



*Better Health. Better Environment. Sustainable Choices.*

**Sixth Ministerial Conference  
on Environment and Health**

**EURO/Ostrava2017/8**

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## **ANNEX 2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH PROCESS**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The European Environment and Health Process (EHP) is a regional intersectoral process and platform for the development and implementation of policies advancing environment, health and well-being in the WHO European Region.
2. To ensure the achievement of the objectives of and effectively address the priorities set at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held on 13–15 June 2017 in Ostrava, Czech Republic, the institutional arrangements of the EHP are established and governed by Member States through the ministerial conferences on environmental and health and steered by them through the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Environmental Policy.
3. These arrangements are put in place in order:
  - a. to ensure appropriate coordination of actions to implement commitments;
  - b. to monitor the status of the environment and health and the effectiveness of relevant policies; and
  - c. to enable effective communication and collaboration among the Member States, and stakeholders, working together towards the agreed priorities.
4. These arrangements will continue towards the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which should not be convened before 2023 or later than 2025.

### **II. National coordinating mechanisms**

5. Each Member State will, within its own constitutional framework, establish a new mechanism or body, or designate an existing one, that will provide coordination between the health, environment and other relevant sectors and across different levels of national governance, to ensure effective implementation of the EHP commitments, sharing of information, facilitation of the participation of each Member State in EHP activities and in general the advancement of the environment and health agenda nationally.



6. The national coordination mechanism should also ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of different levels of government, as well as civil society and nongovernmental organizations, including those for young people, according to the national context.

### **III. Members and stakeholders of EHP**

7. The Members of EHP are the Member States in the WHO European Region.<sup>1</sup>
8. The stakeholders of EHP are United Nations bodies and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations, including the European Union, that so wish. Non-State actors that have a continuous, long-lasting, direct interest in and relevance to advancing the agenda of EHP in the WHO European Region, in line with the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, may also be stakeholders. Recognized stakeholders are listed in Table 1. The Environment and Health Task Force will decide on the status of other stakeholders of EHP.

### **IV. Observers of EHP**

9. Observers are other WHO Member States outside the WHO European Region. Other potential observers may be invited to participate in the activities related to EHP, as agreed by the Environment and Health Task Force Bureau.
10. The status of observer is also granted to the UNECE Member States that are not Member States in the WHO European Region<sup>2</sup> and to any entity in the Region with WHO observer status.<sup>3</sup>

### **V. EHP focal points**

11. Members and stakeholders are represented by focal points, who will represent and speak on behalf of the government of the nominating Member State or stakeholder, and who will be the primary points of communication between the EHP Secretariat and the Member State or stakeholder.
12. Member States are encouraged to appoint one focal point from the health sector and one from the environment sector. These focal points would be officials at the strategic policy and/or high technical level. Nominations should be regularly updated and communicated to the EHP Secretariat in writing without delay, and will come into force upon receipt by the EHP Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2017, the Region includes 53 Member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, these countries are: Canada, Liechtenstein and the United States of America.

<sup>3</sup> In 2017, this is the Holy See.

13. If there are more than one focal point per country or stakeholder, they will share the responsibility of representing the nominating Member State or stakeholder and will be treated equally and as one delegation.

## **VI. The European Environment and Health Task Force**

14. The EHP operates through the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF).
15. EHP Members and stakeholders are members of EHTF and participate in its work, represented by the focal points described in section V.
16. EHTF steers and supports the implementation of the commitments by:
  - a. facilitating collaboration among sectors, partners and stakeholders;
  - b. providing fora for the exchange of technical expertise and knowledge;
  - c. taking account of scientific evidence in the review of policies;
  - d. promoting collaboration with the governing bodies and secretariats of relevant multilateral environment and health agreements and policy platforms;
  - e. taking account of emerging environment and health issues, and advising on policy directions to be taken to address them;
  - f. identifying financial resources for implementation;
  - g. adopting and amending, as needed, its own rules of procedure;
  - h. reporting annually on the progress and achievements of EHP to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy; and
  - i. facilitating participation by young people's organizations.
17. EHTF prepares the next ministerial conference.
18. EHTF will meet at least annually.
19. At least one of the meetings of EHTF taking place between two ministerial conferences will be a high-level meeting with the participation of senior government officials. To facilitate their participation, consideration will be given to the possibility of holding these high-level meetings back to back to other high-level events, such as the "Environment for Europe" ministerial conferences or meetings of relevant WHO and UNECE governing bodies.
20. EHTF will be chaired by a chairperson and a co-chairperson, one from the health sector and one from the environment sector, elected at EHTF's first meeting. The duration of the chairperson's and the co-chairperson's term is one (1) year or until a new chairperson and co-chairperson have been elected at the EHTF meeting following the completion of this one-year period. To ensure continuity, the co-chairperson will become the chairperson at the end of his or her one-year term of office, and a new co-chairperson will be elected. The chairperson, co-chairperson and the previous chairperson will be ex-officio members of the EHTF Bureau.
21. To support the implementation of the commitments made at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, EHTF may establish working groups with a specific mandate given by EHTF and based on nominations received from Member States and stakeholders. This includes in particular:
  - a. the Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC), which will facilitate dialogue among Member States in the WHO European Region and other stakeholders, as well as

communication and implementation of commitments to protect health from the adverse effects of climate change; and

- b. the working group for collaboration among subnational and local authorities, Member States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and agencies and nongovernmental organizations, which will advance the implementation of the commitments made at the Sixth Ministerial Conference at the subnational level by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience, promoting the development of partnerships and enhancing policy coherence and synergy.

## **VII. The EHTF Bureau**

22. EHTF will elect a Bureau that will support its chairperson and co-chairperson between meetings and steer the preparations for EHTF meetings, including the high-level meetings of EHP.
  - a. The Bureau formulates an intersessional work plan to guide the work of the EHP Secretariat between the meetings of EHTF. The intersessional work plan will include a resource plan for its implementation, providing an estimate of the financial needs to be met, based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat.
23. The EHTF Bureau will consist of:
  - a. representatives of eight Member States elected by EHTF, including the EHTF chairperson, co-chairperson and immediate past chairperson;
  - b. one representative each of UNECE, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WHO;
  - c. two representatives of the stakeholders listed in III.8 other than those listed above, agreed among the stakeholders themselves.
24. The mandate of the EHTF Bureau members is three (3) years. Representatives of Member States can be elected to the EHTF Bureau for a maximum of two consecutive mandates.
25. The EHTF Bureau is led by the chairperson and co-chairperson of the EHTF.
26. The EHTF Bureau operates in line with the EHTF rules of procedure to the extent that they are applicable. All EHTF members will be informed of Bureau meetings, and will have the opportunity to participate if they wish.
27. The EHTF Bureau will meet in person at least once per year and will otherwise work mostly through remote connections.

## **VIII. EHP Secretariat<sup>4</sup>**

28. Member States invite the WHO Regional Office for Europe to continue to provide Secretariat services to the EHP. They also invite the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the UNECE Executive Committee, through the Committee on Environmental Policy, to consider establishing a joint EHP Secretariat, supported by adequate human and financial resources. The Secretariat will closely collaborate with UNEP through its Europe office.

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<sup>4</sup> In the event that WHO and UNECE provide a joint secretariat, the status of UNECE as a member of the Task Force and the Bureau will be revisited.

## IX. Transitional arrangements

29. The institutional arrangements for EHP will be submitted for review and decision to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and the UNECE Committee on Environment Policy in 2017.
30. These institutional arrangements will come into force on 1 January 2018 and will replace the institutional framework agreed at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2010.
31. The EHP Secretariat will request nominations of focal points no later than the end of 2017, and the Members and stakeholders should nominate their focal points within three months, in line with this Annex.
32. The first meeting of EHTF will be convened no later than one (1) year after the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. The chairperson and co-chairperson of the EHTF will be interim chairperson and co-chairperson of the renewed EHTF until its first meeting in 2018, and the election of the new chairperson and co-chairperson.

**Table 1. Stakeholders of EHP, 2017**

Type	Stakeholders
a. United Nations	UNECE; UNEP, represented by its Europe office; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; WHO; the World Meteorological Organization; the United Nations Development Programme
b. Intergovernmental and international organizations, conventions and platforms	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC); the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) and the Protocol on Water and Health, represented by their chairpersons
c. European Union (EU)	Represented by the European Commission
d. Nongovernmental organizations and civil society representatives	European Ecoforum; the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL); the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC)
e. Other	The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE); the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and Regions for Health Network; and representatives of other subnational levels of government, to be nominated by networks active in the European Region