

ProSes Charter on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

PREAMBLE

The signatories of this Charter acknowledge the commitments stated in international treaties of which Bosnia and Herzegovina is a signatory as well as other relevant international documents and confirm their willingness to support the project's approach.

REFERENCES – INTERNATIONAL

- 1) *“Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. The global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response. [...] The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects.”*
(United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, New York, 1992, ratified by BIH in 2000)
- 2) *“The increase in the global average temperature should be held to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and efforts pursued to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.”*
(Paris agreement 2015, ratified by BIH in 2017)
- 3) *“Urgent action is needed to combat climate change and its impacts. Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters should be strengthened in all countries. Climate change measures should be integrated into national policies, strategies and planning. Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning should be improved.”*
(UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, goal 13, New York, 2015)
- 4) *“To address the challenges in health, environment and climate change, governments, society and individuals will all need to continue to rethink the way we live, work, produce, consume and govern. **The health sector needs to play a new role to drive this transformation, using a sustainable and equitable approach, and socially-just transition.**”*
(WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020)
- 5) *“Nurses can make a powerful contribution to both mitigate climate change and to support people and communities around the world to adapt to its impacts.”*
(Position Statement of the International Council of Nurses, 2008)

REFERENCES – BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

- 1) *"By 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina will become a sustainable and advanced green economy. The strategic objective is to increase resilience of Bosnia and Herzegovina to climate variability and climate change, while preventing environmental degradation, as well as gradual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.*

The negative consequences of climate change are already visible in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their impact will increase.

The main expected impacts of climate change that cause high vulnerability in the health sector are: increasing mortality and changes in the epidemiology of chronic non-communicable diseases and acute infectious diseases, and the impact on the epidemiology of diseases related to climatological factors. Diseases caused by environmental, as well as meteorological and climatological factors, significantly contribute to the burden on the health of the population and the health system itself because they lead to high health care costs and overexploitation of key potentials, prevent optimal health and well-being, and undermine social and economic development.

Climate change affects vulnerable population groups the most.

Laws on healthcare and laws on the protection of the population from infectious diseases in Bosnia and Herzegovina oblige public health institutions to implement preventive measures that improve the general state of health. Among other things, these preventive measures refer to the protection of the population's health from risk factors originating from the environment (contaminated water, food, air, soil, vectors of infectious diseases, etc.), including meteorological and climatological factors (extreme heat, cold, changes in barometric pressure, etc.)."

(Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Emission Development Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020–2030 adopted by the Council of Ministers of BIH in 2013)

- 2) *"Involving the general public in addressing these problems is crucial if effective adaptation responses to extreme climate change are to be found. A well-informed and educated general public, who are also aware of the dangers of extreme weather conditions, can take appropriate measures to reduce their negative consequences.*

In the near future, it will be necessary to functionally adapt the country's public health system to climate change. This includes ensuring better prevention and increased efficiency of the health care system in responding to ever more frequent and extreme climate events. Priority interventions include better management of environmental determinants of health (such as water supply and sanitation), monitoring of existing and new infectious diseases and increasing the resilience of health systems to extreme weather and climate events."

(National adaptation plan Bosnia and Herzegovina with proposed measures, adopted by the Council of Ministers of BIH in 2022)

THE PROJECT'S APPROACH:

- 1) The project acknowledges that the nursing profession has a duty and can make a powerful contribution to climate change adaptation (reducing vulnerability to the harmful effects) and mitigation (reducing or preventing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions). Nurses, together with the rest of the population, bear a shared responsibility to sustain and protect the natural environment from depletion, pollution, degradation and destruction.
- 2) Therefore, the project and its partners will address the matter by:
 - a. sensitizing nurses, their leadership and associations in particular,
 - b. supporting the development of policy documents,
 - c. supporting the implementation of environmental policies,
 - d. embed climate-change related knowledge into CN nursing curricula,
 - e. build the capacity of community nurses to educate and support people and communities to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change,
 - f. limit and mitigate the project's environmental impact – assessing project's activities, use of resources and making environmentally conscious decisions.

PROJECT PARTNERS' COMMITMENTS

Within the partnership with the project, the signatories of this Charter commit to:

- 1) embed the concept of sustainability in nursing practice,
- 2) embed climate change-related knowledge into nursing curricula and in continuing education,
- 3) adopt sustainability-related measures —including energy and resource use, greenhouse gas emissions, and supply chain performance —in their practice,
- 4) make choices and make investments that have low environmental impact,
- 5) raise awareness of the health-related implications of climate change,
- 6) engage with media to promote public awareness of the harmful effects of climate change on health and to promote mitigation strategies,
- 7) educate the public about climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Signatories (institutions)

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