

Stakeholder Workshop BlueHealth Barcelona, March 13th, 2019

On Wednesday March 13th, 2019, a stakeholder workshop was organized in Barcelona by ISGlobal and RIVM at the ISGlobal Institute in Barcelona. The aim of this meeting was to validate the horizon scanning on water and health related trends that the BlueHealth project has identified. Experts and stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds (sociology, architecture, green urban planning, water management, public health, ecology) discussed future trends on BlueHealth and their potential impact on a local level, the city of Barcelona, during a workshop.

Values and important trends for Barcelona

The workshop started with a plenary presentation of the H2020 BlueHealth project and some case studies that are carried out by ISGlobal in the Barcelona region. After that, the experts were asked about their value/perspective to consider for BlueHealth futures. This inventory made it clear that there was a wide variety of perspectives among the participants, which was interesting to share and a valuable base ground for the discussions during the rest of the day. The values mentioned included climate change adaptation, equity (blue health as a tool to balance socio-cultural inequalities), quality of life and the right to act. In the next step, a broad selection of trends for prioritised according to their relevance for BlueHealth. This resulted in a ranking of all trends according to their relevance. In addition to relevancy, the uncertainty of the trend was ranked by the experts. The results were shown in a ranking of the trends for both relevancy and uncertainty. Changes in income distribution, climate change, water scarcity, changing institutional and governance structures, technology development towards smart urban water systems and increasing life expectancy were scored as the most relevant trends for Barcelona.

Discussion on future impact of trends

For the five most relevant macro-level trends the possible future impacts on a local scale were identified during interactive discussions during the second part of the workshop. The participants were asked to choose two out of the list of most relevant trends from the previous session. They were asked to reason from one perspective, for example 'environmental sustainability' or 'socio-economic equality', during a discussion on how these macro-level trends, could have an impact on the local scale in relation to BlueHealth and thus identify building blocks for BlueHealth scenarios. A set of predefined questions was used to guide this process.

Reflection and evaluation

The workshop ended with a reflection and short evaluation. The participants said they enjoyed working in such a diverse assembly, although the input from experts with an economic/ecology background was missed. The pressure of tourism that the city of Barcelona is experiencing was mentioned as important factor to take into account. The importance of clear and understandable information for citizens was seen as an important prerequisite to raise awareness for climate and health issues, given the importance of the impact of climate change for the liveability in the city and the agency that people have in influencing changes in both the transformation of the city and their own health. Participants were asked how they want to be informed or involved in next stages of the BlueHealth project. There was a lot of enthusiasm to stay connected to the project somehow and several participants express their eagerness in learning more about the knowledge that this project will produce on the relations between blue spaces and health.

The presentations, a summary of the input of the participants on the trends and the local scaling can be found are available on the BlueHealth website ([link](#)). In addition, a visualised report will be made of the workshop (this will be send around when it is finished and a link will be provided to see the result online).

Quotes of the day (used for the visualised report)

- Tourism is a big issue but not scored as such
- Tourists attract crime. Nobody is afraid at the Ramblas, but all backpacks are worn in front.
- It is the surrounding that makes you feel insecure. More about perception than actual facts.
- The issues for the oceanfront are very different from the river front.
- Access for locals: a competition for space between tourists and locals. Pay for park visits.
- The need for a better reduced use of water.
- Water quality in the river much improved, but still an issue, now you see fish.
- People prefer information from someone close to them
- Touristic use of homes: do something about AirB&B
- Urban heat island effects: there are a lot of roads in Barcelona. The city needs greening.
- Barcelona has a top down heat plan
- Escaping the city in the weekend is only for the well off, the poorer are stuck in the city.
- Blue space is an amenity that attracts people
- The people of Barceloneta feel that they don't have access to the sea