Europe Ticker +++



Health, safety and cost of living

Why US citizens are relocating to Europe

Since Donald Trump's election victory, the number of Americans leaving the United States has increased. According to a report by *Die Welt*, relocating to Europe is becoming increasingly attractive—primarily due to lower living costs and more affordable access to healthcare in the EU rather than for political reasons. The preferred destinations of many US expatriates reportedly include Portugal and Greece. Citing a Talker Research survey, *Die Welt* reports that 17 per cent of respondents expressed a desire to move abroad, with European countries ranking especially highly. However, only two percent stated that they had concrete plans to relocate in the coming years. The main reason cited was financial pressure at home. According to the survey, 69 per cent feel that their country is "heading in the wrong direction", and 65 per cent describe the social climate in the US as "toxic".

Source: Focus, Die Welt, *Talker Research*

WHO launches commission on climate change and health

Climate risks on the rise

In response to the increasing health risks posed by climate change, the World Health Organization (WHO) has set up a pan-European committee. According to the WHO, the newly formed Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health (PECCH) will develop affordable and practical recommendations for the health sector. These include early warning systems for heatwaves, for example. The WHO notes that the European region is currently the fastest-warming area in the world. Alarmingly, one third of all global heat-related deaths occur here. Furthermore, ten per cent of urban residents in the region are at risk from flooding. The expected increase in extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels due to climate change will exacerbate the situation even further.

Source: Euronews, 12 June 2025

Boosting research in Europe

Could Europe become a magnet for scientists from the US?

The European Union is set to invest half a billion euros to strengthen research in Europe, with the aim of attracting scientists who have been alienated by the leadership of US President Donald Trump. "Science is an investment, and we need to provide the right incentives", said European commission President Ursula von der Leyen in May, when she announced the plans. Speaking at Sorbonne University in Paris, alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, she revealed that the commission will introduce a new €500 million package for the period 2025–2027 to "make Europe a magnet for researchers". Some of the funding will be allocated to "super fellowships" lasting up to seven years.

Von der Leyen confirmed that the funding already available for 2025 will be doubled immediately, with continued support secured for the following two years. A new EU budget is expected from 2028 onwards, but negotiations are still pending. Recent draft proposals have prompted concern among research institutions, which fear that critical programmes such as the €93 billion Horizon Europe initiative could be absorbed into a larger strategic fund that prioritises economic return over scientific curiosity.

Source: Spiegel Wissenschaft, *5 May 2025*

The problem of zombie publications

"Fake science" and its removal

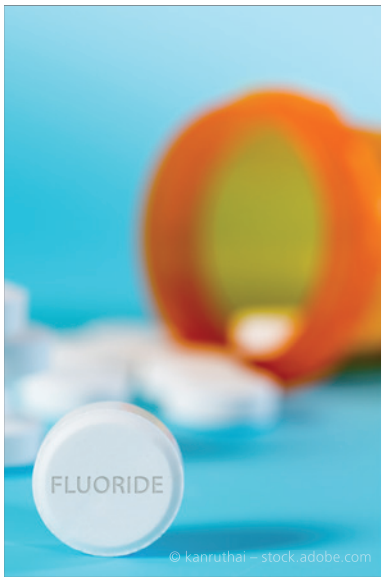


Why do studies whose findings have long been discredited continue to circulate? In theory, the retraction of a scientific publication should mark the end of its influence. In practice, however, retracted articles are often cited long after their official withdrawal—keeping questionable ideas alive despite serious doubts. The science magazine *Spektrum* refers to such publications as "zombie papers". They continue to spread misinformation and pose significant risks, such as misleading future research, distorting meta-analyses and influencing policymaking and clinical practice in harmful ways.

To assess the scale of this phenomenon, *Spektrum* conducted a study based on data from the Retraction Watch database. They analysed 25,480 retracted papers published between 1923 and 2023, covering a wide range of disciplines. Retractions may be issued by journal editors, authors or the institutions they are affiliated with. Common reasons for retraction include data errors, fraud, plagiarism or other serious issues identified after publication.

On average, 1,045 days—nearly three years—pass between publication and retraction. In extreme cases, this interval may span several decades. "Publishers, researchers and institutions must act in concert to safeguard the integrity of the scientific record and the robustness of the knowledge it produces", write study authors Valérie Mignon and Marc Joëts.

Source: Spektrum.de



Two US states withdraw

No fluoride in drinking water

The US state of Florida has now followed the state of Utah in banning fluorides from public water supply systems. According to 2022 figures, the most recent figures available from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 63 per cent of Americans receive fluoridated water through their municipal systems. In May, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it was initiating a process to remove fluoride supplements for children from the market.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in water, soil and air. It is well known for its cavity-preventing properties. For decades, it has been added to municipal water supplies and dental products such as toothpaste. Numerous studies confirm the positive effects of this trace element. According to *Spiegel Wissenschaft*, there is no real risk to bone or dental health unless an individual consumes excessive amounts of fluoride over many years.

Source: Spiegel Wissenschaft, *16 May 2025*