

Session proposal for the Altnet conference ' Biodiversity and Health: Time for Transformative Change' in Ghent on 13-19 June 2022

Governing system-level risks: connecting human and environmental health with other sustainable development goals

Human and environmental health ultimately depends on functioning ecosystems. The Agenda 2030 with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) capturing the different sources of human wellbeing, recognizes the dependence of social and economic development on the sustainable management of our planet's natural systems. Specifically, the Agenda 2030 states the need to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife.

The SDGs can support identifying the underlying drivers of health risks. At the same time, risk awareness and risk management are fundamental for reaching the SDGs. The Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER) has analyzed the risks of a) not reaching the intended impacts of SDGs, b) the implementation of SDGs generating unintended impacts and constraining the reaching of other SDGs, and c) complex chains of cascading impacts. The project, 'PEER Research on Sustainable Development Goals: Tackling and managing risks with SDGs (PEER-TRISD)', will host this proposed session.

PEER also has a roadmap initiative on biodiversity. With 2-3 presentations from the PEER-TRISD project, and 2-3 contributions from different sectors addressing the health-biodiversity-environment linkages (including health, health insurance, green infrastructure), this session will share approaches to risk identification, risk reduction and risk management. The key message of the session is that transformative change for sustainable development requires sensitivity to risks and cross-sector system-level risk governance.

Duration: 120 minutes

Outputs: A blog or news posting on PEER and Altnet websites

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Possible speakers include also:

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