

**Re: Inclusion of Sustainability and Planetary Health within the European Common Training Framework for Physiotherapists**

We respectfully urge the inclusion of explicit competencies relating to planetary health and sustainability within the proposed European Common Training Framework (CTF) for Physiotherapists.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are increasingly recognised as major threats to human health and health system resilience, including across Europe and within physiotherapy practice [1,2]. Physiotherapists will increasingly encounter the consequences of environmental change through rising burdens of cardiorespiratory disease, heat-related illness, chronic disease exacerbation, mental health impacts, and disruption to healthcare delivery [2]. A modern physiotherapy workforce must therefore be equipped to understand and respond to these challenges.

Importantly, sustainability is no longer a peripheral educational concern. The European Union has committed to embedding sustainability competencies across education through initiatives such as GreenComp: The European Sustainability Competence Framework and the broader European Education Area agenda for the green transition [3,4]. Excluding sustainability from a new EU-wide professional training framework would place physiotherapy behind wider European educational policy and societal expectations.

The physiotherapy profession itself is already moving in this direction [5,6]. As part of the Environmental Physiotherapy Association, Maric and colleagues have consistently highlighted the need for physiotherapy education to engage with planetary health, environmental stewardship, and sustainable healthcare as integral—not optional—elements of professional formation [7,8].

A Common Training Framework represents a unique opportunity to establish a future-facing standard for physiotherapy education across Europe. If the purpose of a CTF is to prepare graduates for contemporary and future practice, it would be difficult to justify omitting the defining public health challenge of our era. We therefore strongly recommend that planetary health, sustainability, and ESD competencies be explicitly incorporated within the final framework.

Yours sincerely,

**Environmental Physiotherapy Association**

**References**

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