



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
Europe



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT  
AND HEALTH PROCESS

# Global Climate Observing System

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## Health issues

**Dr Bettina Menne**  
Programme Manager  
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Bonn, 10–12 February 2015

# Needs from health sector perspective

- Information for anticipation of extreme events and meteorological trends
- Climate information for vulnerability, impact and adaptation assessment
- Climate information to develop standards and norms
- Climate information for adaptation planning, e.g. heat early-warning systems for health adaptation
- Climate information for mitigation, e.g. air quality



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# GFCS GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

## ***Vision***

To enable better management of the risks of climate variability and change and adaptation to climate change, through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice on the global, regional and national scale.”

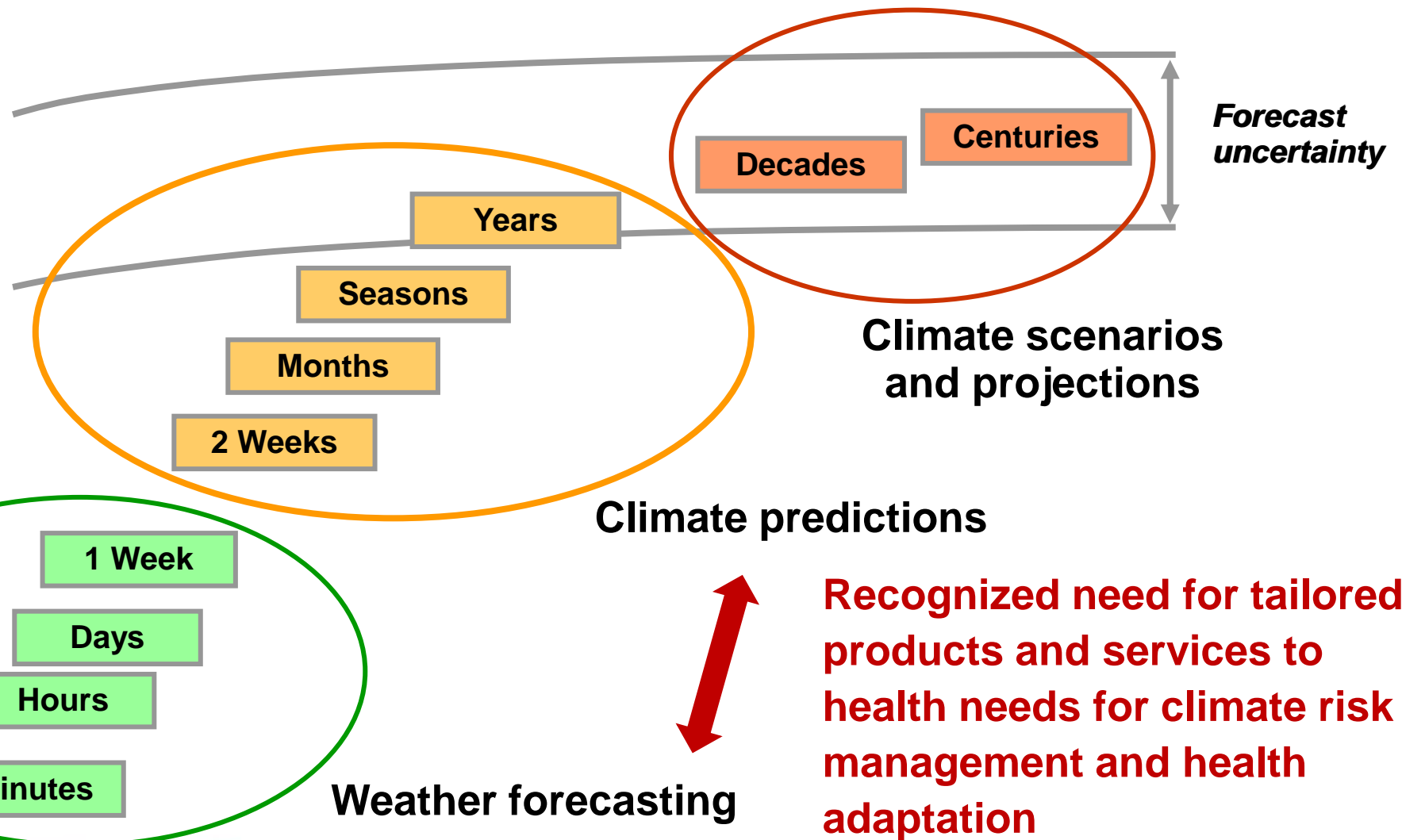
## ***Priority Areas***



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# Untapped potential: Health-relevant climate and weather data is available across timescales



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# Health users' perception (EUPORIAS)

- Short term weather forecasts
- S2D climate information
  - Variable (and limited) experience of use
  - Seasonal
    - Used by some organisations - anticipate health system requirements
  - Decadal
    - Perceived as unreliable
    - Limited use for budget/workforce/activity planning
- Retrospective/historical weather/climate information also used for hindcasting



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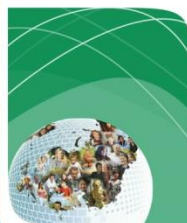
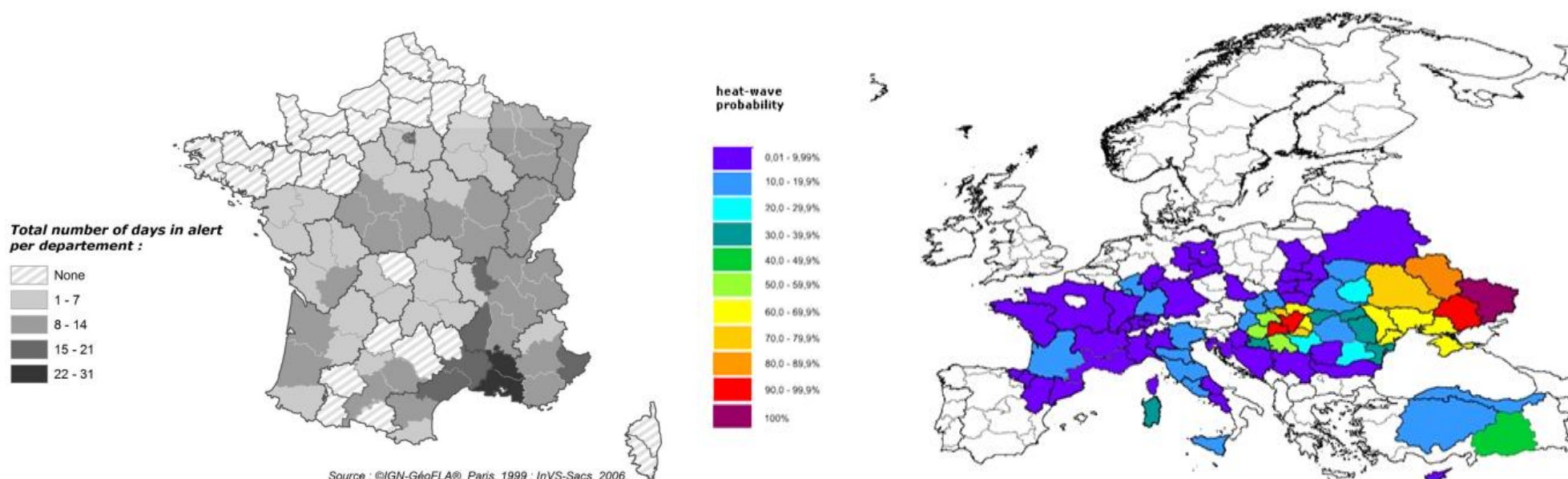
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# Heat–Health Warning Systems

## Short–medium-range heat-wave probability tool

“During the 2006 heat wave (from 11th to 28th July), about 2065 excess deaths occurred in France. Considering the observed temperatures and with the hypothesis that heat-related mortality had not changed since 2003, 6452 excess deaths were predicted for the period. The observed mortality during the 2006 heat wave was thus markedly less than the expected mortality (approximately 4400 less deaths).” — Fouillet *et al.* (2009) *Int J Epidemiol.* 37(2): 309–317

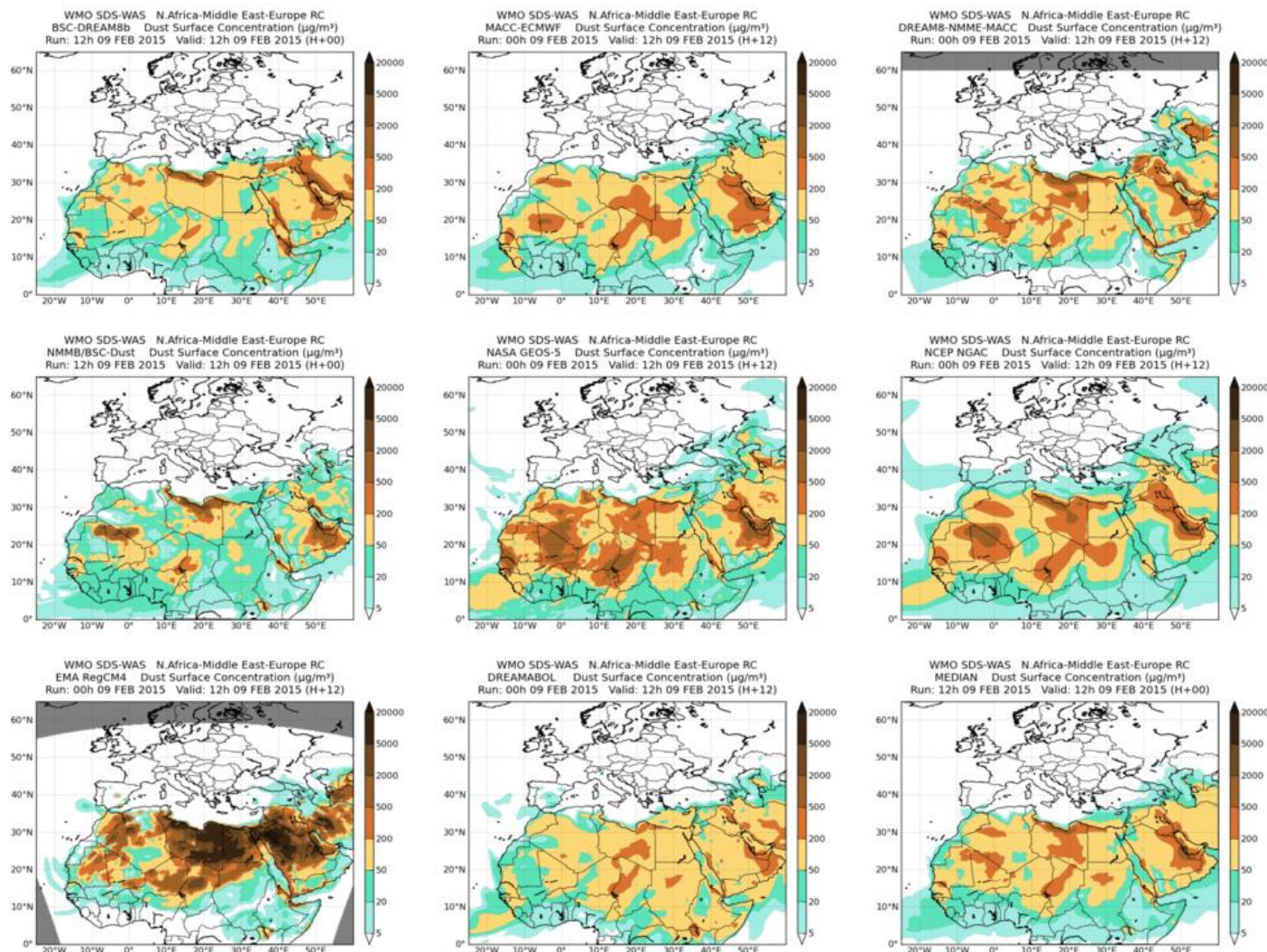


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## Regional Example

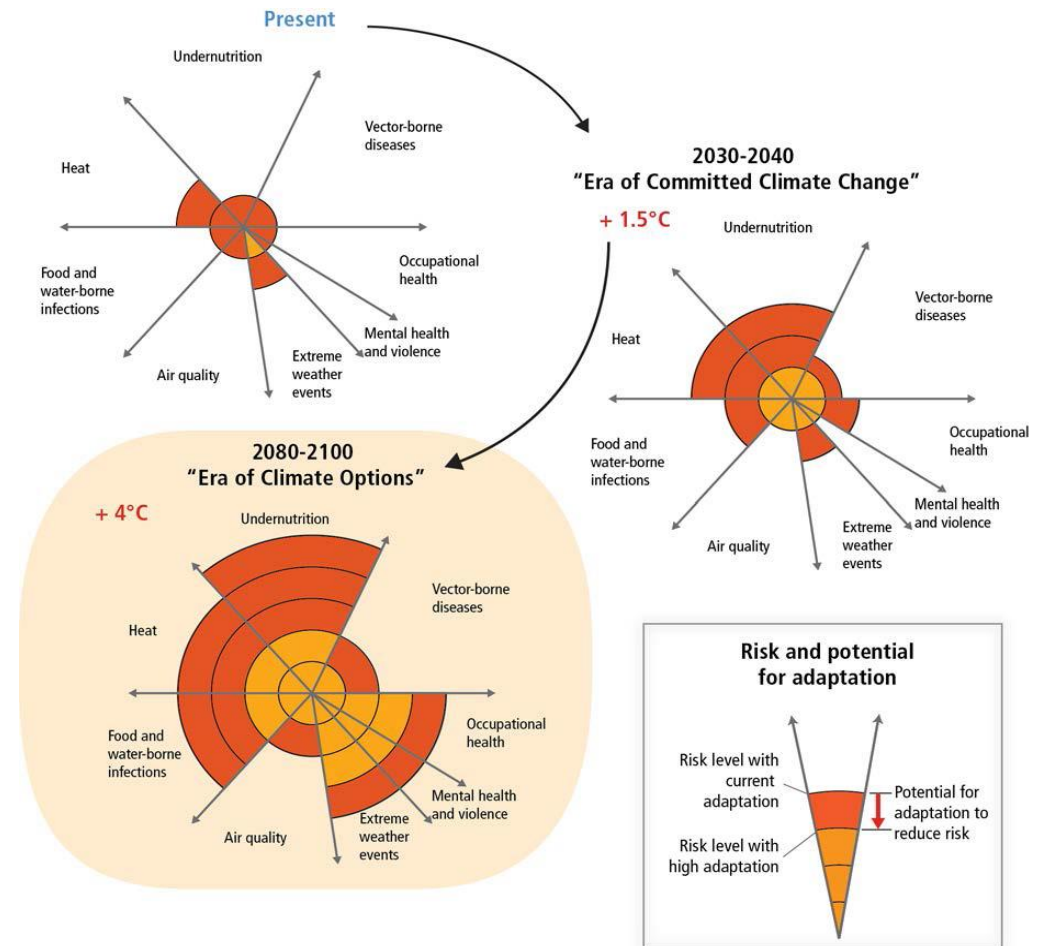
# Unexplored: Sand and Dust Storm Warning and Advisory





# Climate information for assessing vulnerability and impacts

Main health impacts by 2050	Confidence
Injury, death, disease due to more intense heat waves and fires	Very high
Respiratory diseases from combination of local air pollution & cc	Very high
Increased risk of undernutrition in children	High
Increased risk of food-, water- & vector-borne infectious diseases	High
Reduced health and labor capacity due to heat	High



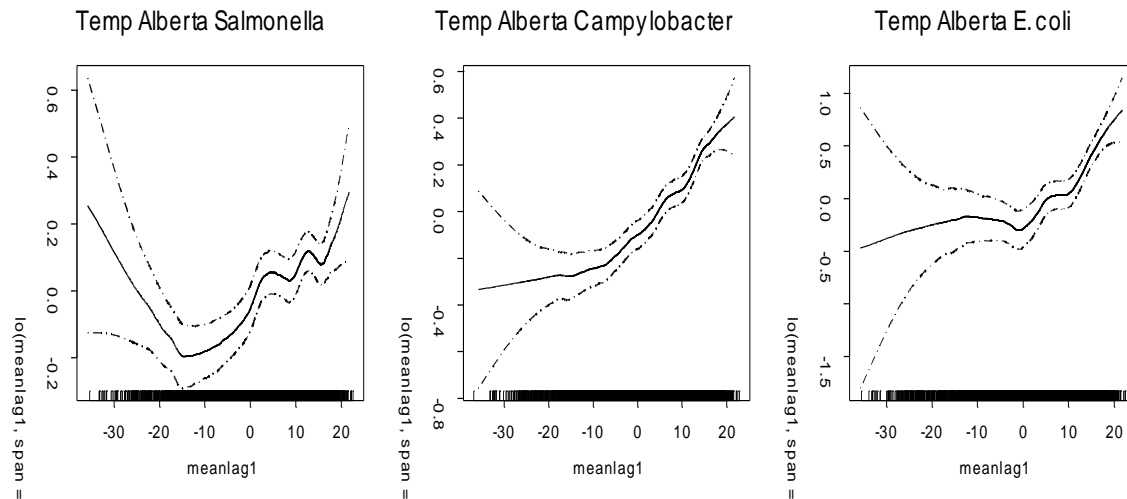
Smith et al, 2014



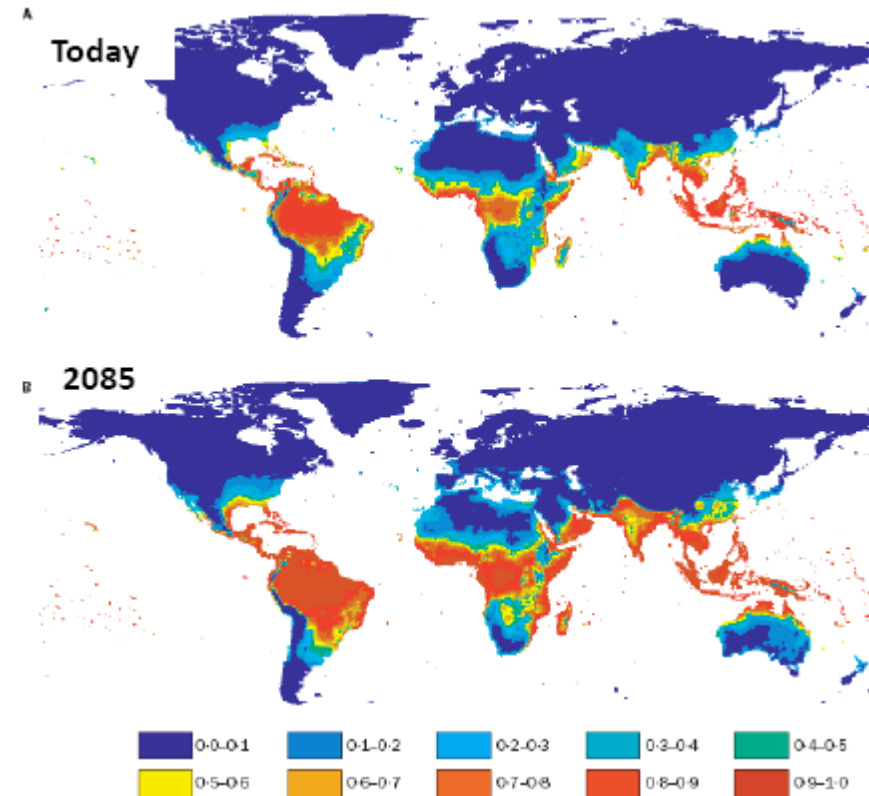
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# Examples of other research



***Salmonella* increased by 1.2% per degree above - 10°C**  
***RR of Campylobacter* increased by 2.2% (4.5% in Newfoundland) per degree above - 10°C**  
***RR of E. coli* increased by 6.0% per degree above - 10°C**



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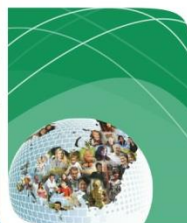
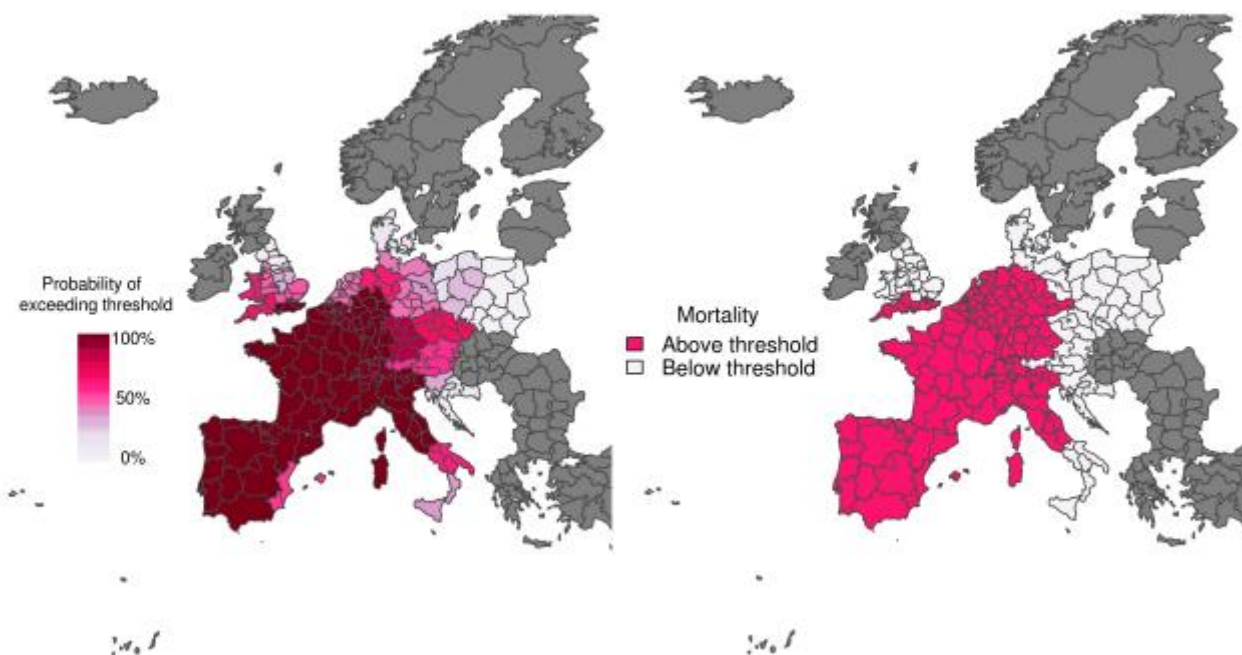
# Research

EUPORIAS

**EUPORIAS: European Provision Of Regional Impacts Assessments on Seasonal and Decadal Timescales**

Aims to assess key **knowledge gaps** of important **sectors** and develop a few **prototype** predictions systems

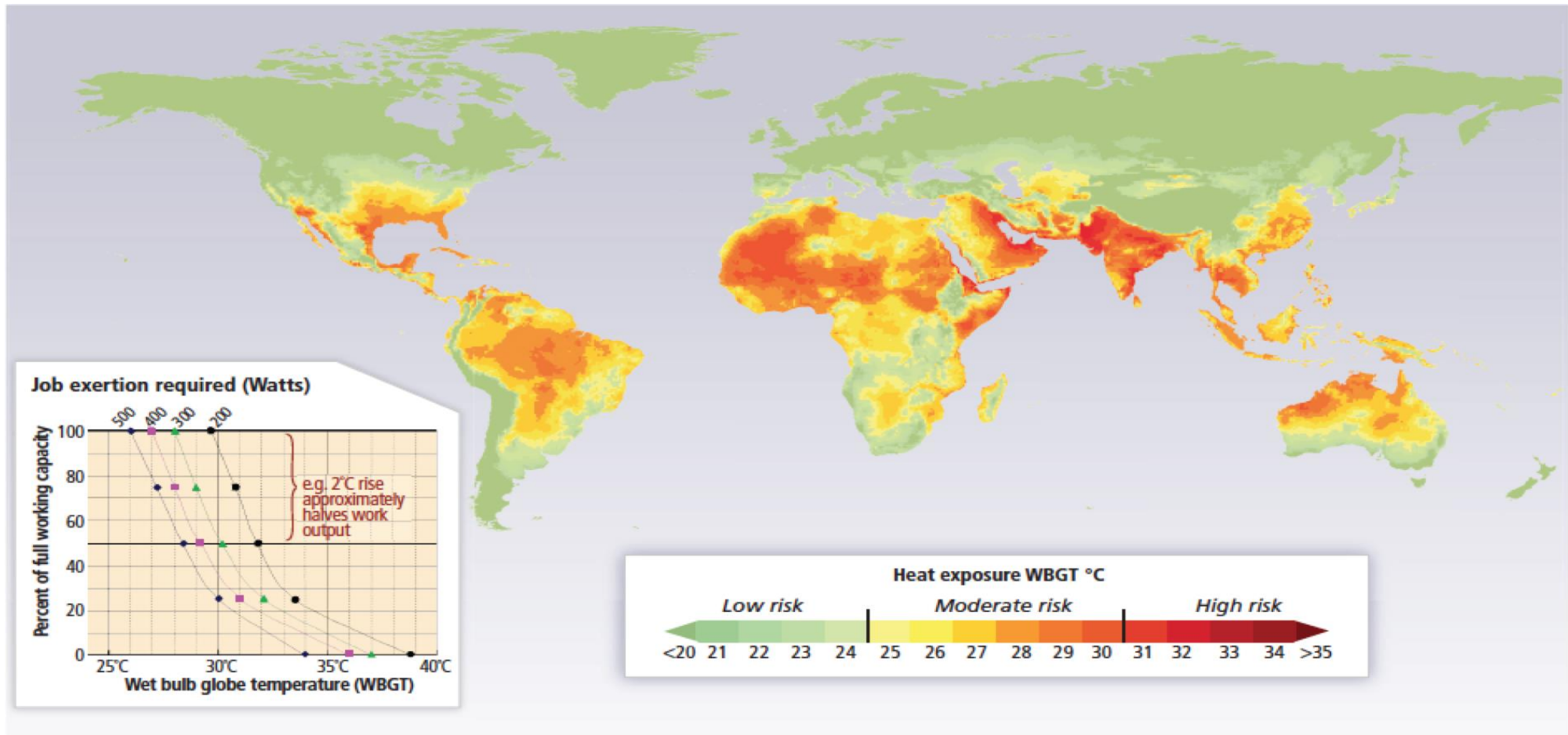
Climate-driven model  
for temperature-  
related mortality  
[www.euproias.eu](http://www.euproias.eu)



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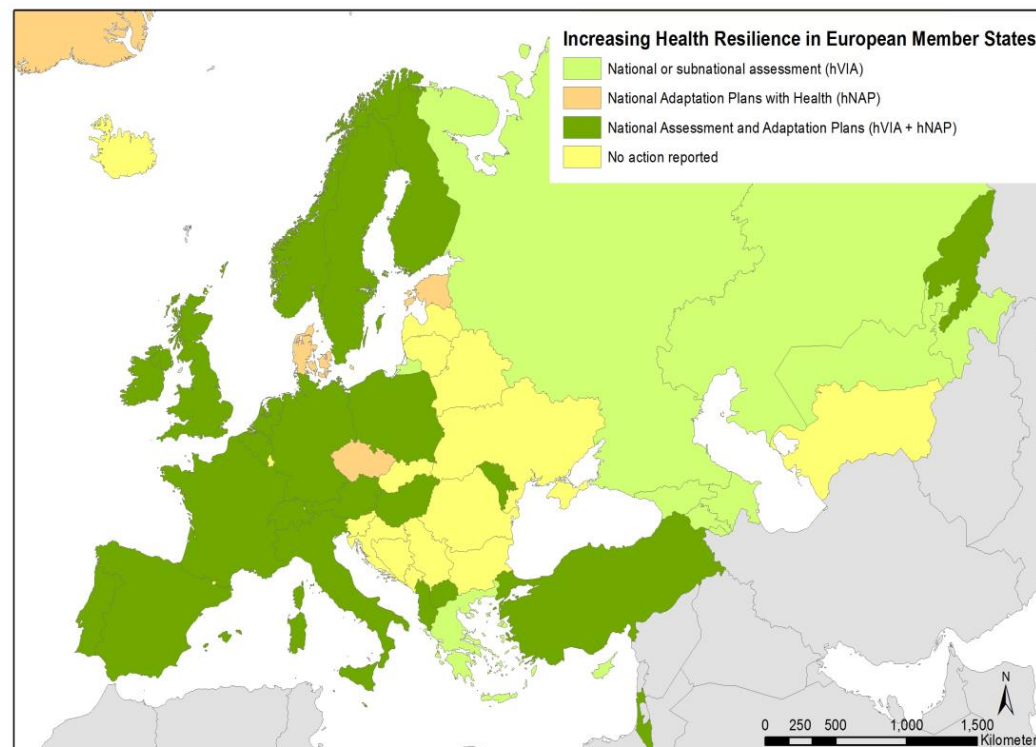
# Climate information for setting standards



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# Climate information for health adaptation planning

- Extreme weather events preparedness and response
- Climate sensitive infectious disease surveillance
- Environmental services improvement (e.g. water and food safety)
- Strengthen health system resilience
- Train the workforce
- etc



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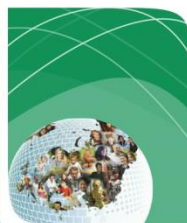
Data Source and map production:  
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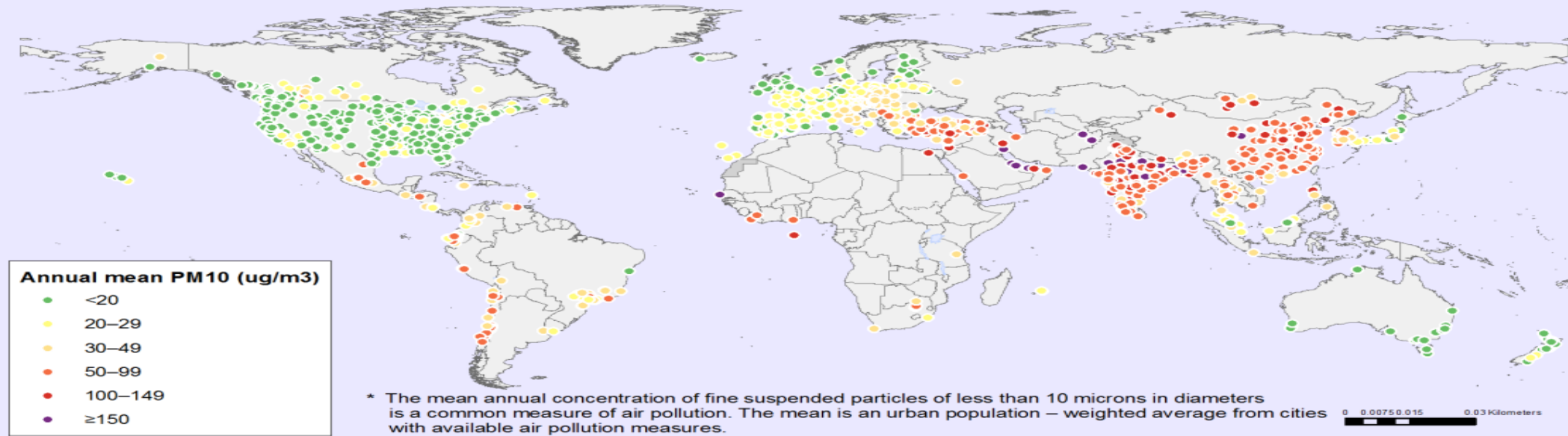
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# Exposure to particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 $\mu\text{m}$ or less (PM10) in 1600 urban areas\*, 2008–2013



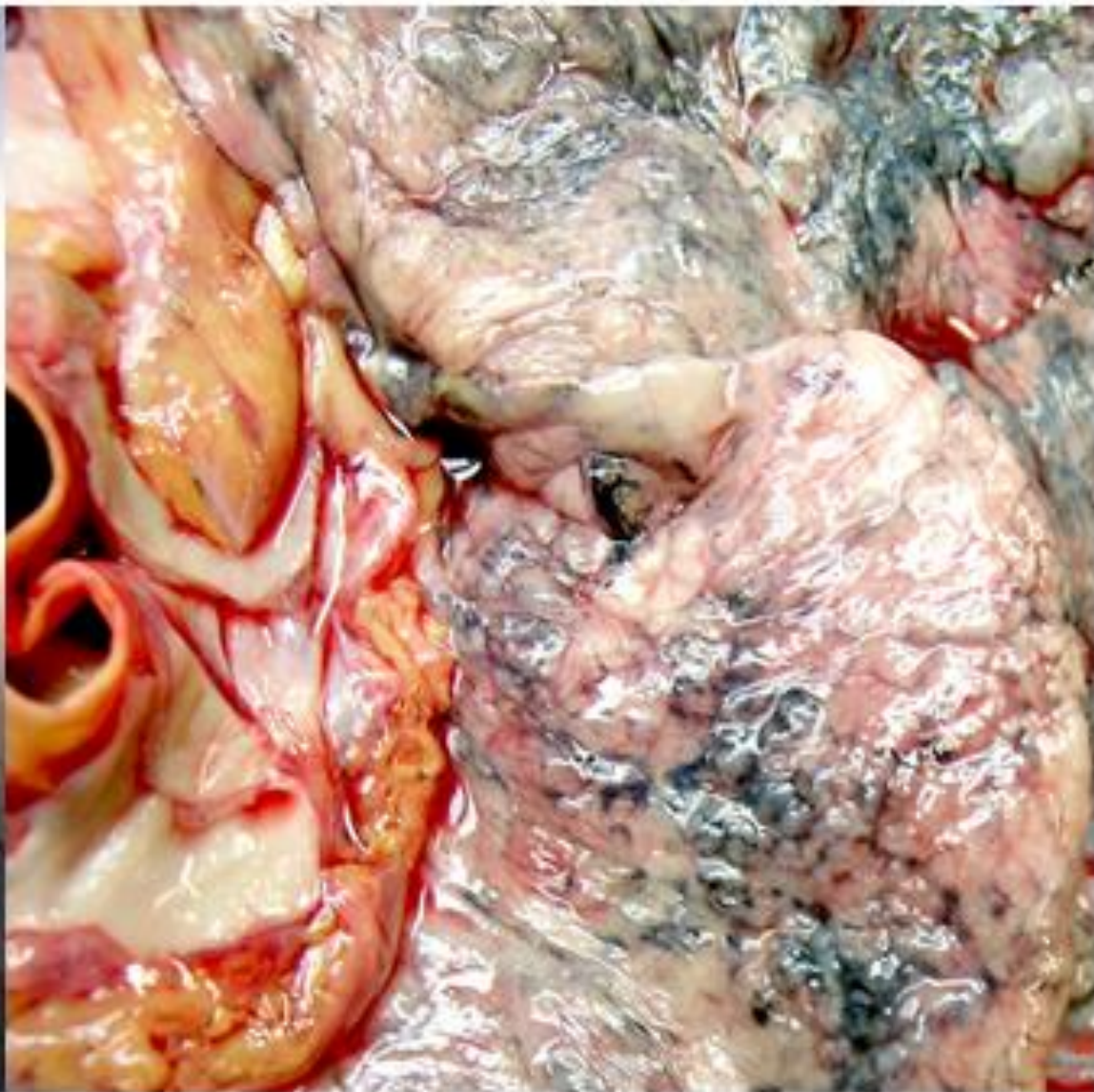
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Data Source: World Health Organization

PM 2.5 estimates based on satellite data and TM5 model, calibrated with surface measurements.



Brauer et al, Env Sc Technol. 2012



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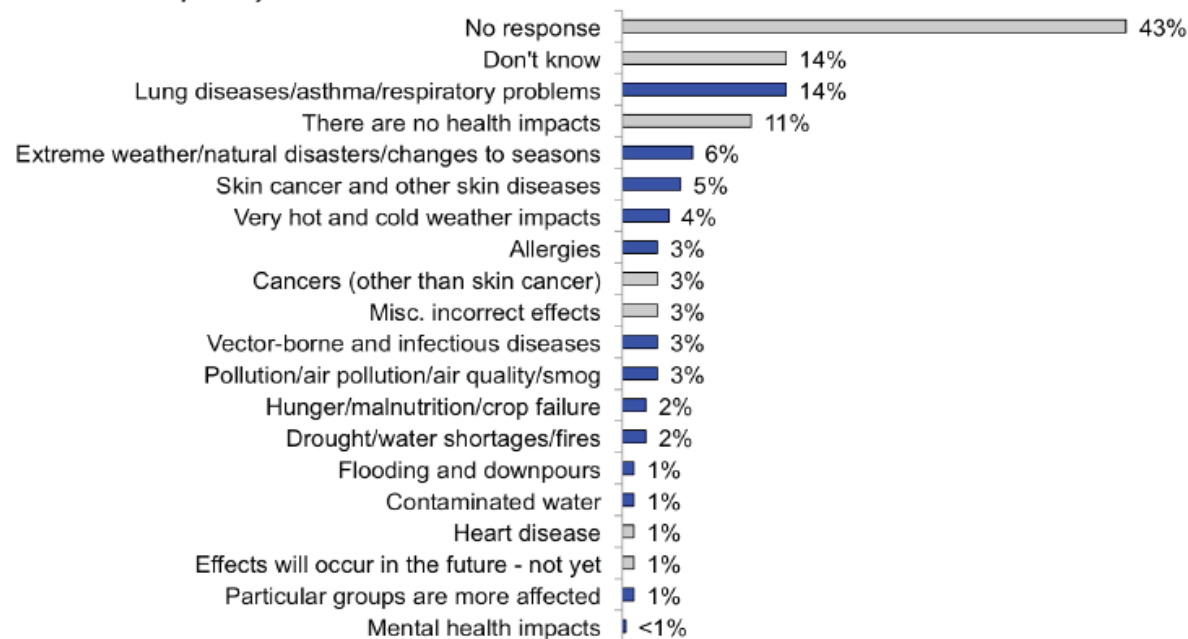
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# Joint communication

## Most Americans Do Not Have a Clear Sense of the Health Consequences of Global Warming

What health problems related to global warming are Americans experiencing?  
(Blue = correct response)

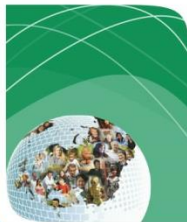


In your view, what health problems related to global warming are Americans experiencing, if any? [Open ended, multiple responses accepted, most common responses shown]

Base: Americans 18+ (n=1,275). October, 2014.



George Mason University  
Center for Climate Change Communication



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# Thank You!

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# Operational needs

- Public and freely available meteorological and climate data for use in research and assessments
- Improved spatial and temporal resolution
- Improvement in dialogue between providers and users of climate services – jointly
- Public and freely available downscaled meteorological and climate data
- Improvement in dialogue between different players and sectors – find synergies
- Avoid duplications – joint efforts



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