



Climate Crises Associated with Epidemiological, Environmental, and Ecosystem Effects of the Storm, from Flooding, Landslides, and Damage to Urban and Rural Areas (Extreme Weather Events Daniel in Thessaly, Greece).

Ioannis Adamopoulos, Aikaterini Frantzana and Niki Syrou

EasyChair preprints are intended for rapid dissemination of research results and are integrated with the rest of EasyChair.

October 9, 2023

Climate crises associated with Epidemiological, Environmental, and ecosystem effects of the storm, from flooding, landslides, and damage to urban and rural areas (extreme weather events Daniel in Thessaly, Greece).[†]

Ioannis Adamopoulos^{1,2}, * Aikaterini Frantzana^{3,4}, and Niki Syrou^{5,6}

¹ Research Center of Excellence in Risk and Decision Sciences CERIDES, Nicosia, Cyprus

² Region of Attica, Department of Environmental Hygiene and Public Health Inspections, Athens, Greece

³ Department of Health Sciences, European University Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus; mokaterinna1986@yahoo.gr

⁴ George Papanikolaou General Hospital of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

⁵ Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Thessaly, Karies, Greece; nikisyrou@uth.gr

⁶ School of Medicine, E.K.P.A., National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Zografou, Greece

* Correspondence: adamopoul@gmail.com

Abstract:

Background: Managing the effects of climate crises and disasters is essential. These effects can have a considerable influence on public health. The issue of climate change in relation to epidemiological models and policy about climate factors, such as temperature, precipitation, and humidity, and health results.

Methodology: To find patterns and connections between climatic factors and health outcomes, analyze historical data. In order to simulate the spread of illnesses, use epidemiological models. Include climate variables as inputs to these models to determine their effect on the spread of disease.

Results: Examine the current public health regulations concerning epidemiology and climate change. Establish new policies or revise existing ones to address the issues found to protect public health about preventive measures.

Conclusions: Immediate efforts are needed to save human lives and protect vulnerable wildlife and public health. Conduct ecological assessments to understand the extreme weather events (Daniel) in extent of the damage. Monitor ecosystem recovery and adapt management strategies as needed, disaster preparedness to reduce future risks.

Keywords: *Public Health; Climate Crises; Extreme Weather Events; Daniel in Thessaly; Epidemiological Effects; Environmental Ecosystem.*

1. Introduction

Several challenges are now affecting public health. The effects of climate change are becoming more widespread. As a result, a number of issues with relation to human health and water resources have emerged. In order to promote more sustainable behavioral choices and enhance public health, it is essential to reexamine the relationship between climate change and the environment[1]. The link between people and the environment must be reevaluated, and more sustainable behavioral choices

must be encouraged. Data from science shows that new constantly emerging [2]. When people, animals, and the environment interact intricately, pathogens with a high potential for epidemics and pandemics commonly result [2]. Additionally, bigger investments must be made to make the best use of the water resources already in place and conserve a lot of potable water [3]. The Hellenic National Meteorological Service called Storm Daniel after the country where it formed. Storm Daniel began to resemble a Medicane as it made its way toward Libya. This hybrid phenomena demonstrates traits from both mid-latitude storms and tropical cyclones. Storm Daniel reportedly dropped 750 mm of rain in 24 hours at a station in the hamlet of Zagora, Greece, on the night of September 5-7. This is comparable to nearly 18 months' worth of rainfall. Many stations in Thessaly, central Greece, recorded 400 to 600 mm of rain in a 48-hour period. Greece's agricultural center is Thessaly, hence negative economic effects are anticipated to be significant. Many people lost their lives. On rooftops, many individuals sought safety. Storm Daniel, which produced heavy rains, struck sections of the central and eastern Mediterranean, causing disastrous flooding and a great loss of life in Libya, which was the worst-affected nation, as well as in Greece, Turkey, and Bulgaria. Greece was facing the largest wildfire in Europe's history, which wreaked havoc in the nation's northeast. The calamities are the latest in a string of catastrophic events that have recently destroyed lives and livelihoods in numerous nations around the world. It is anticipated that as the world warms, we will see more extreme rainfall events, which will increase the severity of flooding. More moisture can be held in a warmer environment. As a result, precipitation events whether they involve rain, snow, or hail are more powerful and may cause greater floods in a warmer environment. More than 80% of the moisture in clouds, and much more in tropical cyclones, comes from the ocean. This implies that hurricanes will intensify as oceans warm up. Amounts of rainfall between 700 and 800 mm in 24 hours have been recorded for the first time thanks to the slow-moving system's continuous and powerful thunderstorms. It is important to note that these unprecedented rainfall accumulations are 10- to 15-times greater than the usual for the entire month of September and are at or beyond the annual output. In Thessaly, particularly on the seaside town of Volos, where fatalities have been reported on Tuesday, such heavy precipitation has caused devastating flash floods. Water contamination is a result of environmental changes and a changing climate in general. Unforeseen events like pandemics can also exacerbate existing conditions and result in a situation that is challenging to rectify for public health [4]. When there are no renewable water sources or in places with high amounts of contaminated water, using conventional and unconventional water resources may be able to assist alleviate the issue [5].

2. The results and purpose of this study

Aimed to examine how epidemiological models and policies might be affected by addressing a climate issue that is linked to the environmental and ecological components. Understanding and minimizing these effects are essential. Climate crises and disasters can have serious repercussions on public health. Additionally, the identification and documentation of current issues with water resource management brought on by both climate change and the human aspect. Flooding, landslides, and destruction to both urban and rural regions are among of the storm's epidemiological, environmental, and ecosystem repercussions severe weather events Daniel in Thessaly, Greece. The hydrologic reaction of the main local watercourses, including the Acheloos, Pineios, Spercheios, and Kifissos rivers, is still underway. The EFAS system's estimates predict extremely high flood peaks, over the 100-year return period, which might potentially damage the key urban districts in the area. Thessaly's capital city of Larissa, which is home to 150,000 people, has been experiencing flooding of the Pineios River since of September 6, while Lamia, a city of 75,000 people in Central Greece, has been experiencing flooding of the Spercheios River. Showing in figures 1,2, the impact of chain hydrograph for the hydrological section of Larissa, Pineios river, and in Thessaly Geographical wide range in the projected population[6,7].

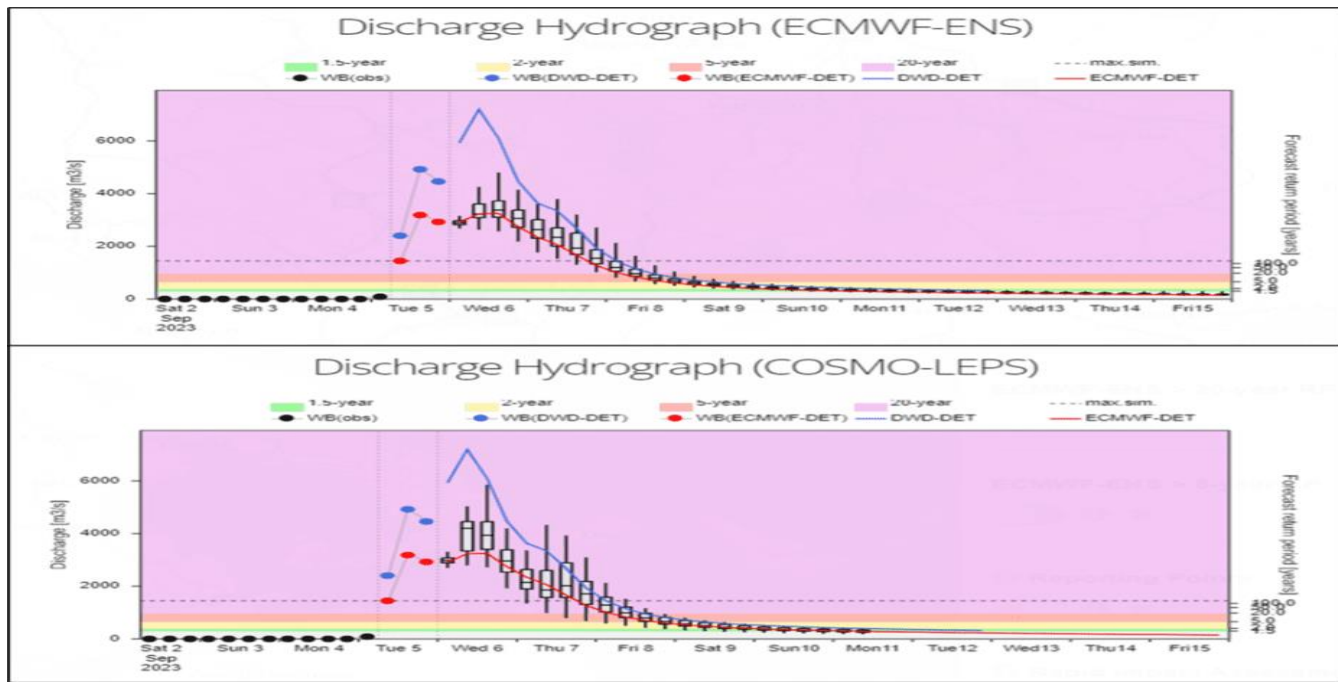


Figure 1. EFAS chain hydrograph for the hydrological section of Larissia, Pineios river, [6].

Despite the reasonably consistent hydrological estimates, there is still a wide range in the projected population that could be impacted, which is between 5,000 and 25,000 in Thessaly and Central Greece combined, mostly depending on how well the flood defenses are working. Storm Daniel, which is currently battering Greece, has dumped precipitation volumes that are on par with or even higher than the annual leading to significant flash floods.

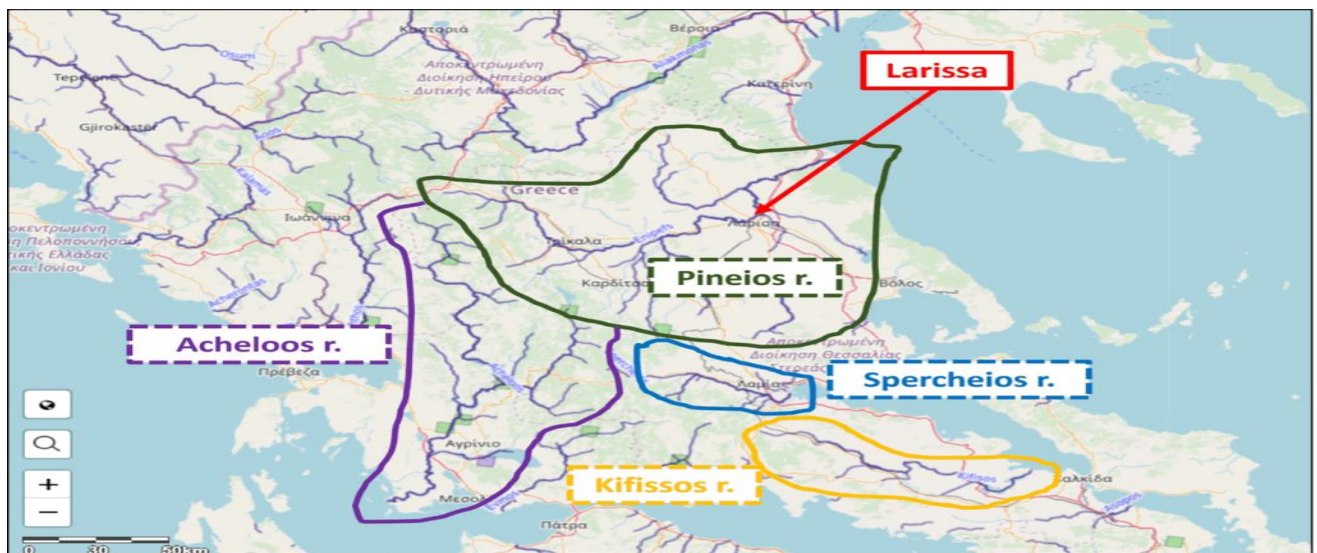


Figure 2. European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), Pineios, Acheloos, and Spercheios river in Thessaly Geographical wide range in the projected population, [7].

Addressing a climate crisis associated with the environmental and ecosystem dimensions in epidemiology models and policies. Climate crisis and disasters can have significant impacts on public health, and understanding and mitigating these effects is crucial.

2.1 Extreme Weather

Climate crises and climate change are one specific category of extreme weather—tropical cyclones and hurricanes—have already been discussed. Consider other severe weather events and potential links to climate change showing in figure 3 the impact of extreme weather the demonstration of how a shift in average temperature influences the frequency of extreme heat[8].

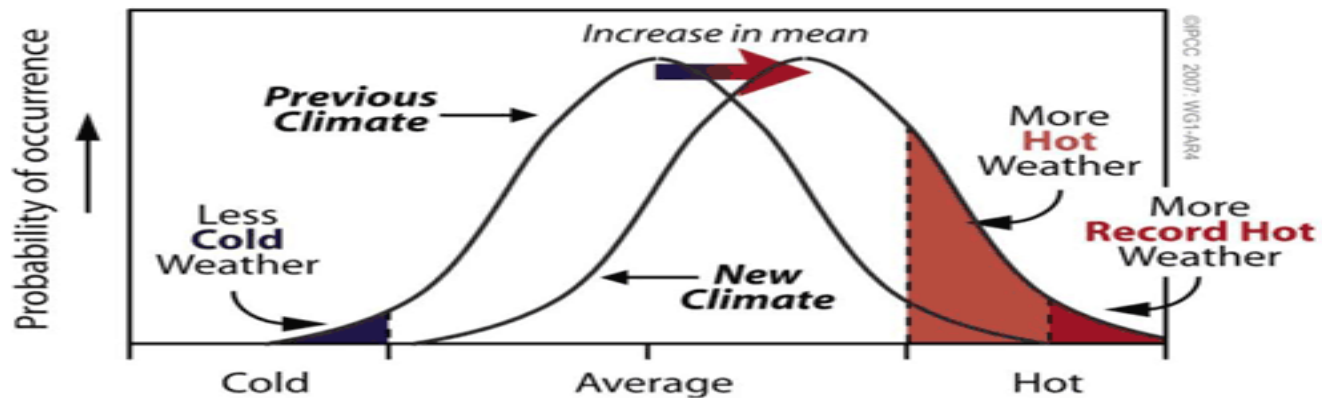


Figure 3. Demonstration of How A Shift in Average Temperature Influences the Frequency of Extreme Heat,[8].

3. The methodology to address this study:

It takes time and effort to address the problems with the health effects of climate change-Crises. It necessitates cross-disciplinary cooperation, data-driven decision-making, and adaptation to changing climatic conditions. In order to properly handle this dilemma, models and policies must be regularly reviewed and updated.

- Identifying the climate-related problem in the context of epidemiology models and policies.
- Is it an increase in vector-borne diseases, heat-related illnesses, or other health impacts.
- Collect relevant data on climate variables (temperature, precipitation, humidity) and health outcomes.
- Analyze historical data to identify trends and correlations between climate variables and health outcomes.
- Use epidemiological models to simulate the spread of diseases.
- Integrate climate variables as inputs into these models to assess their impact on disease transmission.
- Understand the ecological changes resulting from climate change, such as shifts in vector habitats, altered migration patterns, and changes in species distribution.
- Incorporate these ecological factors into your models to account for their influence on disease transmission.

3.1 Policy Analysis and Development, and Adaptation Strategies:

- *Review existing public health policies related to climate change and epidemiology.*
- *Develop or update policies that address the identified issues.*
- *Include strategies for vector control, heat adaptation, or improved healthcare infrastructure.*
- *Involve relevant stakeholders, including public health agencies, environmental organizations, and local communities, in the policy development process.*
- *Seek input and support from experts in epidemiology, ecology, and climate science.*
- *Develop strategies to mitigate the health impacts of climate change, such as promoting clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing healthcare resilience.*
- *Implement adaptation strategies, such as early warning systems for heatwaves or improved disease surveillance.*

3.2 Monitoring Education, and Evaluation:

- *Continuously monitor the effectiveness of policies and interventions.*
- *Adjust your strategies based on emerging data and changing climate patterns.*
- *Raise public awareness about the health risks associated with climate change-crisis-disasters.*
- *Educate public health inspectors, environmental officers, and healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public about preventive measures.*
- *Collaborate with local, national, and international organizations to advocate for climate-resilient health systems and policies.*
- *Provide information's training public about findings and best practices with the global health community.*

3.3 General guidance environmental and ecosystem in the context of epidemiology models and public health policies:

- *Gather data on the environmental and ecosystem impacts of the storm, such as flooding, landslides, and damage to natural habitats.*
- *Assess the immediate and long-term effects on ecosystems, including disruptions to local wildlife and ecosystems.*
- *Utilize epidemiological models to assess the health impacts of the disaster. Identify potential disease outbreaks or health risks associated with flooding and damage to infrastructure.*
- *Implement health surveillance systems to monitor for disease outbreaks and health issues resulting from the disaster.*
- *Develop and implement a rapid response plan to address immediate health needs, including medical care for injuries and waterborne diseases.*

- *Prioritize and implement environmental remediation efforts to restore affected ecosystems and reduce long-term ecological damage.*
- *Consider ecological restoration projects that aim to rehabilitate damaged habitats.*
- *Review and update existing climate resilience plans and policies for the region to account for the increased risk of extreme weather events like Ianos, Daniel.*
- *Include strategies for mitigating and adapting to future disasters, such as improved flood management and early warning systems.*
- *Evaluate the effectiveness of policies and interventions and adjust them as necessary.*
- *Encourage research on the long-term impacts of the disaster on the environment, ecosystems, and public health.*
- *Share research findings and data with relevant authorities and organizations to inform future policies and disaster preparedness.*

4. The environmental and ecosystem impacts of a storm Daniel. :

Access water sources, they remain inactive there. As a result, water becomes increasingly contaminated, having an impact on both human health and all of a territory's flora and wildlife [9–11]. The management of public health audit services is frequently handled improperly by local or national authorities [10,12]. For the delivery of high-quality services, the maintenance of job satisfaction, and the acceptance of this joint work by the entire local and global population, it is essential to educate and inspire public health personnel. Political actions have an impact on and exacerbate employee fatigue because it is regularly seen [13–15].

- **Loss of Life:** Flooding can result in the loss of human and animal life, as individuals and wildlife may become trapped or swept away by floodwaters.
- **Water Pollution:** Floodwaters often carry contaminants, including sewage, chemicals, and debris, which can contaminate water sources and harm aquatic ecosystems.
- **Habitat Disruption:** Flooding disrupts terrestrial and aquatic habitats, displacing animals and altering the availability of food and shelter.
- **Soil Erosion:** Intense flooding can erode soil, leading to reduced agricultural productivity and increased sedimentation in water bodies.:
- **Habitat Destruction:** Landslides can destroy forests, wetlands, and other natural habitats, leading to the loss of biodiversity.
- **Sediment Runoff:** Landslides often result in the rapid movement of sediments, which can clog rivers and streams, impacting aquatic ecosystems.
- **Increased Erosion:** Landslides can increase soil erosion in affected areas, further degrading the landscape.
- **Loss of Biodiversity:** The destruction of natural habitats, including forests, wetlands, and coastal areas, can lead to the loss of plant and animal species.

- **Disruption of Ecosystem Services:** Natural habitats provide essential ecosystem services, such as water purification and climate regulation. Damage to these habitats can disrupt these services.
- **Invasive Species:** Storms can facilitate the spread of invasive species into damaged ecosystems, further threatening native flora and fauna.
- **Long-Term Effects:** It can take years or even decades for ecosystems to fully recover from the damage caused by storms, impacting the resilience of these systems.

5. To address response efforts :

- **Search and Rescue Operations:** Immediate efforts to save human lives and protect vulnerable wildlife.
- **Cleanup and Restoration:** Removal of debris and contaminants from floodwaters and restoration of affected natural habitats.
- **Erosion Control:** Implementation of erosion control measures to prevent further soil erosion and sedimentation.
- **Monitoring and Research:** Ongoing monitoring of affected ecosystems to assess recovery progress and research to understand the long-term impacts.
- **Policy and Planning:** Development or revision of policies related to land use, floodplain management, and disaster preparedness to reduce future risks.

6. Conclusions

All actions should be carried out with consideration for the interconnectedness of human and ecological systems, with the goal of restoring both the environment and the communities that depend on it. Additionally, climate change, crises, and disasters, adaptation strategies should be integrated to build resilience to future extreme weather events like storms. Ultimately, a holistic approach that considers both the immediate and long-term consequences of storms on ecosystems is crucial for preserving biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the overall health of the environment. To address these immediate and long-term effects on ecosystems, it is essential. Prioritize habitat restoration and protection efforts. Conduct ecological assessments to understand the extent of damage. Implement conservation measures for endangered and vulnerable species. Monitor ecosystem recovery and adapt management strategies as needed. Promote sustainable land use and disaster preparedness to reduce future risks. Finally to engage in public awareness and education campaigns to highlight the importance of ecosystem conservation.

Author Contributions: Conception, A.I. and S.N.; materials and methods, A.I. and S.N.; software, S.N. and A.I. ; validation, A.I., F.A., and S.N.; formal analysis, A.I.; investigation, A.I. and S.N.; resources, A.I.; data curation, A.I.; writing—original draft preparation, A.I., F.A., and S.N.; writing—review and editing, A.I., S.N., and F.A.; visualization, A.I., F.A. and S.N., supervision, A.I.; project administration, A.I.; funding acquisition, A.I. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Informed Consent Statement: Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Data Availability Statement: Data is unavailable due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

Conflicts of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

References

1. Adamopoulos, I.; Frantzana, A.; Adamopoulou, J.; Syrou, N. Climate Change and Adverse Public Health Impacts on Human Health and Water Resources. *Environ. Sci. Proc.* **2023**, *26*, 178. <https://doi.org/10.3390/environsciproc2023026178>
2. Adamopoulos IP, Frantzana AA, Syrou NF. Epidemiological surveillance and environmental hygiene, SARS-CoV-2 infection in the community, urban wastewater control in Cyprus, and water reuse. *J CONTEMP STUD EPIDEMIOL PUBLIC HEALTH.* **2023**;4(1):ep23003. <https://doi.org/10.29333/jconseph/12948>
3. Adamopoulou, J.P.; Frantzana, A.A.; Adamopoulos, I.P. Addressing water resource management challenges in the context of climate change and human influence. *Eur. J. Sustain. Dev. Res.* **2023**, *7*, em0223. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ejosdr/13297>
4. Duan, Q.; Duan, A. The energy and water cycles under climate change. *Natl. Sci. Rev.* **2020**, *7*, 553–557.
5. Mohsen, M.S.; Al-Jayyousi, O.R. Brackish water desalination: An alternative for water supply enhancement in Jordan. *Desalination* **1999**, *124*, 163–174.
6. EuropeanFloodAwarenessSystem:<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/newsletter/166/meteorology/major-upgrade-european-flood-awareness-system>,(accessed on 09 September 2023).
7. World Meteorological Organization: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/storm-daniel-leads-extreme-rain-and-floods-mediterranean-heavy-loss-of-life-libya>,(accessed on 08 September 2023).
8. IPCC 4th Assessment Report, Working Group 1 Report, <https://www.e-education.psu.edu/meteo469/book/export/html/133>, ,(accessed on 06 September 2023).
9. Finotti AR, Susin N, Finkler R, Silva MD, Schneider VE. Development Of A Monitoring Network Of Water Resources In Urban Areas As A Support For Municipal Environmental Management. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment* [Internet]. 2014 May 26 [cited 2023 Feb 12];182:133–43. Available from: <http://www.witpress.com/elibrary/wit-transactions-on-ecology-and-the-environment/182/26187>
10. Shuster WD, Bonta J, Thurston H, Warnemuende E, Smith DR. Impacts of impervious surface on watershed hydrology: A review. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15730620500386529> [Internet]. 2007 Dec [cited 2023 Feb 6];2(4):263–75. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15730620500386529>
11. Batten L, Rottle ND. Reclaiming urban waterfronts through green stormwater solutions. *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability.* **2012**;7(6):251–69.
12. Grimm NB, Faeth SH, Golubiewski NE, Redman CL, Wu J, Bai X, et al. Global change and the ecology of cities. *Science (1979)* [Internet]. 2008 Feb 8 [cited 2023 Feb 6];319(5864):756–60. Available from: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.1150195>
13. Adamopoulos, I.P.; Syrou, N.F.; Lamnisis, D.; Boustras, G. Cross-sectional nationwide study in occupational safety & health: Inspection of job risks context, burn out syndrome and job satisfaction of public health inspectors in the period of the COVID-19 pandemic in Greece. *Saf. Sci.* **2023**, *158*, 105960. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2022.105960>.
14. Adamopoulos, I. P. (2022c). Job satisfaction in public health care sector, measures scales and theoretical background. *The European Journal of Environment and Public Health*, *6*(2), em0116. <https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/12187>
15. Adamopoulos, I. P., Lamnisis, D., Syrou, N. F., & Boustras, G. (2022b). Public health and work safety pilot study: Inspection of job risks, burn out syndrome and job satisfaction of public health inspectors in Greece. *Safety Science*, *147*, 105592. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2021.105592>