



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT  
AND HEALTH PROCESS



Bonn Dialogue on  
Environment and Health

# Breaking the cycle – putting menstrual hygiene at the centre of environment and health

28 May 2026

10:30–12:00 Central European Summer Time



**Register**  
for the Dialogue here



English with simultaneous  
translation into Russian

## Introduction to the topic

Menstrual health – defined as complete physical, mental and social well-being in relation to the menstrual cycle – has increasingly been recognized as a human rights issue and a political priority, including under the environment and health agenda. The places where we spend our days – classrooms, clinics, workplaces and public spaces – can either support menstrual health or make it more difficult to attain.

Across the WHO European Region, many women and girls still face barriers undermining their dignity, comfort, health and well-being. Significant gaps persist in access to information and menstrual products, as well as safe and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools, workplaces, health-care facilities and public spaces.

WHO/Europe supports countries in promoting menstrual health by advancing equitable access to water, sanitation and hygiene across institutional settings. This work is anchored in the [Protocol on Water and Health](#); a multilateral legal instrument bringing together health and environment and water sectors in the Region.

The Protocol provides a framework for setting national targets, improving standards and surveillance, and ensuring that water, sanitation and hygiene services are accessible, adequate and sustainable for all, including efforts promoting menstrual health. Among the Protocol's most recent tools is the 2025 document, [Healthy habits, healthy schools: good practices for hand hygiene and menstrual health in schools in the pan-European region](#), which highlights concrete examples of how countries and local communities are advancing menstrual health through policy measures and school-based initiatives.

Building on this momentum, the eleventh Bonn Dialogue explores what menstrual-friendly environments look like, sparks conversation on identifying gaps and practical solutions, and discusses how environment, health and education sectors can close equity gaps.



## Event details

The [Bonn Dialogues](#) are a series of high-level online events within the framework of the European Environment and Health Process, aimed at fostering discussions on selected themes and topics among policy-makers across the WHO European Region to accelerate the implementation of the [Budapest Declaration](#).

This online event is open to members of the [Environment and Health Task Force](#); professionals working on water, sanitation and hygiene, education, public health, gender and human rights, and environment and climate policies at national, regional and local levels; experts and practitioners engaged in school health, youth engagement and community initiatives; as well as relevant stakeholders from nongovernmental organizations, academia and international organizations, including youth representatives.

Please mark the event in your calendars and share it with your professional networks.



# Provisional programme

## 10:30 Welcome and introduction

- **WHO Regional Office for Europe** – **Robb Butler**, Special Representative for Climate and Health
- **Ministry of Health, Lithuania** – **Aušra Želvienė**, Health Minister's Advisor on Public Health

## 10:35 Setting the scene: scientific background and evidence

*Moderation: Ingrida Skridaliene, Deputy Director, National Public Health Centre, Ministry of Health of Lithuania*

- **Keynote** – **Bethany Caruso**, Associate Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, United States of America
- **Alina Kurusheva**, independent, former youth activist and founder of Umai

## 10:55 Impulse round: national and international experiences

*Moderation: Valentina Grossi, Technical Officer, WHO European Centre for Environment, Climate Change and Health*

### Round 1. National perspectives (policy and implementation)

- **Ministry of Health, Kazakhstan** – **Elena Shaimuratovna Takambayeva**, Head of the Department for Control of Public Utilities
- **Ministry of Health, North Macedonia** – **Slobodanka Temova Anchevska**, Head of Unit, Department for European integration and international cooperation
- **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit [German Agency for International Cooperation]** – **Stefan Mager**, Head of Infrastructure – Energy, Water, Mobility

### Round 2. International perspectives and enabling frameworks

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** – **Xavier Hospital**, Team Leader, Safe Healthy Schools and Data
- **WASH United** – **Ina Jurga**, International Coordinator of Menstrual Hygiene Day and Technical Lead for Menstrual Health & Hygiene

### Moderated discussion

Selected questions and reflections from participants and speakers

## 11:55 Closing remarks

- **WHO Regional Office for Europe** – **Francesca Racioppi**, Head of the WHO European Centre for Environment, Climate Change and Health

