

Ghent ecoclinic

Session urban health – themes

*What is the significance of the **variations and dynamics in urban environments** for the health of humans and non-human organisms?*

*What are the particular roles of **the socio-cultural aspects**, such as those related to distributive and procedural **environmental justice**?*

*What **other framings and narratives** are there urban and peri-urban health (such as risk or benefit oriented takes on nature-health relations)?*

*How do these relate to the **conference themes** of resolution and management of **synergies, conflicts and tradeoffs**?*

*How can **human health be aligned with that for non-human organisms and whole ecosystems**, managing on synergies and conflicts? Or: **how can we frame and operationalize a One Health approach to nature–health relations (urban)**, taking into account the of health of humans and non-humans and all factors that play a role in their interaction and distribution of benefits and burdens?*

Session themes - 2

*How can sustainable, no-regret **interventions be devised and implemented under the radical uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity of health states, factors and meanings/valuations?***

*What **new outlooks on health, e.g. salutogenic, are thus conceivable for health promotion?***

*Alternative: **how can we deal with complexity (uncertainty, unknowns, difference of opinion) in dealing with pressing environmental health issues?***

Session themes - 3

*In terms of methods, **how can meaningful and relevant knowledge co-created** with communities of practice, stakeholders, and lay groups?*

*What are the particular **roles of inclusive and collaborative approaches**, and their relationships with **traditional evidence-based and expert-driven approaches**?*

*Alternative: **how can different forms of knowledge and expertise, both formal experts and local knowledge holders, be combined as an evidence base** for environment and health issues?*

Some more questions eliciting opinions

- 1) What is your concept of and interest in health? Do they center on biological, psychosomatic or social-cultural aspects?
- 2) How do you see convergence between notions of health in relation to divergence? Specifically, how do you think different takes on health could fruitfully interact, and where do you see resistance to unification?
- 3) What is the importance of nature to human health, and vice versa? Do these relations involve mainly competition and conflicts or synergies, e.g. between human and non-human animals or human and ecosystem health?
- 4) What R&D and implementation challenges and opportunities do you see with holistic concepts of health? What challenges and opportunities are there in different branches of sciences? How do these involve urban settings?
- 5) Other framings, narrative and approaches? E.g., **regional /national variation and particular problems and opportunities?**

Work modes

- Discussion rounds
- Notes
- Responses to the questions posed and more ...
- Out of the box ideas?!

Country-based narratives from a mini-survey in the EEA's E&H Network

Country	No. 1 CEH problem	No 1. children's EH solution
Hungary	<i>Indoor air quality (chem, biol)</i>	Effective <i>legislation</i>
Estonia	Diet , lack of physical activity	<i>Knowledge and money</i>
Ireland	Obesity due to sedentary life	<i>Opportunities for exercise, diet edu.</i>

These don't match the priorities in some other settings > revise 'big narratives'?

National Profiles on
Children's Health and the Environment
Assessing readiness for improving environmental
health protection systems for children

Edited by Martha Shimkin and Jenny Pronczuk

With outline methodology
(standard disposition) to
produce country profiles



World Health Organization
February 2005

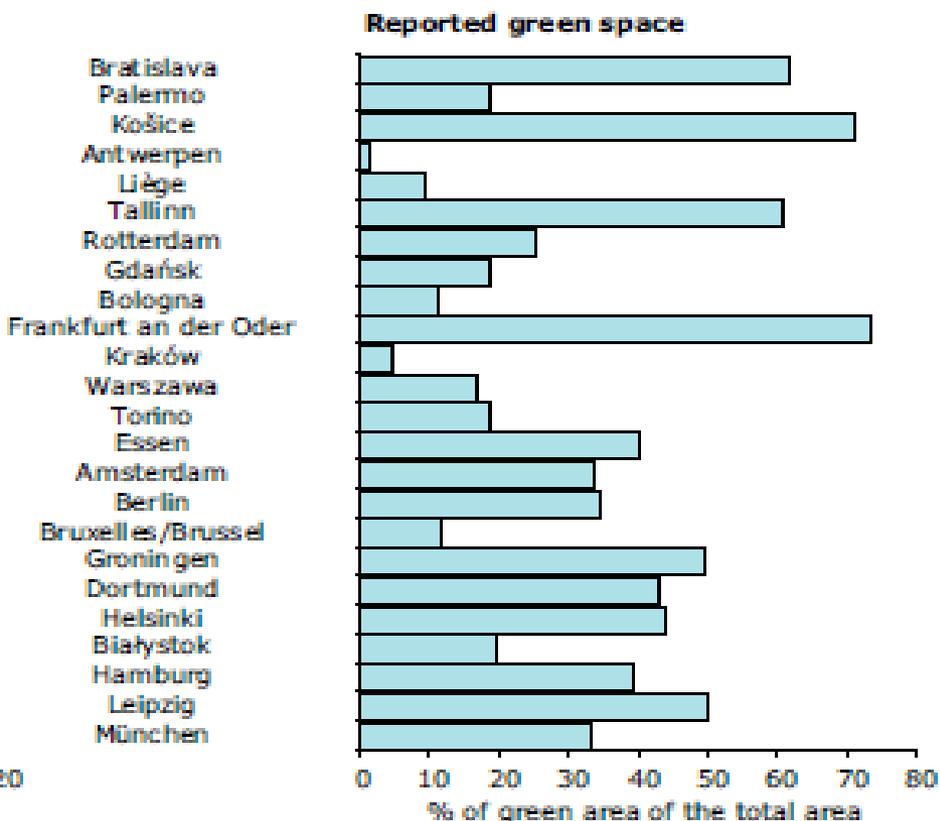
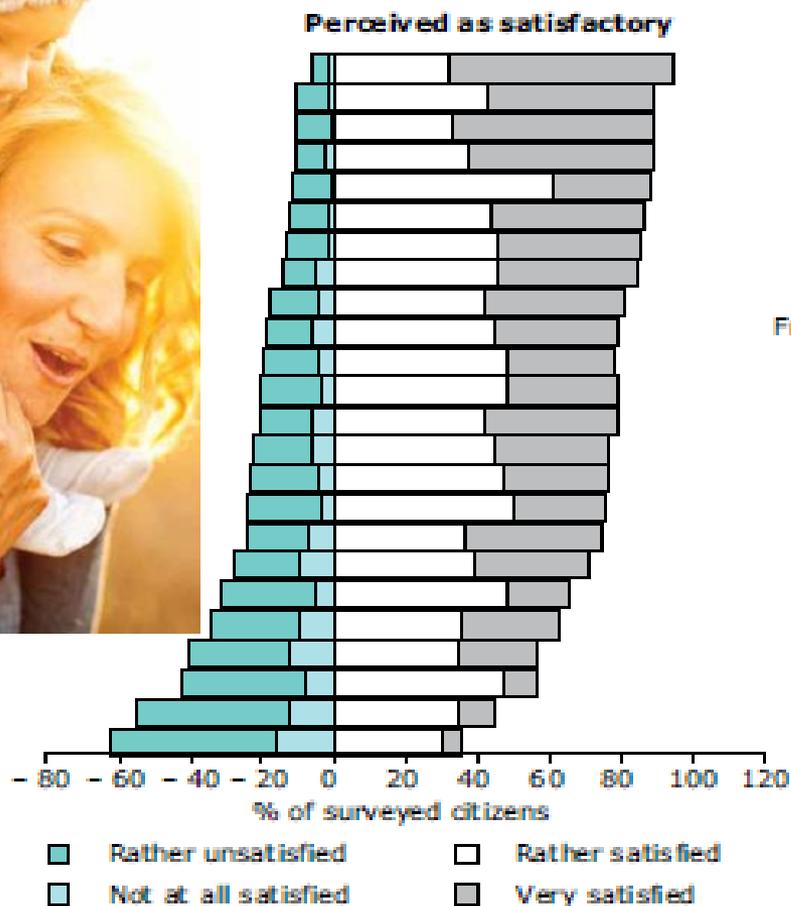
Figure 1.1 Exposure to traffic of children aged 3-14 years according to social status



With a storyline of
inequality

Source: Federal Environment Agency (UBA), 2009.

Toward a 'new' European narrative: Beneficial impacts of environmental quality to health through ecosystem services and natural capital



Source: EEA, 2009. Included in the EEA-JRC Report 5/2013 Environment & Human Health

Cautionary tales, scary narratives – E&H disasters 1950-



London smog 1952



Kyshtym 1957



Minamata 1956 - 2004



Seveso 1976 – etc



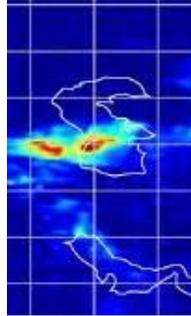
Bhopal 1984-



Tshernobyl 1986 -



Kuwait oil fires 1991



Al-Mishraq fire 2003



Katrina/N Orleans 2005



TVA Fossil 2008



Deepwater Horizon 2010

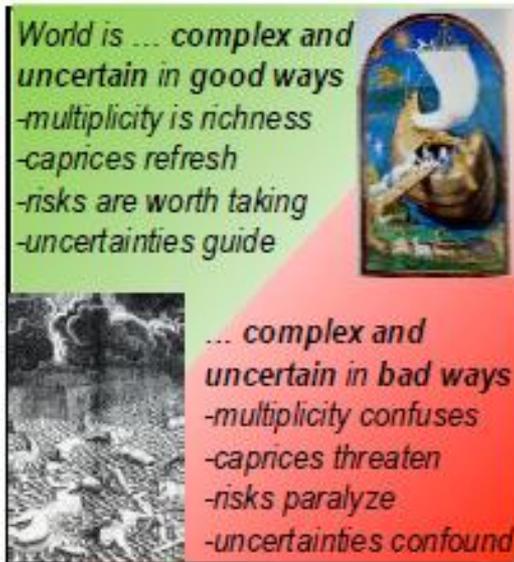


Fukushima 2011 -

- Some forgotten; cf. 'creeping disasters'
- So, **how to face tragedies?** A narrative may help deal with them in a sensible way
- But are we too **focused on alarms, at the cost of solutions?**

Combined narrative: disaster as punishment (for vice) and as a basis for redemption/renewal

- Symbolic arch-narrative that almost **everyone knows** and understands
- With the storyline 'man–nature relationships'
- Are many of our EH narratives variations of this – even **extolling problems and solutions uncritically?**
- Can we build on such narratives of CEHS?
- In any case, **pessimistic - optimistic** outlooks



	<i>Anthropocentric</i>	<i>Post-human</i>
<i>Optimist</i>	<i>Nature healthy to humans</i>	<i>Humans planetary stewards</i>
<i>Pessimist</i>	<i>Nature can be risky to humans</i>	<i>Gaia's revenge</i>