



## WCEH 2026 – FINALNI PROGRAM

 **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	Opening of IFEH Council Meeting – Welcome
	Remarks
10:00 - 13:00	IFEH Council Meeting – Part I
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 17:00	IFEH Council Meeting – Part II
17:00 - 17:30	Summary and Closing of Council Meeting
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

- EHDM Course: Training Room 1
- Technical Tours: Off-site (depart from hotel lobby)

Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	IFEH Annual General Meeting (AGM)
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 13:00	IFEH Board of Directors Meeting
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
09:00 - 16:30	Workshop: Train the Trainer – Environmental Health Emergencies – Day 1
14:00 - 18:00	Technical Tour
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**

09:00 - 15:30                      Workshop: Train the Trainer – Environmental Health Emergencies – Day 1

13.00 – 14.00                      Lunch break

### **Opening Day**

**15:00 – 16:30**

◆ Opening Ceremony

**17:00 – 18:30**

◆ **Plenary Session 1:** Environmental Public Health – Where Global Action Meets Everyday Life

 **19:00 – 21:00 WELCOME RECEPTION & COCKTAIL**

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**DAY 4 – 30 April 2026**

**09:30 – 11:00**

**◆ Plenary Session 2:** Global challenges in Environmental Health and Climate Resilience

**☕ 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break**

**🕒 11:30 – 13:00 | PARALLEL SESSIONS 1 (4 dvorane)**

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**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“
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**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“
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### **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 bioindicator 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“
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### **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“
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 **13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break**

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 **14:00 – 15:30 | PARALLEL SESSIONS 2**

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#### **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“
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#### **ROOM B – Climate Change & Public Health**

1. Joyce Shirinde – „Heat Stress in Early Childhood Development Centres in an Urban Informal Settlement in Tshwane, South Africa: Implications of Climate Change“
  2. Zoë Becvarik – „An Expert-Driven Community Resilience Framework for the Health Impacts of Climate Change“
  3. 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“
  4. Erin I. Walsh – „Strategic Gaps in Climate-Health Planning: Insights from Content Analysis of Forty Four National Adaptation Plans“
  5. Kevin Turner – „Climate-related financial disclosures raises the temperature for environmental health“
  6. Kirana Dheva – „Strengthening Adolescent Resilience through Environmental e-Health Literacy and Preventive Health Behaviors“
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#### **ROOM C – Environmental Health Practice**

1. Philip Swain – „ Environmental Health University Course Accreditation in Australia – Preparing the environmental health workforce of the future.“
  2. Lisa Hughes – „Strengthening Environmental Health Training Through University–Employer Collaboration“
  3. Elizabeth Re – „ Is Self-Regulation the demise of Environmental Health Standards.“
  4. Jody Houston – „COVID-19 review of Environmental Health Officer experiences in New South Wales Australia – strengthening public health preparedness and resilience“
  5. Titus Haakonde – „ From Vision to Impact: Advancing Environmental Health Practice and Professionalism in Zambia Through the Zambia Institute of Environmental Health“
  6. Jody Houston, - „ Data Centres, Artificial Intelligence (AI), The Cloud, an environmental health lens“
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#### **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“
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 **15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break**

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 **PANEL DISCUSSION 16:00 – 17:30**


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


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 **20:00 – Gala Dinner Celebration 40 years of IFEH**

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 **DAY 5 – 1 May 2026**

 **09:30 – 11:00**

 **Plenary Session 3: Environmental Health in Action – Regional and Global perspective**

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 **11:00 – 12:30 | PARALLEL SESSIONS 3**

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 **ROOM A – Environmental Health & Society**

1. Gordana Kenđel 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“
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### **ROOM B – Risk, Policy & Ethics**


1. Tony Walter – „Disaster Risk Reduction Approach for Environmental Health“
  2. Kevin Turner – „Asbestos in the air – from triple 0 to EHO“
  3. Wendy Gambley – „Disaster Management Training – Building Environmental Health Capacity“
  4. Jody Houston – „Risk Communication phenomena of Environmental Health Officers“
  5. Tanya Morrison – „Environmental Health indicators and emerging threats in Aotearoa, New Zealand“
  6. Wendy Gambley – „When do the Needs of 1 Outweigh the needs of Many – Making Decisions that Affect Lives“
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### **ROOM C – Personal Services & Public Health**

1. Lisa Hughes – „Environmental Health in the Beauty, Body Art, and Body Modification Industries“
2. Kelsie Dale – „Ink, Identity, and Integrity: Exploring Traditional Indigenous Tattoo Practices Through an Environmental Public Health Lens“
3. Elena Taneva – „Farmacies – An Environmental Solution To Global Health Concerns“

4. Inga Ploomipuu – „The use of complementary and alternative medicine among the students and staff of Tartu Applied Health Sciences University.“
5. Kevin Turner – „A high 5 for public health – from infections fails to 5-star nails

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 **12:30 – 13:00**

 **Roundtable discussion: Building Partnerships for Heathier Planet**

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 **13:00 – 13:30**

 **Closing Ceremony**

## **POSTERS**

1. Sandra Pavičić Žeželj - „Student Dietary Patterns, Health, and Environmental Sustainability“
2. Maja Simon - „Ensuring the validity of test results in a testing laboratory“
3. Zdenko Mlinar - „Microbiological Safety of Food in Educational Institutions: Results and Trends“

4. Lidija Baričević - „Safety of Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Food – Migration of Harmful Substances, Sources and Control“
5. Kristina Garić-Opačak - „Survey Research on Air Pollution in Slavonski Brod“
6. 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“
7. Dragana Jurić Džakula - „Epidemiology of malignant diseases (C00-C97) – incidence trend in Croatia, Brod-Posavina County and Slavonski Brod from 2017 to 2022“
8. Sanja Kalambura - „Contact Lens Waste as a Source of Microplastics: Environmental Processes and Risk Perception in Croatia and China“
9. Zvonimira Medverec Knežević - „The monitoring of pool water in Brod-Posavina County in 2025“
10. Zvonimira Medverec Knežević - „Age-Standardized Incidence Rates of Lung Cancer by Sex in Croatia, Brod-Posavina County and Slavonski Brod, 2017–2021“
11. Danijel Brkić – „Soil-to-Plant Transfer of Heavy Metals in Cereals from the Pannonian Plain, Croatia“
12. Gordana Čanadi Jurešić - „Surface Degradation and Metal Release from Orthodontic Alloys Under Acidic Oral Conditions“
13. Gordana Čanadi Jurešić - „Hidden Toxicological Burden of Orthodontic Appliances: A Cellular-Level Insight into Environmental Metal Exposure“
14. Gordana Sinčić Modrić - „Total Deposited Matter and Heavy Metals as Indicators of Air Quality in Rijeka 2025“
15. Tomislav Kos - „Copper and pesticide residues in soils of Mediterranean agroecosystems“
16. Gordana Sinčić Modrić - „Acetamiprid and Thiacloprid in Soils: A Kinetic Comparison under EU Regulations“
17. Paula Žurga - „Sorption of organophosphorus pesticides in agricultural soils of Croatia“

**Workshop: Train the Trainer – Environmental Health Emergencies 28.04.2026.-  
29.04.2026.**

**Workshop Objective**

To equip participants with the knowledge and skills to independently design, deliver, and evaluate training programs in the field of environmental health emergency management (water, waste, climate risks, crisis management).

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### **Target Audience**

- Environmental Public Health Professionals
  - Public health professionals
  - Civil protection staff
  - Trainers and team leaders
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### **Duration**

2 days (recommended) or intensive 1.5-day format

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## **DAY 1 – FOUNDATIONS AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE**

### **1. Opening and Introduction (30 min) | 09:00–09:30**

- Presentation of workshop objectives
  - Participants' expectations
  - Ice-breaker: "The worst scenario you have experienced"
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### **2. Crisis Management and Decision-Making (60 min) | 09:30–10:30**

**Lecturer:** Prof. Sanja Kalambura, VVG Crisis Management

#### **Topics:**

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Information management and crisis communication
- Decision-making under pressure
- Intersectoral coordination

#### **Interactive:**

- Simulation: "5 minutes to decide"
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 **Coffee Break | 10:30–11:00**

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**3. Climate Change and Waste in Emergencies (60 min) | 11:00–12:00**

**Lecturer:** Prof. Susana Paixão, Coimbra, Portugal

**Topics:**

- Climate extremes and health impacts
  - Waste management in disasters (floods, fires)
  - Secondary public health risks
  - Case studies from Southern Europe
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**4. Disaster Risk Reduction Approach (UN Perspective) (60 min) | 12:00–13:00**

**Lecturer:** Henning Hansen, IFEH & UNDRR

**Topics:**

- Sendai Framework – application in health sector
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Prevention vs. response
- Role of the local community

**Workshop:**

- Developing a mini risk matrix for a local community
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 **Lunch Break | 13:00–14:00**

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**5. Water Safety Management in Emergencies (60 min) | 14:00–15:00**

**Lecturer:** Prof. Mirna Habuda-Stanić, NATO water safety expert

**Topics:**

- Water Safety Plan in emergency situations
- Water contamination (biological, chemical, intentional)
- Rapid risk assessment and response measures

- Case studies (military and civilian contexts)

**Interactive:**

- Mini exercise: “Contaminated water supply – what is your first step?”
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**6. Daily Reflection (30 min) | 15:00–15:30**

- Key takeaways
  - Application in participants’ professional context
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**DAY 2 – TRAIN THE TRAINER COMPETENCIES**

**7. Teaching Adults (60 min) | 09:00–10:00**

- Andragogy vs. pedagogy
  - Active learning methods
  - How to maintain engagement
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**8. Training Design (60 min) | 10:00–11:00**

- Defining learning outcomes
- Structuring a training session
- Selecting methods (case study, simulations, discussions)

**Task:**

- Participants design a mini training session (group work)
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 **Coffee Break | 11:00–11:15**

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**9. Simulation Exercise – Major Emergency (90 min) | 11:15–12:15**

**Scenario (combined):**

- Flood
- Water contamination
- Sudden increase in waste

- Public health risk

**Participants:**

- Take on assigned roles
  - Make decisions under pressure
  - Communicate with the “public”
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**10. Participant Presentations (60 min) 12:15-13:15h**

Each group:

- Delivers a mini training session (15 min)
  - Receives expert feedback
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 **Lunch Break | 13:15–14:00**

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**11. Evaluation and Certification (30 min) 14:00-14:30h**

- Individual feedback
  - Certificate awarding
  - Trainer development pathway
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**Training Methods**

- Case studies
  - Simulations
  - Group work
  - Role-play
  - Peer feedback
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**Workshop Outputs**

Participants receive:

- Ready-to-use training templates
- Emergency exercise scenarios
- Emergency response checklist
- Certificate: *“Train the Trainer – Environmental Health Emergencies”*