



# PROGRAM



## 18TH IFEH WORLD CONGRESS ON

## *Environmental Health*

## WCEH26

Hotel Sheraton, Dubrovnik, Croatia  
April 27th - May 1st 2026

# **FINAL PROGRAM**

**WORLD CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (WCEH) 2026**

**Hotel Sheraton Dubrovnik Riviera, Croatia**

**27 April – 1 May 2026**

Hosted by:

**international Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)**

Organised by:

**Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals – Department for  
Environmental and Public Health Professionals**

In cooperation with:

**Teaching Institute of Public Health "Dr. Andrija Štampar"**

**Institute of Public Health of Varaždin County**

**Institute of Public Health of Bjelovar-Bilogora County**

**Teaching Institute of Public Health of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County**

**University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica**

**Faculty of Food Technology Osijek**

**IAESP – International Association of Environmental Scientists and Professionals**

Patrons:

**President of the Republic of Croatia**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia**

**Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia**



# SPONZORS



**PBZ**

Intesa Sanpaolo Group



## DAY 1 – Monday, 27 April 2026

### IFEH Council Meeting Day

Venue: Conference Hall A – Sheraton Dubrovnik

Time	Session
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening of IFEH Council Meeting – Welcome Remarks</b>
10:00 – 13:00	IFEH Council Meeting – Part I
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break – only for Council meeting participants
14:00 – 17:00	IFEH Council Meeting – Part II
17:00 – 17:30	Summary and Closing of Council Meeting
<b>Evening</b>	Evening Free evening / Optional informal networking in Dubrovnik Old Town



## DAY 2 – Tuesday, 28 April 2026

IFEH AGM, BOD Meeting & Technical Tours / EHDM

Course Begins

### Venues:

- AGM & BOD: Conference Hall A
- Technical Tours: Off-site (depart from hotel lobby)

Time	Session
09:00 – 10:30	IFEH Annual General Meeting (AGM)
10:30 – 11:00	Lunch break – only for General and Directors meeting participants
11:00 – 13:00	IFEH Board of Directors Meeting
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break – only for General and Directors meeting participants
14:00 – 18:00	<b>Technical Tours</b>
<b>Evening</b>	Evening Free evening / Optional informal networking in Dubrovnik Old Town

### Technical Tour

A professionally guided tour of the Dubrovnik region focused on key aspects of environmental protection and public health. The programme includes an overview of environmental monitoring and coastal water protection, as well as the waste management and recycling system in the Dubrovnik area. Special emphasis is placed on the role of public health in tourism, including sanitary standards in the hospitality sector. As part of the two-hour tour, participants will also explore the historical and functional aspects of the Dubrovnik water supply system and the Lazareti complex, with a focus on their public health and sanitary significance.



## DAY 3 – Wednesday, 29 April 2026

Opening Day of WCEH 2026

Venues: Grand Ballroom – Sheraton Dubrovnik

Time	Session
15:00 – 16:30	Opening Ceremony of WCEH 2026
17:00 – 18:30	Plenary Session 1 – Prof. Mirna Habuda Stanić Environmental Public Health – Where Global Action Meets Everyday Life – Critical Infrastructure
19:00 – 21:00	Welcome Reception & Cocktail



## DAY 4 – Thursday, 30 April 2026

Congress Sessions & Gala Dinner

Venues: Grand Ballroom and breakout rooms

Time	Session
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Plenary Session 2 – Prof. Susana Paixao</b> Global Challenges in Environmental Health and Climate Resilience
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Parallel Sessions 1 (4 Rooms)</b>

### ROOM A – Air Quality & Environmental Systems

1. *Lovorka Bilajac* – „Combined Impact of Temperature and Air Quality Indicators on Hypertension: Insights from the EH-UH-2 Study“
2. *Dijana Tomić Linšak* – „An Integrated Assessment of Indoor Air Quality in Educational Spaces“
3. *Moipoti Ruth Makgalemane* – „Respiratory conditions and health symptoms associated with air pollution amongst children below the age of six years in Melusi Informal Settlement, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa: a cross-sectional study“
4. *Titus Haakonde* – „Respirable Dust Hazards in Mining: A Case Study of Nchanga Concentrator Workers at Konkola Copper Mines, Zambia“
5. *Yi-Chi Yu* – „Wetting Effects on Respiratory Circuit Filters’ Filtration Performance on the Viral Aerosols“
6. *Mandla Bhuda* – „Severe Asthma Symptoms and Domestic Fuel Use Among Preschool Children in Mabopane, South Africa“



## ROOM B – Food Safety & Nutrition

1. *Dražen Lušić* – „Honey Fraud in the EU: Beyond Economic Fraud, From Market Deception to Health Hazards“
2. *Andrej Ovca* – „Cold Chain Maintenance from Retail to Home: Balancing Food Safety and Environmental Impact“
3. *Bridget Ahumuza* – „Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Towards Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention Among Food Handlers in Urban Markets in Kampala“
4. *Ave Kutman* – „ Organic food in Tartu city schools: food composition, parental opinions, and health perspective“

## ROOM C – Emerging Risks & Environmental Research

1. *Jin-young Min* – „Epigenetic Aging and Mortality: A Synergistic Risk with Environmental Exposure“
2. *Kyoung-Bok Min* – „ Paraben exposure and reduced skeletal muscle mass in US adults: Sex- and menopause-specific associations“
3. *Gordana Jurak* – „Beeswax as a biondicator of environmental pollution:heavy metal content“
4. *Abdul Baess Keyhani* – „ Foot Traffic Driven Anthropogenic Activity Alters Phyllosphere Microbial Community Characteristics and Putative Pathogens in Subtropical Urban Green Spaces“
5. *Jr-I Yang* – „ Photocatalytic Synthesis of Urea by Using Metal-Organic Framework-Derived Cu/W Dual Composite Catalysts“
6. *Ting Yu Chen* – „ Photocatalytic Cu-BTC@Fe-MIL-101-NH<sub>2</sub> Composite for CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Conversion: Advancing Net-Zero Fertilization and Sustainable Resource Recovery“



## ROOM D – Public Health & Epidemiology

1. *Mirsad Bilajac* – Epidemiological Surveillance of Food Safety: Indicators, Systems and the Role of Environmental Health Professionals
2. *Kate Summer* – „Developing a primary care-based index for monitoring infectious diseases associated with housing and living conditions in Australia“
3. *Mohammed Al-Eissa* – „Epidemiological Insights into Maedi-Visna Virus in Algeria: First National Seroprevalence Survey and Risk Factor Profiling in Sheep Herds“
4. *Kate Summer* – „ Understanding the Survival of Strep A and Impacts of Environmental Health Initiatives: Synthesising Outcomes of a Multidisciplinary Research Program in Australia“
5. *Elisabeth Majnaric* – „ Who’s biting who in the zoo? Implications for mosquito-borne disease risk in a unique urban landscape“
6. *Ivana Gobin* – „Organic Acid-Based Approaches for the Control of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Biofilms“
7. *Paul Endres* – „Norovirus Outbreak Investigation and Mitigation at a Camping Mass Gathering in Regional Queensland, Australia“

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30

**Parallel Sessions 2 (4 Rooms)**



## ROOM A – Water, Waste & Sanitation

1. *Darija Vukić Lušić* – „Assessing Health Risks in Coastal Environments: Applying QMRA to Seawater and Beach Sand“
2. *Somtochukwu Mercy* – „Demographic and Socio-Economic Impact of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Practices in The Occurrence of Cholera Diseases Among Children Under Five in Owerri West, Imo State Nigeria“
3. *WCHEORJI* – „Socioeconomic and Demographic Determinants of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Practices and Their Association with Cholera Incidence among Under-Five Children in Southeastern Nigeria“
4. *Edgar Chilanzi Mulwanda* – „Community Pathogen Hazards Assessment in Waste Flow Streams from Various Sanitation Technologies: A Seasonal Analysis Using the ComPASS Tool in Lusaka, Zambia“
5. *Mbeugang Clément* – „Dynamiques et risques environnementaux des “boues noires” urbaines : le cas des lixiviats de la décharge de PK 10 Nyalla (Douala, Cameroun)“
6. *Malon Muronzi* – „Assessing the Impact of Community-Based Waste Management Initiatives on Public Health in Zimbabwe“



## ROOM B – Climate Change & Public Health

1. *Zoë Becvarik* – „An Expert-Driven Community Resilience Framework for the Health Impacts of Climate Change“
2. *Aparna Lal* – „Young people in a warming world: an urgent call for action based on synthesis of the impacts of climate on child health across 22 countries“
3. *Erin I. Walsh* – „Strategic Gaps in Climate-Health Planning: Insights from Content Analysis of Forty Four National Adaptation Plans“
4. *Kevin Turner* – „Climate-related financial disclosures raises the temperature for environmental health“
5. *Kirana Dheva* – „Strengthening Adolescent Resilience through Environmental e-Health Literacy and Preventive Health Behaviors“

## ROOM C – Environmental Health Practice

1. *Philip Swain* – „Environmental Health University Course Accreditation in Australia – Preparing the environmental health workforce of the future.“
2. *Elizabeth Re* – „Is Self-Regulation the demise of Environmental Health Standards.“
3. *Jody Houston* – „COVID-19 review of Environmental Health Officer experiences in New South Wales Australia – strengthening public health preparedness and resilience“
4. *Titus Haakonde* – „From Vision to Impact: Advancing Environmental Health Practice and Professionalism in Zambia Through the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health“
5. *Jody Houston* – „Data Centres, Artificial Intelligence (AI), The Cloud, an environmental health lens“



## ROOM D – Innovation & Technology

1. *Mohammed Musa Yahya Al-Zharani* – „Unveiling the photothermal mechanism and therapeutic potential of quercetin-loaded MXene-ZMOF@Chitosan in MCF-7 breast cancer“
2. *Kuo-Pin Yu* – „An innovative MOF-on-MOF-derived carbonencapsulated CeO<sub>2</sub>/Co/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> anti-moisture catalyst with rich oxygen vacancies for effective ozone decomposition“
3. *Jou-Wei Lu* – „Synergistic Antiviral Activity of Nano Cu-Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanocomposites for Sustainable Environmental Virus Inactivation“
4. *Yeonhee Lee* – „Effects of Forest-Based Physical Activity on Healthcare Utilization: An Analysis Using National Health Insurance and Mobile App Data“
5. *Geonwoo Kim* – „Spatial Distribution and Diurnal Variation of Natural Volatile Organic Compounds in Industrial Forest Buffer Zones Under Variable Microclimatic Conditions“

15:00 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Future of Environmental Health Profession – Towards 2040**

20:00

**Gala Dinner Celebration 40 years of IFEH**



## DAY 5 – Friday, 1 May 2026

### Final Day & Closing Ceremony

Venues: **Grand Ballroom**

Time	Session
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Plenary Session 3 – Jurjen de Boer</b> Environmental Health in Action – Regional and Global Perspectives

11:00 – 12:30      **PARALLEL SESSIONS 3 (4 ROOMS)**

#### **ROOM A – Environmental Health & Society**

1. *Gordana Kendel Jovanović* – „Student Awareness, Attitudes, and Perceptions of Plastic Pollution at the University of Rijeka“
2. *Tin Znaor* – „The Brestovac Project“
3. *Jill Stewart* – „Global Sustainable Development Goals: A Case Study of Housing Development and Regeneration in a London Estate“
4. *Langat Dennis* – „Strengthening Environmental Health through Community Health Promoters: Effective Strategies for Resilient and Healthy Communities in Busia County, Kenya“
5. *Casey Neathway* – „Strengthening Environmental Public Health Across Borders: The IFEH Americas Regional Group Model for Collaboration“



## ROOM B – Risk, Policy & Ethics

1. *Tony Walter* – „Disaster Risk Reduction Approach for Environmental Health“
2. *Kevin Turner* – „Asbestos in the air – from triple O to EHO“
3. *Wendy Gambley* – „Disaster Management Training – Building Environmental Health Capacity“
4. *Jody Houston* – „Risk Communication phenomena of Environmental Health Officers“
5. *Wendy Gambley* – „When do the Needs of 1 Outweigh the needs of Many – Making Decisions that Affect Lives“

## ROOM C – Personal Services & Public Health

1. *Kelsie Dale* – „Ink, Identity, and Integrity: Exploring Traditional Indigenous Tattoo Practices Through an Environmental Public Health Lens“
2. *Elena Taneva* – „ Farmacies – An Environmental Solution To Global Health Concerns“
3. *Inga Ploomipuu* – „ The use of complementary and alternative medicine among the students and staff of Tartu Applied Health Sciences University.“
4. *Kevin Turner* – „A high 5 for public health – from infections fails to 5-star nails

**12:30 – 13:00**      **Roundtable discussion**  
**Building Partnerships for Healthier Planet**

**13:00 – 13:30**      **Closing Ceremony**



## POSTERS

- *Sandra Pavičić Žeželj* – „Student Dietary Patterns, Health, and Environmental Sustainability“
- *Maja Simon* – „Ensuring the validity of test results in a testing laboratory“
- *Zdenko Mlinar* – „Microbiological Safety of Food in Educational Institutions: Results and Trends“
- *Lidija Baričević* – „Safety of Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food – Migration of Harmful Substances, Sources and Control“
- *Kristina Garić-Opačak* – „Survey Research on Air Pollution in Slavonski Brod“
- *Ivanka Grgić* – „Mortality from chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40–J47) in the period from 2017. to 2023. in Croatia, Brod-Posavina County and Slavonski Brod“
- *Dragana Jurić Džakula* – „Epidemiology of malignant diseases (C00–C97) – incidence trend in Croatia, Brod-Posavina County and Slavonski Brod from 2017 to 2022“
- *Sanja Kalambura* – „Contact Lens Waste as a Source of Microplastics: Environmental Processes and Risk Perception in Croatia and China“
- *Zvonimira Medverec Knežević* – „The monitoring of pool water in Brod-Posavina County in 2025“
- *Zvonimira Medverec Knežević* – „Age-Standardized Incidence Rates of Lung Cancer by Sex in Croatia, Brod-Posavina County and Slavonski Brod, 2017–2021“
- *Danijel Brkić* – „Soil-to-Plant Transfer of Heavy Metals in Cereals from the Pannonian Plain, Croatia“
- *Gordana Čanadi Jurešić* – „Surface Degradation and Metal Release from Orthodontic Alloys Under Acidic Oral Conditions“
- *Gordana Čanadi Jurešić* – „Hidden Toxicological Burden of Orthodontic Appliances: A Cellular-Level Insight into Environmental Metal Exposure“
- *Gordana Sinčić Modrić* – „Total Deposited Matter and Heavy Metals as Indicators of Air Quality in Rijeka 2025“
- *Tomislav Kos* – „Copper and pesticide residues in soils of Mediterranean agroecosystems“
- *Gordana Sinčić Modrić* – „Acetamiprid and Thiacloprid in Soils: A Kinetic Comparison under EU Regulations“
- *Paula Žurga* – „Sorption of organophosphorus pesticides in agricultural soils of Croatia“



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

### Chair:

prof.dr.sc. Mirna Habuda Stanić, dipl.ing.

### Members:

prof.dr.sc. Dalibor Broznić, dipl.sanit.ing.

prof.dr.sc. Marina Šantić, dipl.sanit.ing.

prof.dr.sc. Ivana Gobin, dipl.sanit.ing.

prof.dr.sc. Mirna Habuda Stanić, dipl.ing.

prof.dr.sc. Azrija Pašalić, dipl.sanit.ing. – BIH

prof.dr.sc. Sandra Pavičić Žeželj, dipl.sanit.ing.

Professor Anne Roiko – Australija

Susana Paixao, prof, PhD – Portugal

prof.prim.dr.sc. Branko Kolarić, dr.med.

izv.prof.dr.mult. Aleksandar Racz, dr.med.spec.

izv.prof.dr.sc. Jasna Bošnjir, dipl.sanit.ing.prof.v.š.

izv.prof.dr.sc. Dražen Lušić, dipl.sanit.ing.

izv.prof.dr.sc. Darija Vukić Lušić, dipl.sanit.ing.

izv.prof.dr.sc. Aleksandar Bulog, dipl.sanit.ing.

prof.dr.sc.biotech. Sanja Kalambura

izv.prof.dr.sc. Rok Fink, dipl.sanit.ing. – Slovenija

izv.prof.dr.sc. Dario Brdarić, dipl.sanit.ing.

izv.prof.dr.sc. Dijana Tomić Linšak, dipl.sanit.ing.

doc.dr.sc. Željko Linšak, dipl.sanit.ing.

doc.dr.sc. Lovorka Bilajac, dipl.sanit.ing.

doc.dr.sc. Marin Glad, dipl.sanit.ing.

doc.dr.sc. Andrej Ovca, dipl.sanit.ing. – Slovenija

doc.dr.sc. Daniel Maestro, dipl.sanit.ing. – BiH

dr.sc. Bruno Cvetković, dipl.sanit.ing.

dr.sc. Arijana Cenov, dipl.sanit.ing.

dr.sc. Igor Dubrović, dipl.sanit.ing.

dr.sc. Andrija Lesar, dipl.sanit.ing.

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Dr David Musoke – Uganda

Dr Andrew Mathieson – Australija



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