

STRATEGIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The preparation of the Strategic Health and Environment Plan responds to the need to provide Spanish society with an adequate management tool to face the great environmental challenges of our time. The Strategic Health and Environment Plan is part of the broader Public Health Strategy, mandated in the Public Health Law and by article 43 of the Spanish Constitution that contemplates the right to protection of health, offers the necessary flexibility to afford the variability of environmental and health challenges in a context that, -as the alarming loss of biodiversity, the climate crisis and the health emergency derived from the outbreak of COVID-19 is showing us-, is highly dynamic, and demands from the health and the environment administrations the maximum degree of adaptability in the planning instruments used.

The Strategic Plan sets general guidelines that should be specified in shorter-term programming (biennial), subject to a continuous level of evaluation and review. Thus, this Strategic Plan defines the actions aimed at the main determinants of health and identifies synergies with policies of other departments and Administrations. The Plan includes the analysis of the state of environmental health and its determinants, defining actions aiming a more favorable environment for health.

The Ministry of Health in coordination with the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge are developing this Strategic Health and Environment Plan in line with the commitments of the international initiatives of the European Union (VII Environment Program), Directives and Regulations (chemicals, REACH, biocides, phytosanitary, water, etc.) and other European legislation on health and environment, WHO (Ostrava Conference, 13th General Program of Work of the WHO (2019-2023), Europe 2020, 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the European Green Deal (2019), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015), the EU Sustainability Strategy for Chemicals (2020) and the EU Biodiversity Strategy until 2030 (2020).

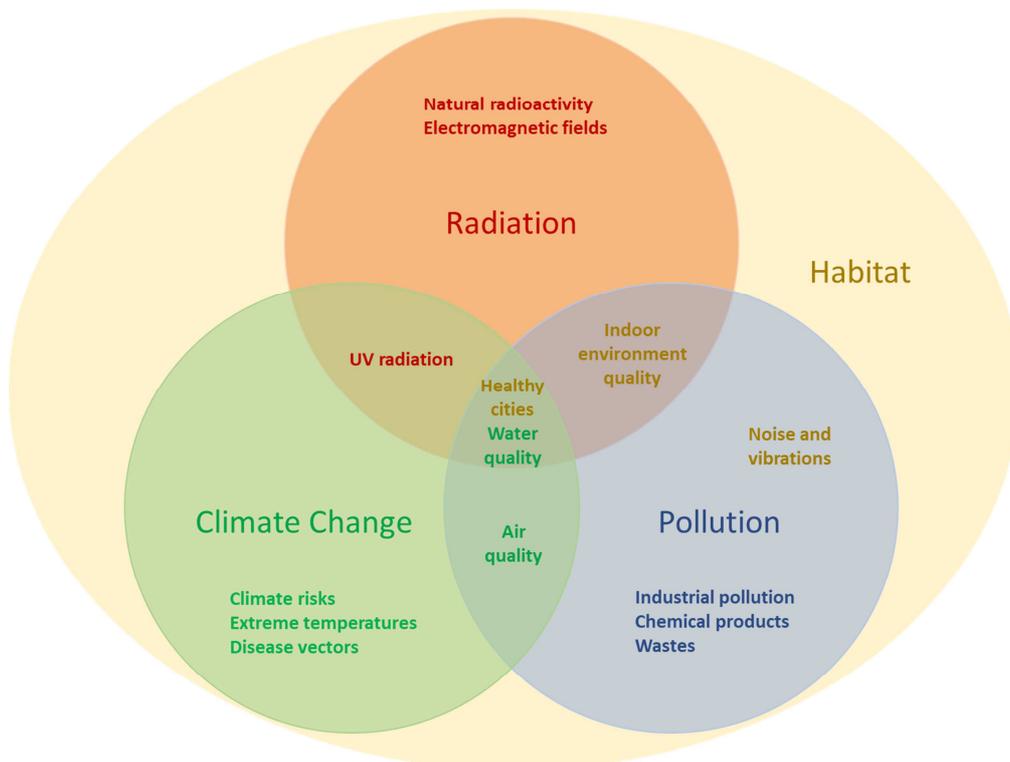
The main objective of this Strategic Plan is to promote healthy environments that help to achieve the health objectives of the population and reduce the risks derived from environmental factors and their conditioning factors, reducing the burden of diseases and identifying new threats. In order to achieve this, the development of environmental health policies will be facilitated, promoting the "One Health" approach, and the inclusion of biodiversity.

The Strategic Plan is divided into two main parts: a technical document that has served as a guiding element and this strategic document that provides the executive framework. The first is an extensive document in which top-level national experts in the main thematic areas that have a greater impact on public health carried out a risk assessment and suggested lines of intervention within each topic to achieve the priority objectives. From this technical document emerges this main document that contains the situation of the factors, the key aspects of the Plan, the guidelines and lines of intervention to be followed. Under its framework, the

situation of these strategic lines will be evaluated every two years in order to generate Action Programs with the priority actions to be developed in that shorter execution period and with the detailed intervention of the executing agents.

The main objective of the Strategic Plan is to contribute to improving the quality of life of the human being and the conservation of the environment by generating healthy environments and acting on the determinants of health. Evidence and experience indicate that approaches focused on the treatment of individual diseases are insufficient to address current health challenges related to the environment. In this sense, social inequalities and economic impact have also been taken into account especially, as well as the starting situation in Spain of the 14 environmental factors contemplated, with a summary of the impact, sometimes quantified, on population health and of the measures and actions that have been applied by the different Public Administrations.

In the executive document, once the objectives and lines of intervention have been established, the management, organization and coordination criteria of the Strategic Plan are established, as well as the communication, training and participation tools for public consultation and the achievement of actions. In this sense, the Plan will be monitored and evaluated through different indicators and an annual report on them. These indicators are classified into management indicators, which will assess the degree of compliance with the Strategy, and indicators by subject area, which will assess the evolution of exposure to environmental factors and the impact of this on the health of the population. Based on this evaluation, it will be possible to better assess the situation at that time and choose the following priority actions to be developed for the correct fulfillment of the main objective: reduce the risks to the health of the population derived from environmental factors and build healthier environments promoting health.



List of blocks and thematic areas of the Strategic Health and Environment Plan