

Health and Climate Change

A STRATEGIC AGENDA TO DRIVE ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH & INNOVATION

May 2025



Climate change is much more than an environmental issue—it is a pressing health crisis impacting our health and the global systems that support it. Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, floods and storms are taking place with more frequency and force than ever before. These and many other climate factors pose a threat to our health and wellbeing, leading to loss of life, higher rates of disease and injury, shortages in safe food and drinking water, overwhelmed healthcare services and much more.

A forward-thinking research agenda for health and climate change

To more easily navigate the gaps in our understanding of health and climate issues and enable swift action, the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on Health and Climate Change** provides an ambitious roadmap for research and innovation (R&I) funding organisations to plan their priorities for the decades ahead.

The agenda outlines key knowledge gaps in a range of topics under health and climate (see **Figure 1**) and puts forth recommendations to better work across disciplines, implement the evidence and tools delivered by R&I, boost international cooperation and make R&I ecosystems fairer. The breadth of the agenda's scope

is wide, covering the earliest stages of R&I, the uptake and implementation of findings and outputs and the achievement of societal impact (see **Figure 2**).

The agenda will be implemented through **Horizon Europe** and future EU funding programmes for R&I, aiming also to inspire like-minded organisations which fund R&I on health and climate in EU Member States and beyond Europe. It comes at a critical time in which climate action requires renewed and reliable support and commitment from countries around the world in order to reap the health co-benefits that can emerge.

What can each of us do to help?

Do you work on issues related to environment and health, including on climate? Do you play a role in healthcare systems or in another sector which influences health? Is your work clinically relevant in the current climate change context? Or are you simply looking to make a difference?

There is a lot you can do.

Whether you are a **researcher, innovator, policymaker, funder, educator or civil society** actor you are uniquely positioned to help push for global health and climate action.

Read our Strategic R&I Agenda and help spread the word on the importance of:

- Championing inclusive and user-driven R&I in health and climate.
- Boosting the capacity of local communities to prepare and adapt to health and climate risks, allowing them to better respond and overcome them.
- Leading by example in the fight against climate change and supporting a transition towards climate-neutral and environmentally sustainable healthcare.
- Insisting on an equitable framework for health and climate research cooperation and knowledge sharing between countries (higher and lower income) and other entities.
- Strengthening dialogue between health and climate stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers and health professionals, to fast-track the implementation of research findings and innovations.
- Pushing for political and private-sector leadership to make healthier and eco-friendlier lifestyles more feasible for all, bolstering prevention and advancing climate action.

FIGURE 1. AREAS OF HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH COVERED BY THE STRATEGIC AGENDA

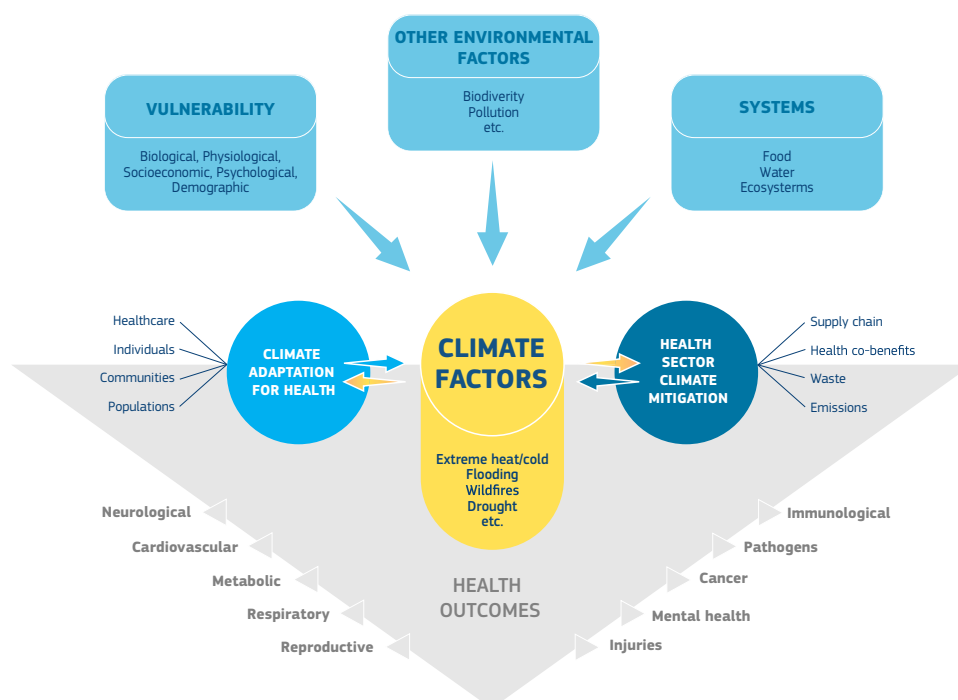
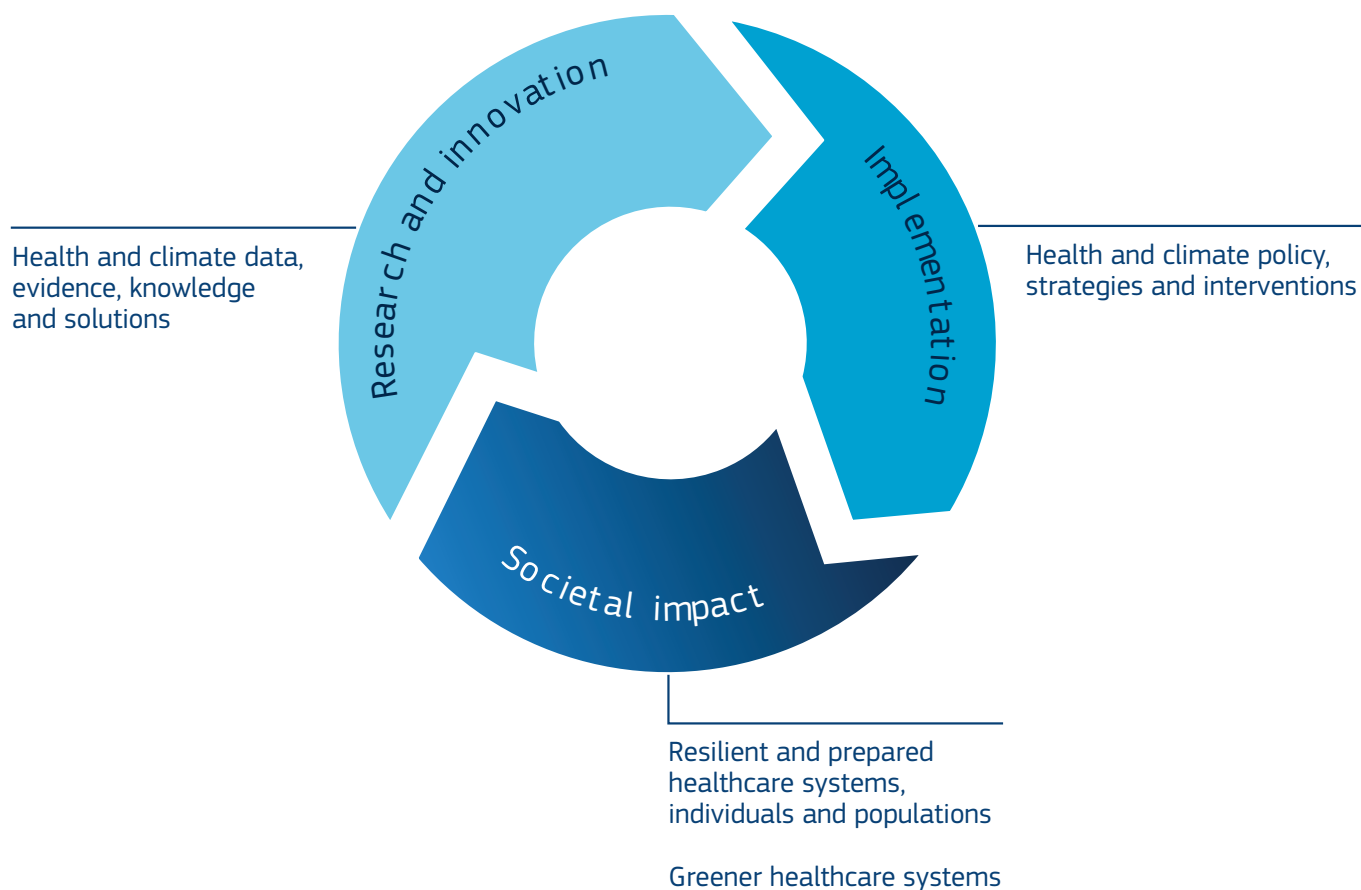


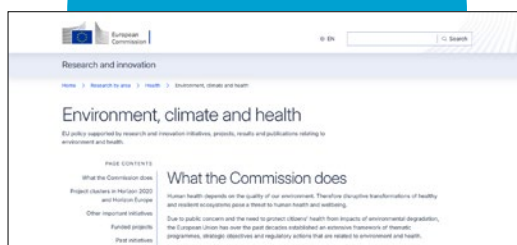
FIGURE 2. THE LIFE CYCLE OF R&I IN HEALTH AND CLIMATE, REFLECTING THE DIFFERENT R&I STAGES IN SCOPE OF THE AGENDA.



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