by the end of April, over 100 contestants had submitted completed entry forms.

The coordinating groups – Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Eco-Forum and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), and International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) Austria – were impressed with the strength and quality of the projects submitted. The entrants represented 32 out of the 53 countries in the WHO European region. The judges shared our assessment of the quality of the entries. "These projects are able to clearly demonstrate how environmental action can be effective in protecting children's health," said Victoria Elias, Director of WWF-Russia and a judge for projects about reducing childhood diseases resulting from hazardous chemicals and physical and biological agents.

Choice of categories

The five award categories reflected the four regional priority goals of the Children's Environment and Health Action Plans for Europe (CEHAPE) plus a fifth theme, "Youth participation".

Water and sanitation – winners focus on community clean-up action and education, especially around water supply and toilets in schools in Romania, Armenia and Bulgaria. Two projects take advantage of a low-cost, eco-technology known as "ecosanitation".

Protection from injuries and increased mobility – one of these winning projects has provided 500 schools and teachers in Austria with materials to help children transport themselves to school more safely; in Portugal, another project works with local police and media to monitor infringements of existing safety legislation, and a third supports Austrian paediatricians who are providing parents with information on how to avoid injuries among small children in and around the home.

Reducing respiratory disease and asthma - air pollution both indoors and outside were the focus of the three winners in this category. In Spain, more than 12,000 students and parents have received education on the importance of avoiding exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. In the Netherlands, moulds and dust mites were identified in 30% of nurseries offering all-day care and the findings made

known to the authorities. In a polluted city in northern Italy, the "pedibus" system is giving children an opportunity to walk to school and improving the air in surrounding streets.

Protection from hazardous chemicals and physical and biological agents – this group of winners addressed rising rates of skin cancer in a "sun-safe" education initiative in Hungary, blood "biomonitoring" for lead to raise awareness of the need for lead-free petrol in Georgia, and data gathering on abnormalities among children living near chemical plants in Russia.

Youth participation - the final three winners demonstrated what young people in Norway, Romania and Austria are doing for themselves to improve their environments for health. Projects included a children's city council chaired by the mayor, the promotion of a video on the health problems associated with waste in the Danube River, and annual "youth" Environment Days – the theme of which was "Health and environment" in 2006 taking the CEHAPE themes.

We would like to thank the judges for the expertise and time they provided and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management for providing the financial support. We also take this opportunity to congratulate all 15 winners. We consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to share their winning activities for children's health and environment.

Finally, we would like to urge governments and foundations to invest in a programme that ensures that successful and effective projects like these can be made widely known and replicated throughout the countries of the European region and beyond.



Génon Jensen
Executive Director
Health and
Environment Alliance

“We aim to prevent and significantly reduce the morbidity and mortality arising from gastrointestinal disorders and other health effects, by ensuring that adequate measures are taken to improve access to safe and affordable water and adequate sanitation for all children.”

CEHAPE Regional Priority Goal I

Community acts to make drinking water safe

In Romania, seven million people lack access to safe drinking water. **Women for a Clean Future** have completed two water and sanitation projects in the village of Garla Mare, where human waste and pesticide concentrations in water are dangerously high. One of the results of nitrate pollution of drinking water is methaemoglobinaemia, or “blue baby” disease, which turns babies’ and children’s skin a bluish colour.

The group’s first task was to discuss with the villagers the health risks they faced from inadequate sanitation and polluted drinking water – and what steps could be taken to avoid it. An “ecosan” toilet and “waterless urinals” were installed to help reduce water pollution from human excrement. Water filters were fitted in schools and community cleaning of some wells was organised. Villagers were also encouraged to test the well water for safety and make known the results.

Blue baby disease no longer occurs in the project villages, and children have clean drinking water and safe sanitation. Community organisation means that interest in ecological sanitation is high and villagers have become active in environmental campaigns.



Project: Sustainable Development for All
Organisation: Femei pentru un Viitor Curat (Women for a Clean Future)
Representative: Angela Garla
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Water and sanitation

School creates model toilets

With hundreds of children suffering from water-borne diseases each year in Armenia, addressing the problem of dirty toilets and open drains is crucial. Health centre staff in the rural areas regularly report cases of intestinal parasitic infections and outbreaks of diarrhoea among children, especially in summer.

The Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) has helped a 350-pupil school in the village of Hayanist to replace smelly and dirty outdoor latrines with a new indoor facility containing three waterless urinals, seven urine-diverting toilets and six wash-hand basins. The urine is piped away to an underground reservoir and the faeces are composted into dry soil underground.

AWHHE believes the project has already made an impact. The pupils using the toilets are washing their hands with soap, and children infected with parasites are being treated. Thanks to workshops and posters, the pupils, teachers and parents appreciate the appropriateness of ecological sanitation, known as "ecosan", especially for areas where there is no central water supply and no adequate sanitation system. Other schools, and some households, are set to follow the example by building their own toilets based on the ecosan system.



Project: Ecological sanitation in rural Armenia
Organisation: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
Representative: Elena Manvelyan
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Clean toilets: *"It is not a luxury – It is a human right"*

Dilapidated toilets in schools are a burning issue in Bulgaria. **Earth Forever Foundation** decided to address this problem as part of a civil education initiative involving students, teachers and parents. The aim was to raise awareness of the need for decent toilets to improve health and the dignity of children in Bulgaria.

Activities involved providing materials to raise the awareness of the importance of clean toilets and hand washing facilities, and the setting up of committees to organise improvements and maintenance.

Approximately 1,900 students and 280 school staff and their families received information about children's rights to safe water, adequate sanitation and the health risks associated with dirty toilets, which often cause children to avoid them. By the end of the project, the entire group had soap and warm water in the school toilets and almost half the toilets have been renovated thanks to the work of the teacher-parent committees.



Project: Clean toilets - a human right
Organisation: Earth Forever Foundation
Representative: Diana Iskrevva
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Mobility managed for children's health

"We aim to prevent and substantially reduce health consequences from accidents and injuries and pursue a decrease in morbidity from lack of adequate physical activity, by promoting safe, secure and supportive human settlements for all children."

CEHAPE Regional Priority Goal II

Parents are worried about children walking or cycling to school so they take them in the car. This adds to the traffic on the roads thus causing a vicious cycle. **Climate Alliance Austria**, working within the Climate Change Initiative of the Austrian Environment Ministry, wants to break this downward spiral for the benefit of children and climate protection.

The project is providing a basic package of information and teaching materials for 500 interested schools or teachers in Austria. Additionally, fifty schools are benefiting from a more intensive programme. Over the course of a year, a mobility manager helps the children, teachers and parents find local solutions to their problems. This may be achieved via road safety measures or innovative approaches such as roundtables with children, community members and transport company staff.

The results of the project include better options for children making their way to school. There is less car traffic around the schools and more awareness of children's need for physical activity, clean air and more pleasant journeys to school.



Project: Mobility management for schools
Organisation: Climate Alliance Austria
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Accidents and injury

Measures enforced for safe journeys to school

Road crashes are the largest cause of child and adolescent injury death in Portugal, yet 80% of children travelling to school in cars were found not to be benefiting from a child restraint system. According to the **Portuguese Association for Child Safety Promotion**, although legislation is in place, enforcement is poor.

Working with the "Safe School" department of the police and other local institutions, the Portuguese Association for Child Safety Promotion launched a programme to increase the enforcement of existing legislation. First, information was provided to primary and secondary students and their parents in 11 schools in Faro. The children watched a video, played games, visited a simulated road accident and met traffic accident victims in the local hospitals. Second, they organised "enforcement days" as joint ventures between the police and the students before and after school.

Results were impressive. The rate of use of child restraint systems went up from 20% to 89% in the seven primary schools involved. On the day of the campaign, 243 reports of infringements were made prompting local press coverage.



Project: Safe Road to School in Faro
Organisation: Portuguese Association for Child Safety Promotion
Representative: Elsa Rocha
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Paediatricians offer parents "Child safety tips"

In Austria, half of all childhood injuries occur among young children in and around the home – yet doctors receive no medical training in injury prevention counselling.

Grosse schützen Kleine (Safe Kids Austria) therefore lobbied for regulations to require doctors to counsel parents on injury prevention while researching existing educational materials and programmes and working with paediatricians to develop safety manuals, guidelines and tips.

Today, 80% of all families with children from birth to 6 years of age in Austria benefit from the Paediatrician Injury Counselling Programme. A recent survey showed that 70% of doctors are regularly handing out sheets from their pads during child consultations. The survey also showed that parents are benefiting because they are not always aware of the greatest risks.

In 2006, the programme was identified as an example in the "good practice" guide of the European Child Safety Alliance (www.childsafetyeurope.org). The model has been adapted for counselling programmes in Cyprus, Czech Republic and USA.



Project: Paediatric Injury Prevention Counselling
Organisation: Grosse schützen Kleine (Safe Kids Austria)
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Doctors who stop smoking before it starts

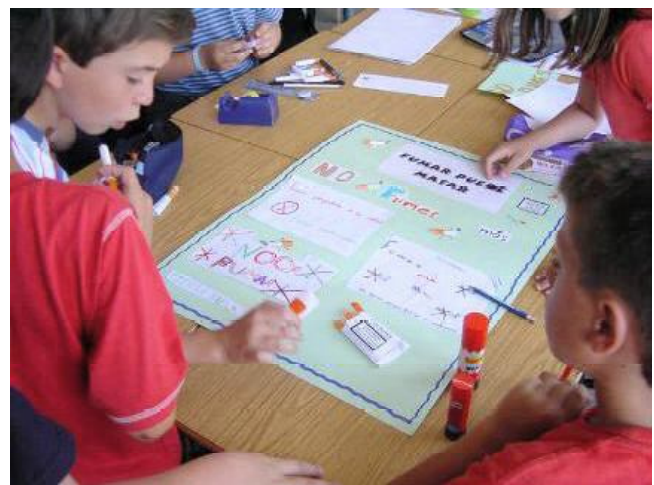
"We aim to prevent and reduce respiratory disease due to outdoor and indoor air pollution, thereby contributing to a reduction in the frequency of asthmatic attacks, in order to ensure that children can live in an environment with clean air."

CEHAPE Regional Priority Goal III

Spain has one of the highest rates of tobacco prevalence in Europe. In Murcia and Valencia, well over a third of 14 to 18 year olds say they have smoked tobacco during the past month.

The **Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU)** in Murcia and Valencia decided to try and reduce exposure to tobacco smoke by targeting the prevention of smoking initiation in schools. The project provides audiovisual materials on the tobacco epidemic, the harmful effects of smoking, and information on how to give up smoking. The project involves questionnaires and visits from parents to the San Jorge school in Murcia and the San José Jesuitas school in Valencia to ensure that the messages reach the students' homes.

The programme has reached approximately 12,000 students and their parents. The intention is to see both reductions in exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and fewer children taking up smoking. The aim is also to identify students who will work as advocates for tobacco free environments.



Project: School-based tobacco prevention programme
Organisation: The Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU), Murcia
Representative: Ortega García, Juan Antonio
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Air pollution

"I walk like a grown up and don't travel alone!"

In the medium-size city of Cremona, Northern Italy, children face two critical problems if they want to move about comfortably. One is that air pollution's levels frequently exceed regulatory limits, and the other is that vehicle traffic makes it hazardous to walk alone to school.

The **"Cremona Kid's Laboratory" in the Municipality of Cremona and ISDE-Cremona** decided on a two-pronged approach to promoting children's independent mobility and environmental awareness while contributing to a reduction in atmospheric pollution, especially around schools. They organise meetings with staff and parents on the *"piedibus"* (a group of children walking together accompanied by two adults) and car pooling.

The group hopes that by reducing the number of cars on the school route, the atmospheric pollution will fall and walking to school will become safer and more pleasant. The wider aim is to encourage families to extend the principles of children's safe and independent mobility and environmental awareness to other aspects of life.



Project: I walk like a grown-up and don't travel alone!
Organisation: ISDE (International Society of Doctors for the Environment)-Cremona, Cremona Kid's Laboratory (Municipality of Cremona), and ASL (Local Health Authority)-Cremona
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Authorities check for toxics in nurseries

A public health authority in Belgium is keen to learn more about the environmental health of young children in all-day nurseries. The concern was prompted by the "Green Ambulance" programme which undertakes investigations inside schools, nurseries and homes when an indoor environment is suspected to be the cause of a child's illness.

Public Hygiene in Hainaut, an NGO linked to the regional Public Health Institute, gained the agreement of 46 out of the 50 nurseries in the Province of Hainaut for a study. The team took air samples to test for atmospheric humidity and toxics, made a systematic search for moulds, dust mites and dampness, and checked tap water for lead and Legionella. They also completed questionnaires with parents on children's illnesses and medications.

The results showed that children in nurseries are exposed to a mixture of compounds that could be hazardous. About 30% of nurseries had moulds and dust-mites, and the tap water in 40% of the facilities contained Legionella and lead. The Legionella was a surprise finding and the team believes that it may be responsible for a recent unusual respiratory problem in children. The medical community is being alerted.



Project: Indoor environment quality in nursery centres
Organisation: Public Hygiene in Hainaut
Representative: Marie-Christine Dewolf
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Public health leaders promote “sun-safe”

“We commit ourselves to reducing the risk of disease and disability arising from exposure to hazardous chemicals (such as heavy metals), physical agents (e.g. excessive noise) and biological agents and to hazardous working environments during pregnancy, childhood and adolescence.”

CEHAPE Regional Priority Goal IV

The incidence of skin cancers is increasing worldwide, affecting younger and younger age groups. Habits established in childhood can help protect against sunburn and decrease the risk of skin cancer during early and later life.

The **Western-Transdanubian Regional Institute of National Public Health and Medical Officers’ Service** in Hungary joined a skin cancer prevention programme coordinated in Rome to teach children “sun-safe behaviour”.

During 2004, more than 2,000 Hungarian children received information from the programme. First, questionnaires were distributed in 20 primary schools in three cities. The results were analysed with the help of the Italian institute. Each participant was sent his or her result in a letter just before the summer holidays. The key messages included that those with a sensitive skin complexion are most vulnerable, and that sunburn during childhood doubles the risk of developing malignant melanoma later in life.



Project: Public health leaders promote “sun-safe”
Organisation: Western-Transdanubian Regional Institute of National Public Health and Medical Officers’ Service
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Chemicals

Medical investigation keeps focus on hotspot

Chapaevsk, 1,000 kilometres southeast of Moscow, is defined as an "extremely polluted zone" along with 10 other Russian towns and the Chernobyl region. Chemical plants are the main source of human contamination. Dioxins, gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane (lindane) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB) pollute the air, soil and water.

Sergeyev Oleg, chairman of **Chapaevsk Medical Association**, has helped keep the problem on government and media agendas by making epidemiological studies and providing treatment for 200 young boys suffering abnormalities as a result of exposure to chemicals.

Dr Oleg provides feedback on his findings at meetings of the Eco-Club attended by members of the local community. He also provides dietary advice for those growing their crops and raising cattle and chicken on contaminated land, and fishing in a chemically polluted river. His work and advice is often featured in the media. His efforts also provide local government with the arguments they need to help keep up pressure for continued work on the construction of a children's hospital in Chapaevsk.



Project: Persistent organochlorines in a Russian hotspot
Organisation: Chapaevsk Medical Association and partners
Representative: Sergeyev Oleg
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Bio-monitoring used to highlight lead levels

Lead concentrations in the air in Tblisi, Georgia's capital city, are above recommended levels. In rush-hour traffic, levels rise higher with serious consequences for children's health. Yet, economic and social transformations taking place in Georgia are slowing progress on the phasing out of lead in petrol.

The **Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association** (GEBMA) is raising awareness of the problem by organising the collection and analysis of existing information on air and blood levels in urban settings. The work involves training groups in Tblisi, Batumi, Kutaisi and Poti to undertake blood sampling, analysis, monitoring, and hazard control.

GEBMA has transmitted the results of the monitoring and disseminated information on measures to protect children from the harmful impact of lead to the public through a national seminar and regular meetings. Their materials include booklets on the health concerns associated with lead, which also describe how to build support for prevention. The public also hears about the campaign work via radio, TV and newspaper articles.



Project: Phase-out of leaded gasoline
Organisation: Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association
Representative: Manana Juruli
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Young Norwegians turn their city green

"We equally emphasize the importance of the participation of children and the need for their inclusion in activities concerning the health and environment of children."

Ministerial Declaration, June 2004

Environmentalists in Norway are convinced that involving children and young people is the key to healthier and more sustainable living.

The **Municipality of Ålesund** is working with Ecoagents in a campaign to promote children's environmental rights that started in 2000. Known as "Children's green cities", the campaign demands children's right to clean air, water, safe bicycle paths, and green areas where children can play.

Since 2000, six Norwegian cities have joined the campaign and each has been made a "Children's green city". This year, Ålesund is working hard to become the 7th "Children's green city" in Norway.

Activities began in kindergartens and schools where children were asked for their wishes for the environment. A total of 350 posters sent to the kindergartens and schools created an opportunity for children to send in their ideas. From a combined "wish list", the solutions to three requests were debated in a children city council where the mayor presided as chair. In June 2007, the environment minister is expected to visit Ålesund to present the "Children's green city" certificate.



Project: Green City Aalesund
Organisation: Municipality of Ålesund
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Youth participation

Teenagers monitor harm from waste in the Danube

Experience in two previous environmental projects has shown a group of students in a village secondary school in the Danube Delta that water is a problem affecting their health. The **“Danube Delta Teens”** decided to continue their research and stimulate further thinking by making their own video on the problems related to this major European river.

Known as “Waste in Water hurts our health – Danube Delta Teens research their environment”, the project involves measuring the quality of the water and soil and visits to the local meteorological station and doctor’s surgery to discuss the findings. The project’s short video shows the findings and perspectives of the young people.

Not only has the project made the children themselves more aware of the importance of clean water to their health and environment, it has also informed the local community. Soon, the video will be shown to communities in other countries along the Danube River in the hope that it will motivate further action to protect the river water.



Project: Danube Delta Teens research their environment
Organisation: Danube Delta Teens
Representative: Adnana Mihaela Patrascoiu
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Youth network at their own “Environment Days”

Young people need their own events to learn about the different approaches to environmental, health and sustainable development issues. **Youth Environment Network** organises Youth Environment Days, known locally as JUTA, with the strong involvement of young people themselves.

The several days of events take place each year in the autumn. In 2006, the theme was “environment and health”, including the four Regional Priority Goals of the CEHAPE. More than 500 young people participated with more than 20 environmental organisations offering workshops, excursions, sport and creative activities.

Last year, young people found new ways to work on health and environment issues. Every year, those who attend increase their communication and critical abilities and become part of a broad network of like-minded young people in Austria. For the future, this means more mature, critical and democratically-trained adults.



Project: Youth Environment Days
Organisation: Youth Environment Network
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The award judges

This document contains a brief introduction to the judges who gave their time and expertise to choosing the winners and two runners-up in each of the five categories of awards. We take this opportunity to thank them all.

Category 1 – Water and sanitation

Ralf Otterpohl is a university professor in the field of civil and environmental engineering. He has been director of the Institute of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Management at the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) in Germany since 1998. He has specialised his institute for research on reuse oriented sanitation concepts for rural and urban areas. He gained his doctorate in civil engineering at RWTH Aachen for research on computer simulation of wastewater treatment plants. Ralf Otterpohl is co-owner of a consultancy called Otterwasser GmbH, which specialises in simulation of large wastewater treatment plants and ecological sanitation concepts, and is chair of a specialist group on sanitation (Ecosan) of the IWA, the International Water Association.

Ralf Otterpohl

Director

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Thor Axel Stenström currently holds three posts: head of Water and Environmental Microbiology at the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control; Health and Hygiene Expert at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI); and, Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, with Health, Water, Sanitation and Agriculture as priority areas. His research focus is "Microbial risk assessment for sustainable water systems", both in developed and developing countries. He is active in capacity building in international courses, and has recently contributed to the new "WHO Guidelines on the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta and Greywater".

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Category 2 – Accidents and injury

Frazer Goodwin is a policy and advocacy officer with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). He is working on global health issues and has been with the organization since February 2007. Frazer received a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Human Ecology in the UK and then a Masters degree in the same subject in Belgium. He has subsequently worked in development and environmental NGOs, at the European Commission, and, immediately prior to his arrival at EPHA, in transport related NGOs.

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Joanne Vincenten is Director of the European Child Safety Alliance, EuroSafe, based in Amsterdam, which works with European country members and three international societies to enhance policy development, best practice application and strategic alliances for child injury prevention. She is an expert advisor to the European Commission, World Health Organization and UNICEF and President of the European Public Health Alliance. Joanne, who is originally from Canada, has worked in the field of public health at the regional, national and international levels for more than 15 years with involvement in smoking prevention, heart health and injury prevention.

Joanne Vincenten

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Category 3 – Air pollution

Peter Helms is a paediatrician with interests in the early origins of lung disease, sport and exercise medicine, and the safe and effective use of medicines in children. He is head of the University of Aberdeen, Department of Child Health and clinical advisor to the UK Medicines and Health

Care Products Regulation Agency. He acts as European Secretary of the European Respiratory Society and has also served as Chair of the Respiratory and Allergy group of the European Commission's SCALE initiative that formed part of the EU's response to CEHAPE.

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Gergely Simon is an environmental chemist working as an Assistant (environmental issues) to Gyula Hegyi, a Hungarian PSE MEP member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He previously worked for an NGO called Clean Air Action Group in Hungary where he was responsible for clean air and chemicals policies. He played an important role in the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which took place in Budapest in June 2004.

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Category 4 – Chemicals

Victoria Elias is currently Programme Director of WWF Russia and has chaired the Coordination Board of the European ECO-Forum – a pan-European coalition of environmental citizens' organisations since 1999. Prior to working with WWF, Victoria was a Deputy Executive Director of ECO-Accord, Russia, and coordinated projects on education for sustainable development, environmental policy and public awareness. She represented ECO-Forum in various negotiations, working groups and other bodies in particular in "Environment for Europe" and partly in the Environment and Health process. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Biology from Moscow state University.

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Dr. Lilian Corra is a paediatrician/neonatologist with a strong background in environmental education and environmental issues. She founded the Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA) in

1992 and is President of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) (created in 1989) to which AAMMA is linked. Dr Corra is also co-founder and member of the International Coordinating Committee of the International Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety (INCHES), created in 1998, and promoted by WHO, and a member of the Steering Committee of the International Pop's Elimination Network (IPEN).

Lilian Corra
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Category 5 – Youth participation

Reka Prokai is a 22 year-old student of environmental engineering, environmental management and development of rural areas at the Szent István University School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Hungary. Having taken part in the Youth Parliament during the Ministerial Conference in Budapest in 2004, she was invited to be a participant at the CEHAPE Youth Workshop in Oslo. There, she was elected by the youth participants to be one of two youth delegates to the CEHAPE Task Force until June 2007. Her intention is to set up Youth Council that would work to promote both environment and health in Hungary.

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Cosima Pilz is an Educator and Mobility Consultant with a diploma in paediatrics from the Styrian Centre of Environmental Education (Umwelt-Bildungs-Zentrum Steiermark) in Austria. She has managed projects in transport, mobility management and research and is an expert in youth and school participation processes. She presented the Austrian initiative "Mobility Management in Schools" at the Fourth WHO Ministerial conference in June 2004 and has since been coordinator of the CEHAPE-process in Austria on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

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Facts from CEHAPE Awards' contestants on children's environmental health

- In Romania, seven million people lack access to safe drinking water, according to **Women for a Clean Future**.
- Road crashes are the largest cause of child and adolescent injury death in Portugal yet 80% of children travelling to school in cars were found not to be benefiting from a child restraint system, according to the **Portuguese Association for Child Safety Promotion**.
- In Murcia and Valencia, Spain, well over a third of 14 to 18 year olds say they have smoked tobacco during the past month, according to the **Paediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU)** in the two cities.
- In Cremona, Northern Italy, air pollution's levels frequently exceed regulatory limits, according to **Cremona Kid's Laboratory, Municipality of Cremona, and ISDE-Cremona**.
- The incidence of skin cancers is increasing worldwide, affecting younger and younger age groups, according to the **Western-Transdanubian Regional Institute of National Public Health and Medical Officers' Service** in Hungary.
- Lead concentrations in the air in Tblisi, Georgia's capital city, are above recommended levels. In rush-hour traffic, levels rise higher with serious consequences for children's health, according to the **Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association (GEBMA)**.

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This document is also available on the "Healthy Environments for Children" CEHAPE website.

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