



Competence Center
Climate and Health

Agenda
Health Promotion

Greening the Healthcare Sector Essentials and Tools for Climate-friendly and Health-promoting Healthcare Facilities in Austria

Ruperta Lichtenecker, Ph.D.

Head of Department - Competence Center Climate and Health

Austrian National Public Health Institute (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG)

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Agenda
Health Promotion

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection

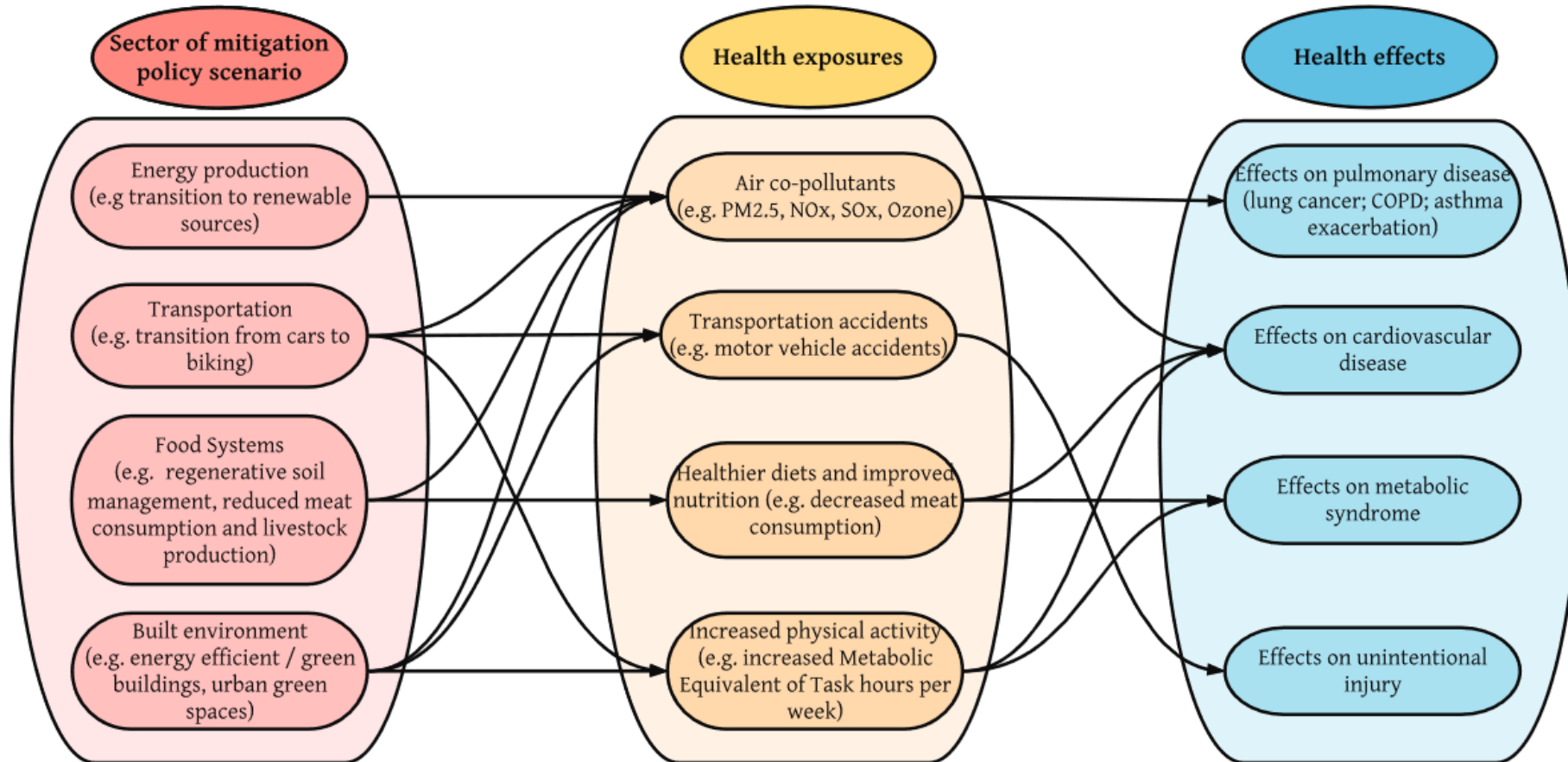
Gesundheit Österreich
GmbH 

Initial situation and targets – Climate & Health



- **"Climate change is the biggest health threat of the 21st century"** – The 2021 Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change: Code Red for a Health Future (Romanello et al. 2021)
- The **carbon footprint** of the healthcare sector is around 7% of the national footprint (Weisz et al. 2020)
- **Consequential costs** of the climate crisis are **highest in the health sector** (Steininger et al. 2020)
- There is a **lack of expertise and information** on the subject of climate neutrality in healthcare facilities (Mezger et al. 2021)
- **Sustainable Development Goals & Planetary Health, The Paris Agreement, Austrian government program 2020–2024**

Health effects of climate action



(Hess et. al, 2020)

Projects - Greening the healthcare sector



Project 'Climate friendly healthcare facilities'

Aim: In the project, healthcare facilities are supported in developing into climate-friendly facilities thus also making an important contribution to health promotion and health protection. To this end, a consulting service was developed that provides the necessary expertise, information and concrete support from a single source.



Climate Manager Training

Aim: The training contributes to the development of capacities and knowledge, which encourages the participants to support healthcare facilities on their path to climate neutrality, to reduce their consumption of resources and energy and to create a climate friendly and health-promoting environment for employees and patients.



Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System

Aim: The strategy aims to address health services to reduce their emissions and optimise their efficiency and environmental performance, in order to significantly promote the transformation to climate neutrality on a broad basis.

Project “Climate-Friendly Healthcare Facilities”



Aims:

- Providing the **necessary expertise, guidance and support to develop a carbon-neutral healthcare facility from one single source**
- **Reduction of costs and consequential costs for the healthcare facility and healthcare system as well as for society**
- **Holistic anchoring of climate protection in the organization**
- **Health promotion and health protection**
- **Climate neutrality of healthcare**
- **Strengthening secure services and resilience**

Target groups:

hospitals and rehabilitation centres, retirement homes, nursing facilities, day clinics, primary care units, doctor's offices, pharmacies

Capacity:

Pilot project 2022: **123** healthcare facilities

Follow-up project 2023: **200** healthcare facilities

77 hospitals are taking part in the project!

Project Phases

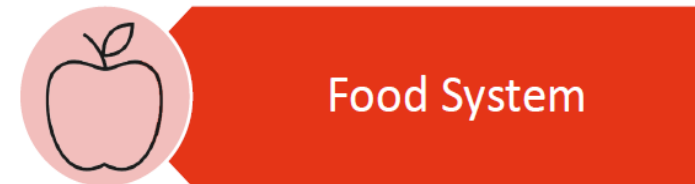
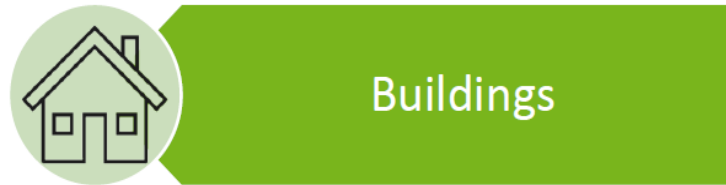


Phase 1: Document and data analysis
climate action plan with concrete goals and
measures

Phase 2: Implementation of measures and
support by consultants

Phase 3: Evaluation of climate action plan and
further development

Addressed Fields of Action



Benefit structure



- **Reduction of energy and resource consumption**
 - Contribution to cost reduction
- **Reduction of CO2 emissions**
 - Contribution to mitigating the climate crisis
 - Reduction of economic consequential costs
- **Creation of a well-founded basis for the holistic integration of climate protection in healthcare facilities**
- **Creation of a climate-friendly and health-promoting environment for employees and patients**
- **Strengthening the image of the healthcare facility**
- **Increasing attractiveness as an employer – employer branding**
- **Strengthening the resilience and security of supply**
- **Results of the evaluation are the basis for further developments and recommendations as well as the derivation of political recommendations for action**

NEW: 350 Millions Euros for Energy Efficiency in Healthcare Facilities



Building on the **results the project “Climate friendly Healthcare Facilities”** of the Competence Centre Climate and Health, the Ministry of Climate Protection (BMK) has developed two new funding schemes together with the Ministry of Health (BMSGPK) and the Competence Centre Climate and Health of Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG).

The aim is to raise energy efficiency potentials!

Target group:

- Hospitals and rehabilitation clinics
- Retirement homes and nursery facilities

The Ministry of Climate Protection has currently reserved up to 350 million euros in funding climate protection until 2030!

Climate Manager Training



Climate Manager Training



Goals

- Creation of a **training course on climate protection, climate change adaptation, climate change and health promotion**
- **Sustainable integration and anchoring of climate protection** in healthcare facilities and strengthening of resilience

Target Group

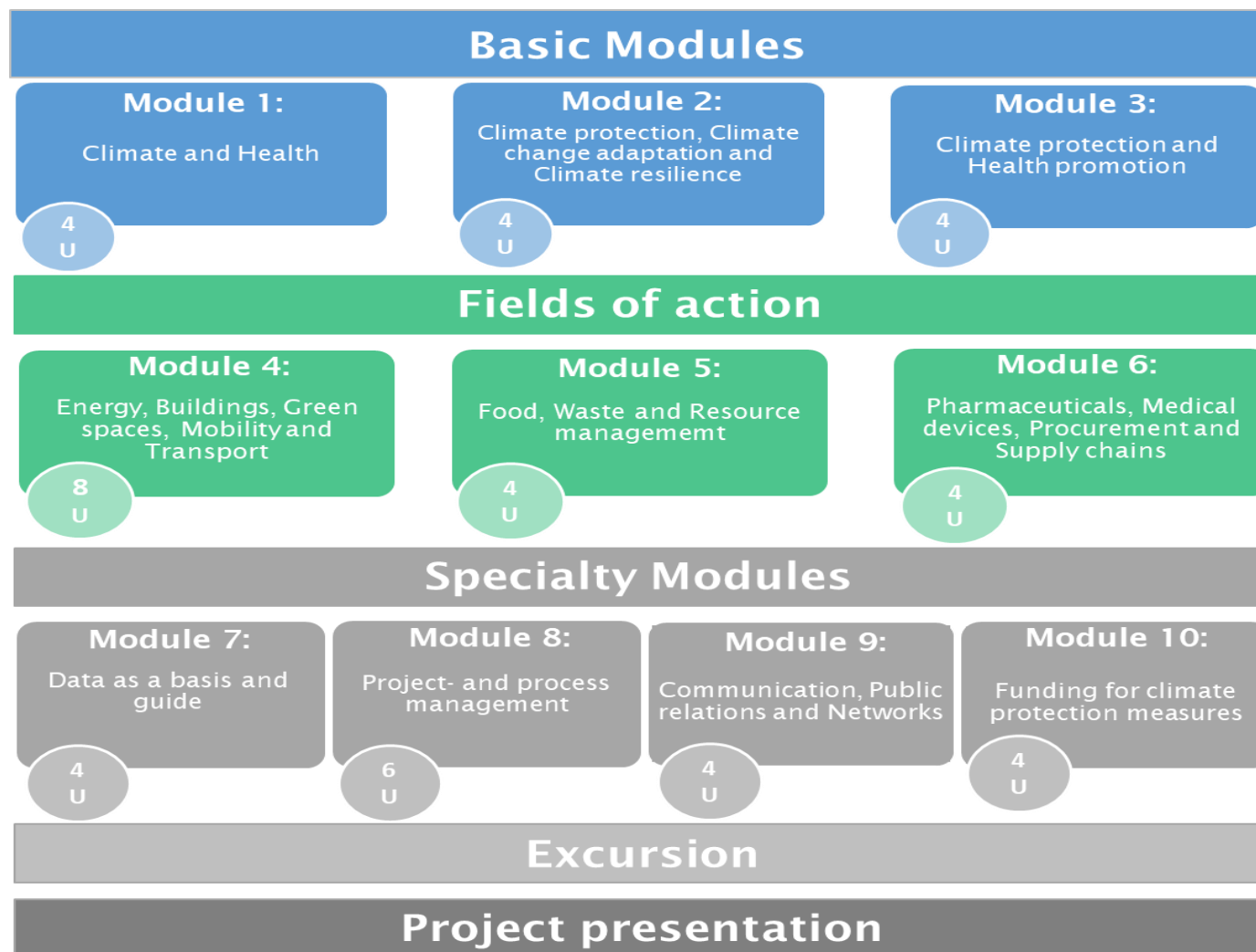
- **Employees of healthcare facilities** (hospitals, retirements homes and nursing facilities) participating in the project “climate-friendly healthcare facilities”.

Duration and type

- September 2023 – December 2023
- online learning and presence



Climate Manager Training - Modules



Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System



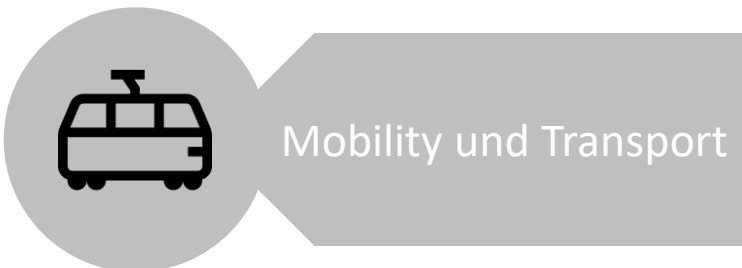
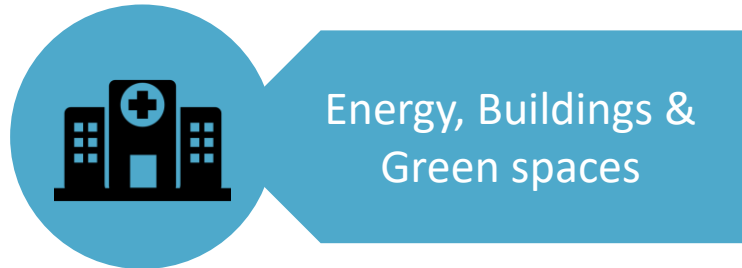
Goal

- **The strategy aims to tackle health services and to reduce their emissions**, optimize their efficiency and environmental performance, in order to significantly **promote the transformation to climate neutrality on a broad basis**.
- **Analysis and definition of the framework conditions, fields of action** and options for action for the structural anchoring of climate protection in the health care sector

Outlook

- Enquete “**Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System**” on 24th of October, 2023
- **Presentation** of the document **Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System**
- **Johannes Rauch**, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
- **Leonore Gewessler**, Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System – Action Fields



Strategy for a Climate Neutral Healthcare System – Framework Conditions



Governance



Financing and Funding



Strategic/legal framework conditions



Monitoring and Indicators



Research and Innovation



Awareness raising and Communication



Awards and Certification



Competencies



Digitalization and Telemedicine

What is necessary and what do we have to do?



- **Awareness among stakeholders**
- **Suitable framework**
- **Knowledge about how to make the health sector green and sustainable**



Climate protection is health protection

Thank you for your attention!



Ruperta Lichtenecker, Ph.D.
Head of Department
Competence Center Climate and Health

Team

Felix Durstmüller, MSc
DI Claudia Lichtblau
Sejla Mehic, MSc
DI Karin Schanes, Ph.D.
Mag. Michaela Truppe
Kristof Veitschegger, Ph.D.

Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
Stubenring 6
1010 Wien
T: +43 676 848 191 - 458
ruperta.lichtenecker@goeg.at
www.goeg.at



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