

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Health Workshop

## The Healthy Schools Initiative and Children's Health

The Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health (CII) of the Cyprus University of Technology together with the Center of Excellence in Biobanking and Biomedical Research and the Department of Chemistry both at the University of Cyprus and the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety cordially invite you to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Public Health Workshop, under the auspices of the Cyprus Minister of Health, Mr. Michalis Damianos.

### Workshop Overview

This is a landmark year for this Public Health Day event that has been annually organized by the CII for the past 10 years. This year, it marks the 10-year anniversary and for this reason the scientific activities will last for two days. For this reason, an international workshop will bring together educators, healthcare and public health providers, policymakers, and community leaders to explore and develop actionable solutions for improving children's health in school environments. Participants will engage in dynamic discussions, practical sessions, and collaborative activities focused on the following key topics: physical health, mental health, social and environmental health for children in school settings and beyond.

### Who Should Attend

- Healthcare and public health practitioners (e.g., paediatricians, school nurses)
- Educators and school administrators
- Policymakers and government officials
- Anyone interested in children's health and education

**October 08 and 09, 2024**

At the premises of the University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus. Amphitheater B108, University House  
"Anastasios G. Leventis" Building, 1 University Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia, Nicosia.

To secure your attendance, please make sure you register early: [registration link](#)



October 08, 2024

## Agenda

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Constantinos Deltas, Director, Center of Excellence in Biobanking and Biomedical Research, Medical School, University of Cyprus

## Introductory Remarks (09:00-09:30)

- Dr. Konstantinos C. Makris, Professor, Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, School of Health Sciences, Cyprus University of Technology
- Dr. Andrie Panayiotou, Secretary, Cyprus Epidemiology and Public Health Association
- Mrs. Marina Kyriakou, President, Union of High School Teachers in Health Promotion
- Dr. Michael Anastasiadis, Paediatrician, President, Paediatric Society of Cyprus
- Dr. Tasos Christofides, Professor and Rector, University of Cyprus
- Dr. Irshad A Shaikh, Special Representative & Head of Office, WHO Country Office, Cyprus
- Dr. Athina Michaelidou, Cyprus Minister of Education, Sport, and Youth
- Mr. Michalis Damianos, Cyprus Minister of Health

## Keynote Speech

**09:30 – 09:50** *Creating healthy school environments: a global perspective, Ms. Trinette Lee, Technical Officer, Enhanced Well-being Unit, Department of Health Promotion, WHO HQ Geneva, Switzerland (presented in English)*



## Part A (presented in Greek)

- 10:00 – 10:15** *Children's health behaviors in Cyprus using the HBSC study, **Dr. Yiasemina Karagiorgi, Head of Educational Research and Evaluation, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Cyprus***
- 10:15 – 10:30** *School health services in Cyprus, **Dr. Panayiota Tantele, Pediatrician, School Health Services Unit, Ministry of Health, Cyprus***
- 10:30 – 10:45** *The "Aristotle - CyFIT" program for evaluating the physical condition of the student population in high schools of Cyprus, **Dr. Elena Papakosta, Assistant Professor, Chair of the Department of Life and Health Sciences, Frederick University, Cyprus***
- 10:45 – 11:00** *How can the child's environment and everyday life habits affect its growth and development, **Dr. Konstantinos C. Makris, Professor, Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, School of Health Sciences, Cyprus University of Technology***
- 11:00 – 11:15** **Discussion**
- 11:15 – 11:45** **Break**

## Part B (in Greek)

**Chair:** Mrs. Eliza Markidou, Senior Clinical Dietician, Nutrition Unit Coordinator, Cyprus Ministry of Health

- 11:45 – 12:00** *The European code against cancer, **Dr. Charalambos Hatzigeorgiou, Pediatrician, Research and Educational Institute of Child Health, Nicosia, Cyprus***
- 12:00 – 12:15** *CHILDREN\_FIRST cohort study in Thessaloniki schools "through parents' and teachers' eyes", **Dr. Zoi Tsimtsiou, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece***
- 12:15 – 12:30** *Children's health in Cyprus through the lenses of IDEFICS/iFamily cohort studies, **Dr. Michael Tornaritis, Director, Research and Educational Institute of Child Health, Nicosia, Cyprus***
- 12:30 – 12:45** *The CHILDREN\_FIRST Cypriot Children's Health and Environment Observatory, **Mrs. Georgia Soursou, Research Associate/Special Scientist, Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, Cyprus University of Technology***



12:45 – 13:00 Discussion & questions

13:00 – 14:15 Light lunch

## Part C (presented in English)

14:30 – 16:30

*This part of oral presentations will be technically focused on presentations by key collaborators from around Europe presenting their findings on children's health and school health services.*

**Chair:** Dr. Andrie Panayiotou, Associate Professor, Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, School of Health Sciences, Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus

## Keynote Speech

14:30 – 15:00 *Children and the exposome*, **Dr. Peter van den Hazel**, INCHES - International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety, The Netherlands

## Part C

15:15 – 15:35 *The COSI program in Cyprus*, **Mrs. Eliza Markidou**, Senior Clinical Dietician, Nutrition Unit Coordinator, Cyprus Ministry of Health

15:35 – 16:00 *EU Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Limassol by 2030 and the Lc3 project: a stepping stone for a cooler city with healthy schools*, **Mrs. Penelope Vasquez-Hadjilyra**, Project Coordinator, Core Transition Team for Climate Neutrality of Limassol Municipality, Cyprus

16:00– 16:20 *Impact of summer heat on children's physiological responses during football training*, **Mr. Malte Satow**, Institute and Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine, LMU University Hospital, Munich, Germany

16:20 – 16:30 Discussion & questions



**October 09, 2024**

## Part A (In English)

**Chair:** Dr. Peter van den Hazel, INCHES - International Networks on children's health, environment and safety, The Netherlands

- 09:00 – 09:15** *The Azrieli National Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Research - Recent findings and future goals, **Dr. Idan Menashe, Professor, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Community Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel***
- 09:15 – 09:30** *Social media & smartphones: threats to child & adolescent health (and public health solutions), **Mrs. Karin Boode, Strategic Youth Policy Adviser, Youth Department, National Association of Regional Public Health Services, Netherlands***
- 09:30 – 09:45** *Volatile organic compounds in children saliva, **Dr Agapios Agapiou, Assistant Professor, University of Cyprus***
- 09:45 – 10:00** *School health services – what is the role of the government? **Dr. Itamar Grotto, Professor, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.***
- 10:00 – 10:15** *The impact of personal listening and IT devices on Slovak adolescent lifestyles, **Dr. Lubica Argalasova, Head of the Institute of Hygiene Faculty of Medicine Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia***
- 10:15 – 10:30** Discussion-Questions
- 10:30 – 11:00** Coffee Break

## Part B (In English)

**Chair:** Dr. Agapios Agapiou, Assistant Professor, University of Cyprus

- 11:00 – 11:15** *Climate change and child health – What about the school setting? **Dr. Stephan Boese-O'Reilly, Unit Leader "Global Environmental Health and Climate Change", Institute and Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine, University Hospital, LMU Munich, Germany***



- 11:15 – 11:30** *Climate change affects the cognitive ability of students, **Dr. Mat Santamouris, Professor, School of Built Environment, University New South Wales, Sydney Australia***
- 11:30 – 11:45** *Growing up on a warmer planet, **Dr. Leonidas Ioannou, Department of Automatics, Biocybernetics and Robotics, Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia***
- 11:45 – 12:00** *Noise in school is really a health problem, **Dr. Sonja Jeram, National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia***
- 12:00 – 12:15** **Discussion-Questions**

## Part C

- 12:30 – 14:00** *Roundtable discussion, moderated by **Dr. Konstantinos C. Makris and Dr. Peter van den Hazel***

This session aims to produce a brief on children's health and the promotion of healthy schools. Current issues with children's health in school settings are multifaceted, involving physical, mental, and social dimensions. These issues require a collaborative approach involving educators, healthcare providers, parents, policymakers, and the community to create a supportive and healthy environment for children in schools.

We are committed to produce a policy brief addressing key issues and potential recommendations to create healthier and more supportive environments to improve children's health, well-being and development.

