



EHP PARTNERSHIPS

EHP Partnership for health sector climate action

Tackling both existing and emerging environment and health challenges requires strong collaborative efforts, robust joint action, and concrete mechanisms to enhance coordination and cooperation across sectors.

To this aim, the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (5 – 7 July, Budapest, Hungary) is launching a new, agile, thematic, action-oriented mechanism, the “EHP Partnerships”, to facilitate implementation of the commitments made in the Budapest Ministerial Declaration.

WHAT IS THE “EHP PARTNERSHIPS”?

“EHP Partnerships” is a new mechanism within the European Environment and Health Process (EHP) to accelerate national and international implementation of the commitments made at the Ministerial Conference. The Partnerships will bring together countries and partners with a shared interest in a specific thematic area to facilitate collaboration and leverage progress across the Region.

WHY THE “EHP PARTNERSHIPS”?

“EHP Partnerships” is a flexible, concrete, practical implementation mechanism that can be tailored to the interests and priorities of a country or group of countries. Countries and stakeholders interested in addressing common environment and health challenges would work together, mutually offering peer-to-peer support, sharing best practices, experiences and knowledge, while facilitating the transfer of know-how and expertise. “EHP Partnerships” could also serve as vibrant platforms for communities of practice, international advocacy and resource mobilization.

WHAT ARE THE AVENUES OF ACTION WITHIN THE “EHP PARTNERSHIPS”?

The activities within the EHP Partnerships are wide-ranging and encompass various collaborative opportunities for finding effective solutions for environment and health challenges. The activities could include joint projects, mutual capacity-strengthening through training and workshops, provision of technical assistance, collaboration in innovation and research, and dissemination of relevant WHO guidelines, tools and methodologies and promotion of their uptake.

WHAT IS THE GOVERNANCE OF THE “EHP PARTNERSHIPS”?

The EHP Partnerships are established by decisions of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) and operate in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Partnerships, included as Annex 2 to the Budapest Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Health. An EHP Partnerships can be led by any Member State and/or recognized stakeholder of the EHP and is open to all 53 Member States and relevant stakeholders in the WHO European Region.



EHP Partnership for health sector climate action

Lead country: Ireland

Current partners: Austria, Belgium, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

CLIMATE ACTION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

By integrating climate action into health-care policies and practices, the sector can not only mitigate its own environmental footprint but also contribute to cross-sectoral action against climate change. These include advocating for policies to prioritize public health and climate resilience, foster research and innovation in sustainable health-care practices, and collaborate with other sectors to drive systemic change towards a low-carbon future.

The structures of national health systems vary considerably by country. While the **COP26 Health Programme** and the **Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)** play a crucial role in advocating for national commitment to build low-carbon, climate-resilient health systems, our understanding of the details of such actions varies according to national policies and capacities. Furthermore, high-level commitment to climate challenges requires solutions adapted to unique national circumstances, including the specific impacts of the changing climate and the operational approaches of health systems.



SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This **EHP Partnership for health sector climate action** is intended to support countries in the WHO European Region, particularly those that have committed themselves or are considering committing themselves to the COP26 Health Programme and the ATACH initiative. The Partnership will facilitate building of a regional community of practice to share approaches, experience and research as countries unpack implementation challenges and chart pathways and solutions to developing climate-resilient, low-carbon health systems. While the work programme of the Partnership will evolve based on the needs and priorities of its Members, it will explore in detail the following climate-related health sector action areas:

Mitigation areas

- built environment and green environment
- transport and mobility
- sustainable procurement
- greener models of health care
- water conservation and management
- stakeholder engagement

Adaptation areas

- heat and related health effects
- flooding and other extreme weather events
- zoonotic and vector borne diseases
- water security and safety
- mental health

To maximize its effectiveness, countries that have not yet analysed their capacity to take climate action in their health systems are particularly encouraged to join the EHP Partnership. It will provide a regional platform for peer-to-peer conversations and support between countries with more advanced climate and health programmes and those in the initial stages. The Partnership complements the efforts of the **EHTF Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC)**.



EXPECTED BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

- + Greater, more detailed understanding of how health sectors can integrate and support climate action in its operations
- + Sharing and promotion of good practices and solutions
- + More countries committed to the COP26 Health Programme and ATACH initiatives.



For more information about the EHP Partnership for health sector climate action or if you are interested in getting involved, please contact the EHP secretariat at euceh@who.int.