Past and present

WHO collaborating centres have been designated since the establishment of WHO. The first institution designated was the Department of Biological Standardization at Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen in 1948. Currently, centres are found in over 80 countries, with most of them located in the following Member States:

The majority of designated institutions are departments or units of universities, laboratories, research institutes, hospitals, ministries, or national academies. All of them have a long and successfully history of carrying out jointly planned activities with WHO prior to being designated.

Overall, WHO collaborating centres work on a diverse range of subjects, across all of WHO’s technical programmes. Their activities include, for example, carrying out research for WHO, assisting in the development of a WHO guideline, gathering and analysing data for a WHO report, dissemination of information, providing a training course by request of WHO, standardization of terminology, or provision of technical advice to WHO.

Find the centres

The WHO collaborating centres database is the official source of information about WHO collaborating centres worldwide. It can be accessed at: [http://www.who.int/whocc/](http://www.who.int/whocc/)

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