



# The PHASE project

The PHASE project is a three year international collaboration started in 2011, funded by the European Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) within the EU Commission Health Program 2008-2013.

The project will provide a framework of tools for the preparedness for and response to extreme weather events (EWE) (heat waves, cold spells, flooding) and their environmental consequences (wildfires, air pollution) in order to reduce their impacts on public health. A specific contribution of the project will be to apply new methodologies to improve knowledge on the health effects of EWE and to identify individual risk factors.

A key feature of the PHASE project is a focus on public health. Tools will be developed to improve prevention efforts, and subgroups vulnerable to EWE will be identified in order to target prevention activities and optimize resources.

## The general objectives of PHASE are to:

- o increase population and institution awareness of the health risks associated with EWE
- o increase efficiency and effectiveness of warning systems and prevention measures for EWE through evaluation
- o provide national and local governments, health and social services with a framework of tools to improve preparedness and help mitigate the impacts of EWE on health, taking into account local health care systems and infrastructure characteristics in the European Union
- o target prevention activities to specific vulnerable population subgroups

## There are eight PHASE work packages

- o WP 1: Coordination of the project
- o WP 2: Dissemination of the project
- o WP 3: Evaluation of the project
- o WP 4: Adaptation tools to prevent the health effects of heat waves and cold spells
- o WP 5: Adaptation tools to prevent the health effects of flooding
- o WP 6: Prevention of the health effects of wildfires
- o WP 7: Synergies between air pollution, extreme weather events and wild fires
- o WP 8: Identification of vulnerable groups

## The overall expected outcomes of the PHASE project include:

- o to provide key information for the development of guidelines for prevention of health effects of EWEs
- o to provide measures to improve best practice of emergency and public health prevention actions

- o to set the foundation for the development of a network of local and international institutions for reducing the health impacts of EWEs in the EU
- o to reduce EWE-related health impacts based on the identification of vulnerable subgroups, the definition of local risk maps and exposure patterns
- o to improve citizens' health standards and quality of life by tailoring prevention activities towards individuals at high risk in the EU
- o to interact with other EU projects and international organisations
- o to promote a science-policy interface, including improved policy maker uptake of evidence produced and communication of results

## Partners

### Main partner

Department of Epidemiology, Lazio Regional Health Service, Rome, Italy

### Associated partners

Public Health England Extreme Events and Health Protection section  
London, UK

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)  
Athens, Greece

Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC), Paris, France

Umeå University (UmU)  
Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Umeå, Sweden

Centro Superior de Investigación en Salud Pública (CSISP),  
Valencia, Spain

National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Helsinki, Finland

National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEH), Budapest, Hungary

### Collaborating partners

Institut de Veille Sanitaire (INVS), Paris, France

Italian Department of Civil Protection (DCP), Rome, Italy

WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark

[www.hpa.org.uk/phase](http://www.hpa.org.uk/phase)



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