

**The Lancet Migration European Hub - *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe* (TLRHE)
Commission on
Climate Change, Migration, Displacement and Health**

**Terms of Reference (ToR) for Commissioners
2025-2026**

Introduction:

This Commission was launched in 2024 by *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe* and as of July 2025 is co-chaired by the Lancet Migration European Regional Hub co-chairs, Professor Bernadette Kumar (Norwegian Institute of Public Health) and Professor Karl Blanchet (Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva).

This Commission aims to: 1) address a major unmet need by providing evidence on the nexus between climate change, migration, and health; and 2) recognize and raise awareness of the importance of understanding their interconnectedness for the development of policies and appropriate responses across the WHO European region.

The Commission Mandate:

The Commission will primarily function as a science-led, multidisciplinary academic collegium, responsible for reviewing the current global and European situation with most urgent needs and gaps in research, policy and practice. The Commission will advance current scientific evidence, including original work, inquiry, and developing responses to this urgent, and understudied, health dilemma. The Commission will address existing concepts and develop actionable recommendations on policies and practices to be prioritized on the European and global level.

“Commissioners have the ability to make a commission sink or swim—the right commissioners will become champions and ambassadors of the work before, during and after the launch of the report itself”

The main roles and responsibilities of the Commissioners will be:

1. Identify and select priority topics and populations to meet the overall aims of the Commission
2. Identify and develop research questions and sub objectives to meet the overall objectives
3. Review and share scientific evidence, best policies and practices at the European and global level
4. Lead and support data collection and analysis as required to address the research questions

5. Undertake the drafting of sections and chapters, as per the expertise and tasks assigned not only within the working group but also across the working groups when required to ensure synergies
6. Review and comment upon various sections of the Commission report
7. Contribute to the planning and implementation of Commission activities including meetings, webinars, and publications
8. Recruit and mentor the next generation by choosing and working with a younger colleague (e.g., PhD student, young faculty member)
9. Advocate for the adoption of the Commission recommendations by international, regional, and national bodies
10. Propose mechanisms to holding institutions accountable (an accountability framework)

Membership:

The Commission will include approximately 20 senior and independent experts from primary academia and think-tanks, who are actively engaged in research, policy and practice regarding the Commission's main work areas. Members will be diverse in terms of gender, geography, and field of expertise.

Authorship

The Commission will adhere strictly to the ICMJE guidelines

<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

In particular, we will emphasize the following criteria

- I. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- II. Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- III. Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- IV. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved

Editors and the Co-Chairs will finalize the authorship based on contribution and follow the authorship regulations as per the journal. All contributions will also be acknowledged in the report.

Secretariat Roles

The Commission Secretariat will be responsible for the preparation of agendas, minutes of meetings and for the distribution of any materials before the Plenary (all commissioners), Steering Committee (WG Leads and Advisory) and Editorial meetings).

The Secretariat under the leadership of the Co-Chairs will be responsible for the overall draft of the report.

Meetings

- Plenary meetings will be held at least 3 times during the Commission period
- Steering Committee Meetings will be held at 6-week intervals
- The secretariat and working groups will decide on their own meeting frequency.

Decision-Making:

Decisions on the Commission Report including drafts, recommendations, other publications, reviewer comments will be based on a consensus among the Commissioners (agreement of most of the experts with minority objections as a result of discussion). When consensus cannot be found, the Co-Chairs will make the final decisions.

Deliverables:

- Midterm Progress reports from Working Groups (due October 2025)
- Research Questions and Chapter outlines (October 2025)
- Draft reviews, case studies, data analysis
- Draft of sections, case studies, chapters (ongoing to April 2026)
- Comments on first Draft commission Report
- Comments Final report of the Commission
- Related scientific publications
- Review and respond to reviewer comments
- At least two high level webinars
- At least one in-person panel at a major global event
- At least one international online workshop/ training for young researchers
- Creation of an international network of young scholars