



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT  
AND HEALTH PROCESS



The eighth Bonn Dialogue  
on Environment and Health

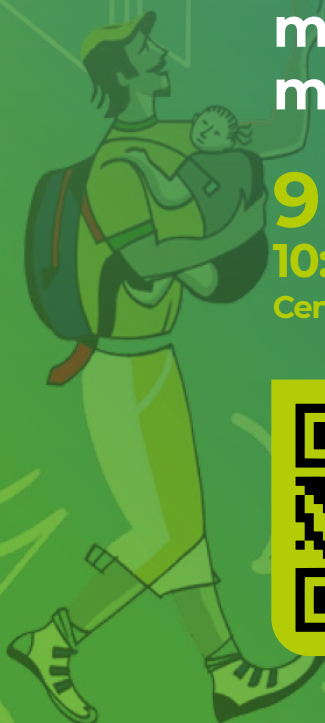
# Let's get moving!

Advancing safe active  
mobility for a healthier and  
more sustainable future

**9 October 2024**

**10:00–12:00**

Central European Summer Time (CEST)



**THE PEP**

Transport, Health  
and Environment  
Pan-European Programme



English with simultaneous translation  
into Russian

# Background and event details

Active mobility – cycling and walking – is good for our health, our environment and climate, and the livability of our cities and regions. It also supports economy and social inclusion. These benefits are increasingly recognized and embraced around the world. Many cities are promoting active mobility, and several countries have developed national strategies for cyclists and pedestrians. For the first time an increasing number of countries of the WHO European Region are introducing comprehensive plans, declarations and partnerships for active mobility, redefining the role of walking and cycling in transport.

The eighth Bonn Dialogue will review progress on the implementation of the [Budapest](#) and [Vienna](#) commitments, including the [Pan-European Masterplan for Cycling Promotion](#), and the upcoming [Pan-European Master Plan on Walking](#). The discussions will also address the [European Declaration on Cycling](#) adopted in April 2024.

The event will focus on the necessity of integrating active mobility into transport policies, spatial planning, urban design as well as climate and energy policies. It will emphasize the critical role of implementing effective policies at all levels to fully unlock the wide range of benefits that active mobility offers.

The Dialogue will be concluded with the key takeaway messages for policy-makers and stakeholders to further advance promotion of active mobility in the European Region and accelerate the implementation of agreements, strategies and plans for cycling and walking.

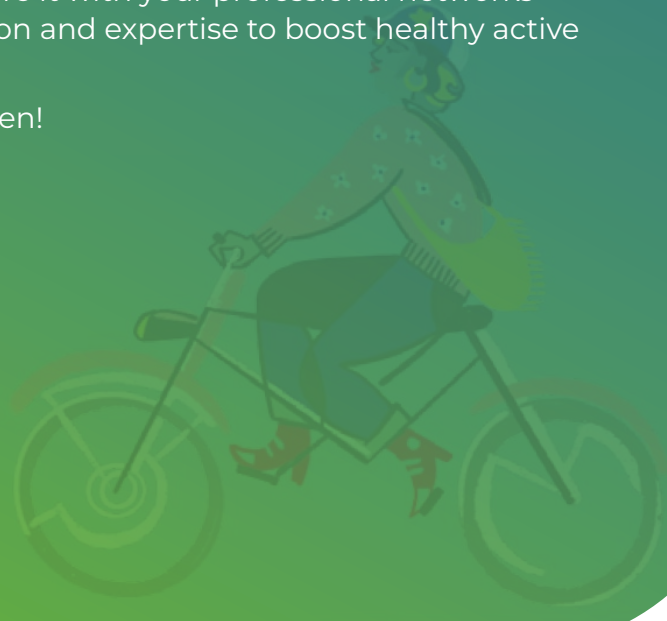
During the Dialogue participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussions using an interactive polling tool.

During the Dialogue, WHO/Europe will be launching the film on walking and cycling **“Let’s get moving! 100 reasons to walk and cycle more”**.

This online event is open to members of the [Environment and Health Task Force](#) (EHTF) and the [Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme](#) (THE PEP); anyone working on environment, health and transport policies in national, regional and local governments, or in European and international institutions; other stakeholders; youth; and the general public.

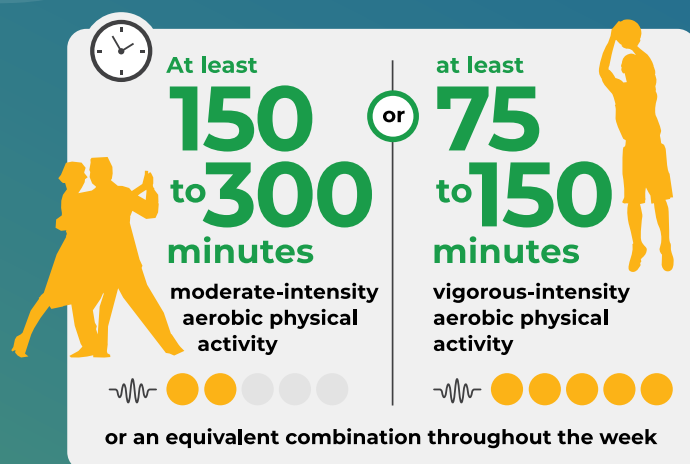
Please mark the event in your calendars, share it with your professional networks and join the Dialogue to contribute your vision and expertise to boost healthy active mobility across the WHO European Region.

Let’s get moving! Make active mobility happen!



For health and well-being, WHO recommends the following [guidelines on physical activity](https://bit.ly/WHO-PhysicalActivity) ([bit.ly/WHO-PhysicalActivity](https://bit.ly/WHO-PhysicalActivity)):

For adults:



For children and adolescents:



## Bonn Dialogues on Environment and Health

The Bonn Dialogues are a series of high-level online events within the framework of the [European Environment and Health Process](#) (EHP), aimed at fostering discussions among policy-makers across the WHO European Region on selected themes and topics. They provide the EHTF and all interested individuals with evidence and reflection points on well-known and emerging environment and health issues to accelerate the implementation of the [Budapest commitments](#).

The Bonn Dialogues are organized and promoted by the EHP Secretariat, located in the [WHO European Centre for Environment and Health](#) (WHO ECEH), Bonn, Germany, within the framework of the EHTF's Programme of Work.

This eighth Dialogue is organized in partnership with the [Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme](#) (THE PEP).

Read and learn more about the WHO European Environment and Health Process [here](#)

Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) [here](#)

## Provisional programme

### Welcome and opening

Welcome by **Robb Butler**, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, Environment and Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Opening key note by **Leonore Gewessler**, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

### Boosting safe and active mobility in the region – unleashing the benefits

Introduction to the topic by **Francesca Racioppi**, Head of Office at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH)

### Panel discussion 1: European and national policies to boost safe active mobility

Moderated by **Robert Thaler**, Senior Sustainable Active Mobility Advisor

**Leonore Gewessler**, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria

**Cristina Pinto Dias**, Secretary of State for Mobility, Portugal

**Máriusz Révész**, Prime Minister's Office/State Secretary responsible for Active Hungary

**Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Lithuania

**Magda Kopczyńska**, Director-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission

### Interactive questions and answers

### #Let's get moving! 100 reasons to walk and cycle more: Launching of the film on walking and cycling

### Panel discussion 2: Reshaping cities and regions to mainstream safe active mobility

Moderated by **Robert Thaler**

**Elke van den Brandt**, Minister for Mobility, Public Works and Road Safety, Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium

**Łukasz Kłos**, Director of Municipal Transport Services, Gdansk, Poland

**Michael Glotz-Richter**, Member of European Commission Expert Group on Urban Mobility, Bremen, Germany

**Mar Mikhelidze**, Co-founder of Caucasus Cycling Network and the Bicycle Mayor of Tbilisi

**Jill Warren**, CEO, European Cyclists' Federation

**Bronwen Thornton**, CEO, WALK21 Foundation

### Interactive questions and answers

### Closing remarks

**Robert Thaler** and **Francesca Racioppi**





# Moderator



## Robert Thaler

Robert Thaler is a leading expert in sustainable mobility and transport planning. A graduate of Vienna University of Technology, he served as Head of Division for Active Mobility at Austria's Ministry for Climate Action and initiated the Austrian federal klimaaktivmobil programme to promote and fund active mobility and mobility management and support cities and companies. He has chaired key international initiatives, including WHO's European Environment and Health Task Force, and led the development of THE PEP and its pan-European masterplans for cycling and walking. An accomplished speaker, lecturer and moderator, Mr Thaler has played a pivotal role in shaping European Union and global mobility policies, earning several prestigious awards for his contributions, such as the Grand Decoration of Honour in Silver for Services to the Republic of Austria.

# Speakers



## Robb Butler

*Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases, Environment and Health*

Robb Butler is a behavioural scientist with over 25 years of international experience working in public health, social protection, and humanitarian assistance. After 17 years working on health and development programmes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Mr Butler joined the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2009 working on strengthening demand for childhood immunization. In 2014 he was appointed Regional Adviser for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization. Between 2020 and 2023, Mr Butler served as Executive Director at WHO/Europe and in September 2023, he took up his current position as Director of the Division of Communicable Diseases, Environment and Health taking on a vast portfolio including issues such as antimicrobial resistance and emerging environmental health risks.



## Francesca Racioppi

*Head of the of Office at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany*

Francesca has more than 30 years of international experience in environment and health policies and science. Her work experience includes sustainable and healthy transport and urban policies and interventions, the promotion of "health in all policies" approaches, climate change, One Health, health impact assessment, violence and injury prevention, and consumer safety. In 2018 she was awarded a Honorary Doctorate by the Swedish School of Sport and Health Science in Stockholm, Sweden, for her leading engagement in environmental health and active transport.



---

## Leonore Gewessler

*Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria*

Leonore Gewessler has been Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology since 2020 and has been committed to climate protection both in this role and in her previous roles as Political Director of Global 2000 (Friends of the Earth Austria) and Founding Director of the Green European Foundation.



---

## Máriusz Révész

*Prime Minister's Office/ State Secretary for Active Hungary*

Máriusz Révész has been dealing with active lifestyle and promotion of active tourism, and coordinating the development of this area as a government commissioner since 2016, and as a state secretary since 2022. In his spare time, he cycles, runs, skis, swims, does via ferrata, picks up rubbish in the Tisza and the Bodrog rivers, and educates his four children about his love for the environment and active life.



---

## Cristina Pinto Dias

*Secretary of State for Mobility, Portugal*

Cristina Pinto Dias holds a Master's degree in energy and environmental economics and policy, as well as a degree in economics. Currently, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors at the Mobility and Transport Authority. Her extensive experience in the transport sector includes roles as Vice-President of Comboios de Portugal (national rail operator), President of Empresa de Manutenção de Equipamento Ferroviário (railway equipment maintenance company), and President of Transportes Intermodais do Porto (Porto Intermodal Transport). She has also served as Administrator at Operadora de Transporte da Região de Lisboa (Lisbon Region Transport Operators), showcasing her leadership across multiple key organizations in the industry.





---

## Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė

*Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Lithuania*

Deputy Minister Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė is responsible for overseeing post, telecommunications, greening transport and innovation topics at the Ministry of Transport and Communications. She holds a PhD in social sciences with a focus on economics from the Faculty of Business Management at Vilnius Tech. With a strong academic background, she brings deep expertise in economics, combining theoretical knowledge with practical insights.



---

## Magda Kopczyńska

*Director-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission*

Magda Kopczyńska is the current Director-General for Mobility and Transport in the European Commission. Magda has held various leadership roles in the Commission, from Clean Transport and Sustainable Urban Mobility to Agriculture and Rural Development. Magda's commitment remains focused on driving positive change in Europe's mobility sector.



---

## Elke van den Brandt

*Minister for Mobility, Public Works and Road Safety, Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium*

Brussels has made significant progress in recent years to become a sustainable, liveable, resilient and healthier city. As Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region responsible for Mobility, Public Works and Road Safety, Elke van den Brandt has led the way in improving road safety and air quality, and ensuring a fairer distribution of public space.



---

## Łukasz Kłos

*Director of Municipal Transport Services, Gdansk, Poland*

Łukasz Kłos supervises activities of the Active Mobility and Public Transport department in Gdansk, coordinates large-scale events and oversees various European Union-funded projects promoting sustainable mobility, urban development and low-carbon initiatives.



---

## Michael Glotz-Richter

*Member of the European Commission Expert Group on Urban Mobility, Bremen, Germany*

Michael Glotz-Richter is an internationally recognized mobility consultant and transport engineer. His career includes almost 40 years working in various local and provincial German authorities (Berlin, Cologne, Bremen) and as freelance consultant. Michael has initiated and conducted many internationally recognized sustainable mobility projects – especially integrating shared mobility services.

Within the European Commission's Expert Group on Urban Mobility, he chairs its working group on street space.



---

## Mar Mikhelidze

*Co-founder of the Caucasus Cycling Network and the Bicycle Mayor of Tbilisi*

Mar Mikhelidze has been a bicycle activist since 2019. She started as a commuter and has worked for many years to create a nice environment for walking and cycling. In Mar's opinion, lack of infrastructure, awareness problems and a car-dependent mindset are the main challenges in Georgia. Her goal is to keep advocating for active mobility in Tbilisi and the country as a whole.



---

## Jill Warren

*CEO, European Cyclists' Federation (ECF)*

Jill Warren co-founded the Partnership for Active Travel and Health (PATH), urging governments and cities to prioritize walking and cycling to address climate, health and equity challenges. Jill and her ECF team contributed to the European Declaration on Cycling, adopted by the European Commission, Parliament and Council in 2024. For her advocacy work, she was honoured with the Cycling Embassy of Denmark Leadership Award for Cycling Promotion.



---

## Bronwen Thornton

*CEO, WALK21 Foundation*

Bronwen Thornton has been talking about walking for over 20 years. She works to bring the importance of walking to the attention of decision-makers around the world, to foster support for walkable communities and to encourage professionals to deliver high-quality streets and public spaces everywhere.