



**World
Physiotherapy**
Europe region

Sustainable Development Goals Related Terminology

Professional Practice Working Group (PPWG)

APPROVED

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATED TERMINOLOGY

Europe Region

Professional Practice Working Group

The Professional Practice Working Group in continuing to work on the document approved at the 2022 General Meeting - 'Harmonisation of Sustainable Development Goals within the physiotherapy profession' created an annex with related definitions and additional explanations in relation to health and physiotherapy. If approved by the General Meeting, the terminology will be added as an annex to the above document.

TERM	DEFINITION
Sustainable Development	Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", as stated in the United Nations report (1987) "Our Common Future", also known as the Brundtland Report ¹ . The concept of sustainable development has a focus on economic and social development and environmental protection for future generations.
<i>Reference: The World Commission on Environment and Development special working session</i>	
Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all the member states of the United Nations in 2015. The agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), defined in 169 targets. These goals are integrated and inseparable and include all 3 domains of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.
<i>Reference: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i>	
Sustainable Healthcare	Sustainable healthcare is a health system that maintains or restores health for current generations while minimising harm to the environment and ensuring the health of future generations. An environmentally sustainable healthcare system offers high quality services in the present without compromising the ability to meet the health needs of the future.
<i>References: Sustainability in quality improvement: redefining value Planetary health care: a framework for sustainable health systems</i>	

TERM	DEFINITION
Physiotherapy in Sustainable Healthcare	Evidence-based physiotherapy could contribute to sustainable healthcare for example by focusing on prevention and patient empowerment which lessen the burden of disease and disability of people (the social dimension of sustainability). This also reduces the need for resource intensive healthcare consumption, which constitutes high greenhouse gas emissions, and thereby physiotherapy contributes to the environmental dimension of sustainability. Also, evidence-based physiotherapy provides non-pharmacological and non-invasive interventions, which are low in greenhouse gas emissions compared with the high emissions of pharmaceuticals and surgery.
<i>References: World Physiotherapy statement on climate change and health A Call to Include a Perspective of Sustainable Development in Physical Therapy Research Sustainability in physiotherapy and rehabilitation Physiotherapy and ecosystem services: improving the health of our patients, the population, and the environment</i>	
Climate Change and Health	Climate change, mainly due to greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, is affecting the biophysical earth systems. The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change states that climate change constitutes the greatest global threat to human health during this century.
<i>References: Planetary boundaries: guiding human development on a changing planet Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health</i>	
Lean Service Delivery in Healthcare	Lean service delivery is providing services where people need them and streamlining care to minimise low value activity.
<i>Reference: Sustainability in quality improvement: redefining value</i>	
Low-carbon alternatives in Healthcare	Preferential use of effective treatment and medical technologies with lower environmental impact such as minimising waste of medications, consumables and energy.
<i>Reference: Sustainability in quality improvement: redefining value</i>	

TERM	DEFINITION
Environmental Impact of Healthcare	Globally, the health sector contributes to around 4.4% of global emissions of greenhouse gases. It looks a little different depending on which country. When comparing different sectors within the health sector, medical retailers (including pharmaceuticals) and hospitals are the largest emitters. The sector which contributes the least is preventive care, because it is resource efficient but it is also under prioritised.
<p><i>References: Health Care's Climate Foot-Print: How the Health Sector Contributes to the Global Climate Crisis and Opportunities for Action</i> <i>International comparison of health care carbon footprints</i> <i>The carbon footprint of healthcare settings: A systematic review</i></p>	
Planetary Health	Planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends. For example, in addition to climate change, other environmental changes have a great negative impact on human health. Pollutants in air, soil and water cause more deaths than AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria combined.
<p><i>References: The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health</i> <i>The Lancet Commission on pollution and health</i></p>	

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