



EHP Partnerships



**World Health
Organization**

European Region

Annual summary

**of the work of the
European Environment
and Health Process
Partnerships**



This report provides an overview of the activities and progress made by the European Environment and Health Process (EHP) Partnerships since the last [meeting](#) of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF), held in Utrecht, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) on 26–27 June 2024 to the most recent virtual [meeting](#) on 17 June 2025 in Bonn, Germany. It has been prepared by the EHP Secretariat based on inputs from the Partnership leads and co-leads, collected through the annual reporting process to the EHTF.

The report outlines the scope, purpose and objectives of the six EHP Partnerships. It highlights their membership and recent expansion efforts, summarizes key activities and achievements, and outlines planned future work, including evolving priorities and strategic directions.

Contents

Background	4
EHP Partnership on HBM	6
EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action	8
THE PEP/EHP Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility	10
EHP Partnership on Youth	12
EHP Partnership on Poison Centres	14
EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment	16
Conclusion	18

Background

The European Environment and Health Process (EHP) Partnerships were launched at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, as a flexible, action-oriented and Member State-led mechanism to support the implementation of the Budapest Declaration and its Roadmap. The Partnerships bring together countries and partners with shared interests in specific thematic areas to enable collaboration and drive progress across the WHO European Region. Operating as communities of practice, the Partnerships serve as collaborative platforms that promote solutions, peer-to-peer exchange, international advocacy and resource mobilization.

Since their inception, the EHP Partnerships have gained significant traction. During the reporting period, more than 30 countries have been engaged in one or more of the following Partnerships:



EHP Partnership on Human Biomonitoring (HBM), led by Germany and Georgia;



EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action, led by Ireland;



Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)/EHP Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility, led by Austria, France and Netherlands (Kingdom of the);



EHP Partnership on Youth, led by Slovenia and the International Youth Health Organization;



EHP Partnership on Poison Centres led by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT); and



EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment, led by Hungary.

The next sections take a closer look at each Partnership and provides brief summaries of the work carried out over the past year.

EHP Partnership on HBM

Overview

The EHP Partnership on HBM was launched in 2023 at the [Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#) with the leadership of Germany and co-leadership of Georgia. The Partnership supports the use of HBM as a scientific tool to inform decision-making in regulating hazardous chemicals to protect public health. It facilitates bilateral and subregional cooperation, builds capacity through training and peer exchange, and promotes the integration of HBM into environment and health policies across the WHO European Region.

As of 2025, the Partnership includes 22 Member States: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Key activities

The second annual meeting of the EHP Partnership on HBM was held in hybrid format in Belgrade, Serbia, on 11 February 2025. Thirty representatives from 19 of the 21 Member States participated.

The meeting adopted the jointly developed work programme and explored synergies with other networks and partnerships, particularly the [Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals](#). Participants also exchanged experiences and insights on planning national HBM studies, drawing on both national and regional examples.

Additional discussions focused on advancing key areas of work, including communication and stakeholder engagement, the planning of HBM studies, the interpretation of HBM results, and developing an overview of the role of HBM within regulatory and legal frameworks.

Following the meeting, WHO conducted a two-day training session for 37 experts –primarily from Serbia – alongside international participants, further strengthening national capacity and fostering exchange.

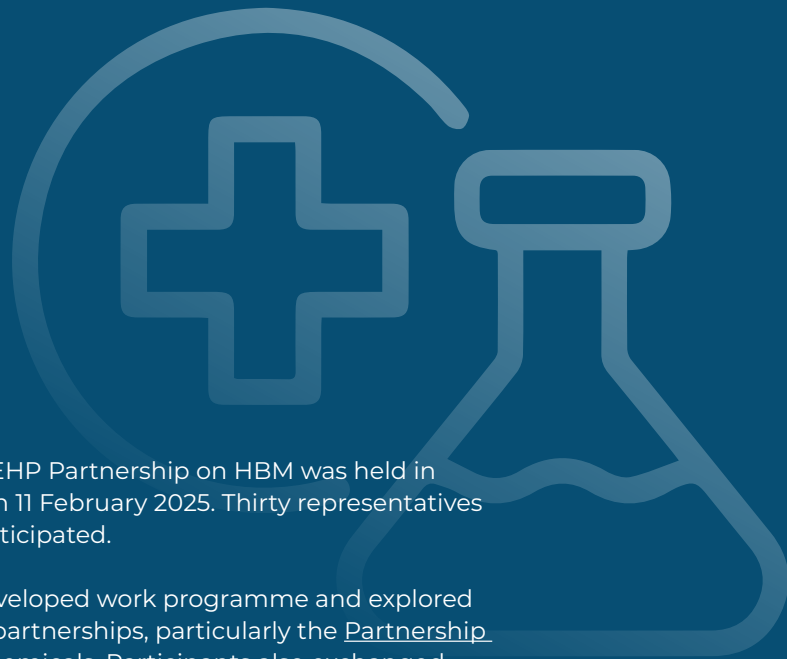




Photo: The second meeting of the EHP Partnership on HBM, Belgrade, Serbia (February 2025) ©WHO

Looking ahead

Following the adoption of the workplan, the Partnership will now focus on implementing its key areas of work.

These activities will be carried out through dedicated working groups. An online meeting of the group focusing on HBM in regulatory and legal frameworks took place on 4 June 2025. A third annual meeting is planned for late 2025, with one of the Member States already expressing interest in hosting it.

EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action

Overview

Launched in 2023 at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health with the leadership of Ireland, the EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action has grown into a dynamic community of practice. It supports countries in the WHO European Region in advancing health sector climate action through peer learning, technical exchange and collaborative exploration of practical solutions.

The Partnership complements the work of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) Working Group on Health in Climate Change and aligns closely with the goals of the [Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health](#), reinforcing regional engagement with global commitments under the [2024 World Health Assembly Resolution on Climate Change and Health](#).

The Partnership hosts regular thematic “deep dive” sessions focused on both mitigation (e.g. transport, green health care, air pollution) and adaptation (e.g. heat-health, extreme weather, climate-related diseases), encouraging real-world application and peer-to-peer support among countries.

As of May 2025, 11 Member States are part of the Partnership: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Key activities

Since its inception, the Partnership has convened a series of targeted exchanges – both online and in person – designed to build momentum, shape joint priorities and expand engagement.

In September 2024, members met in Dublin to co-design the first deep dive, focused on reducing emissions from health-care-related transport. Discussions also addressed future governance and membership expansion.

The first deep dive, held in November 2024, attracted over 100 participants from 35 countries and featured innovative practices in low-emission transport for patients, staff and freight. A summary brief is being finalized.

Follow-up virtual sessions in November 2024 and January 2025 provided space for reflection, welcomed new members and laid the groundwork for future activities.

In February 2025, the Partnership met in Vienna, Austria to finalize the 2025 work programme, welcome Spain as a new member and confirm the topic of its second deep dive: From risk to resilience: Effective engagement on climate adaptation for health at subnational levels.

The second deep dive took place in April 2025, bringing together 174 participants from 19 countries and featuring country examples from Austria, Germany, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Partnership members also participated in the Hungarian Hospital Association’s annual congress in April 2025, sharing regional experiences on building climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.

In May 2025, planning began for the third deep dive, which will focus on greening health-care systems.





Photo: EHP Partnership Meeting
in Vienna, Austria (February 2025).
©Gesundheit Österreich GmbH

Looking ahead

An in-person meeting is expected to take place in Belgium to launch the next thematic exchange and support preparations for the upcoming deep dive.

The Partnership is also exploring collaboration with the Government of Flanders (Belgium) and WHO/ Europe's Regions for Health Network to participate in a regional conference on climate and health. This would further promote the Partnership's work and encourage broader Member State engagement.

The third deep dive is tentatively scheduled for November 2025, followed by a debriefing session to consolidate lessons and inform the next phase of the Partnership.

THE PEP/EHP Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility

Overview

Jointly led by Austria, France and Netherlands (Kingdom of the), this Partnership promotes the health and environmental benefits of walking and cycling across the WHO European Region. It supports the implementation of the [Vienna Declaration](#), the [Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion](#), and the [Budapest Declaration](#).

Key areas of work include policy development, governance, capacity-building and knowledge exchange. With 35 Member States and four civil society partners, the Partnership fosters synergies between the health and transport sectors and provides tools, training and peer support to advance active mobility policies.

The participating Member States are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The civil society partners are the European Cyclists' Federation, International Federation of Pedestrians, Polis and Walk21.

Key activities

The Partnership meeting held in Belgrade, Serbia, 23–25 April 2024 focused on exchanging good practices and addressing challenges related to cycling and walking across the Region.

A major achievement over the past year was the development of the first-ever Pan-European Master Plan on Walking, which, together with the existing [Cycling Master Plan](#), provides a strategic umbrella for advancing active mobility across the WHO European Region. The [Master Plan on Walking](#) was formally adopted at the 2024 session of THE PEP Steering Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ahead of its formal adoption, the Master Plan on Walking was pre-launched at the Walk21 Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in October 2024. A back-to-back meeting of the Partnership was held on 17–18 October to discuss the initial steps of its implementation. These discussions continued at the next Partnership meeting, held in Rotterdam, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) on 13–14 March 2025, which was organized back to back with a study visit of the [STEP UP Project](#).

Cycling experts within the Partnership also met during a thematic session held in Ulm, Germany on 11–12 November 2024, organized alongside the third meeting of the Active to [Active2Public Transport Project](#). The focus was on improving integration between cycling and public transport. Members and collaborators shared practices and discussed the forthcoming Active2Public Transport Action Plan, including its alignment with the pan-European master plans on cycling and walking.





Photo: Partnership members in Rotterdam, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (March 2025), © Jan de Groen, City of Rotterdam

Looking ahead

On 9–10 October 2025, a meeting of walking experts is planned back-to-back with the Walk21 Conference in Tirana, Albania. As part of the preparations for this meeting, the Partnership is also preparing a slide deck to help communicate its achievements and strengthen engagement with both new and existing members in implementing the master plans. This will be accompanied by a renewed push to collect case studies from across the Region.

The Partnership was present at the UTIP¹ Summit in Hamburg, Germany to strengthen connections between active mobility and public transport communities. The Partnership will also continue to continue collaboration with the framework of the Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility, contributing to global efforts in this area.

A meeting of cycling experts is tentatively planned for late 2025. A recent survey among members showed strong interest in more focused discussions on topics such as multimodality, land-use planning, health and mobility, and cycling statistics and monitoring. These themes will be addressed in future sessions through keynote presentations and case study exchanges.

EHP Partnership on Youth

Overview

Established in 2023 at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, this Partnership is led by Slovenia and co-led by the International Youth Health Organization, this Partnership promotes meaningful youth engagement in environment and health across the WHO European Region. It supports collaboration with youth-led and youth-serving organizations and aligns with WHO/Europe's [Youth4Health initiative](#).

Key areas of work include capacity-building, peer exchange, policy engagement and maintaining a regional roster of youth experts. As of 2025, the Partnership includes five members: Slovenia, European Environment and Health Youth Coalition, Institute for Health and Environment, International Federation of Medical Students Associations and International Youth Health Organization with an open call for new members ongoing.

Key activities

In November 2024, the Partnership co-hosted a side event on youth engagement at the [2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference](#), promoting the role of young people in shaping environmental and health agendas.

Between November 2024 and March 2025, the Partnership led a communication and outreach campaign, including a social media series to promote its work and attract new members. In April 2025, it held a meeting with current and prospective members to discuss collaboration and next steps. Planning for the 2025–2026 work programme followed in April–May 2025.

The Partnership also supported the Slovenian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy in organizing a National Conference on the Decarbonization of the Health System. The Partnership also participated in the EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action, exploring synergies and areas for joint work.

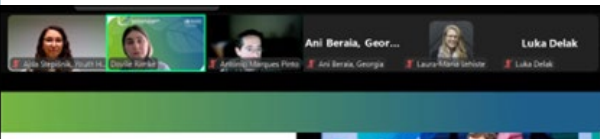
Further advocacy and outreach activities included social media campaigns linked to [World Health Day 2025](#), with a focus on the right to a clean and healthy environment.



Looking ahead

The Partnership is currently focusing on internal development and communication. Key upcoming activities include:

- *the launch of dedicated social media channels (Instagram and LinkedIn), including a closed LinkedIn group for internal coordination;*
- *the development of Partnership operational guidelines;*
- *thematic campaigns on air pollution, climate change and mental health, healthy transportation, environmental hazards, and climate-related human rights;*
- *a series of knowledge-building webinars for young people across the WHO European Region;*
- *quarterly membership “huddles” to share best practices and coordinate next steps;*
- *an online training course for youth, with attendance contributing towards a capacity-building certificate;*
- *virtual movie nights, featuring environment and health documentaries followed by moderated discussions;*
- *a long-term research initiative on climate change content in health-related curricula (e.g. medicine, pharmacy) across the WHO European Region, to be published as a regional analysis; and*
- *co-hosting a youth-focused side event at the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference in collaboration with the WHO Youth Council and/or WHO/Europe.*



EHP Partnership on Poison Centres

Overview

The EHP Partnership on Poison Centres aims to promote the development and strengthening of poison centres and their role in public health systems across the WHO European Region. It provides a platform for technical exchange, capacity-building and knowledge sharing. Well-resourced poison centres play a vital role in preparedness and response to chemical incidents.

The Partnership was formally established on 27 June 2024 at the 14th meeting of the EHTF in Utrecht, Netherlands (Kingdom of the). It is led by the United Kingdom, with co-leadership from EAPCCT.

As of 2025, the following Member States have joined the Partnership: Armenia, Austria, Ireland, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain and Türkiye. In addition, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Moldova and Romania have expressed interest in joining and are considering next steps.

Key activities

The inaugural meeting of the Partnership, hosted online by the UK Health Security Agency on 26 February 2025, introduced the draft concept note, objectives and key areas of expertise relevant to the Partnership's work. These foundational elements were finalized following the meeting.

A draft workplan was developed in agreement with participants, outlining both short- and medium-term priorities for poison centres, to be implemented over two- and six-year periods. Key activities include operational capacity-building through twinning initiatives, developing procedures to support the establishment of poison centres, and supporting the development of national toxicovigilance systems to improve integration into public health systems.

The second meeting, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, on 27 May 2025 as part of the pre congress of EAPCCT and featured presentations on the establishment of poison centres, toxicovigilance, and data harmonization. A poster was also presented at the congress (see abstract 272). Participants shared practices, discussed operational challenges and engaged in interactive group work to refine the workplan. They initiated the prioritization of activities, identified implementation levers and barriers, and agreed to facilitate the exchange of training materials.

To assess existing capacities and identify training gaps, a regional survey was developed and will be circulated to poison centres across the Region.

The Partnership is also serving as a platform to promote related WHO and partner initiatives aimed at strengthening poison centres in the Region.





Photo: Launch of the Partnership on Poison Centres in Utrecht, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (June 2024) © WHO

Looking ahead

Priority areas for implementation in 2025 and 2026 identified by the Partnership include to:

- *support operational capacity-building through twinning and the development of procedures to assist with the establishment of poison centres;*
- *improve data harmonization by developing standardized data collection procedures for new and developing poison centres;*
- *support the development of national toxicovigilance and surveillance systems, including alerting, signalling and early warning system analysis;*
- *share examples of how poison centres can connect with national cross-governmental or public health chemical networks and share relevant toxicovigilance data; and*
- *promote awareness-raising in existing poison centres to increase capacity and enhance their public health impact.*

Looking ahead, the Partnership will convene quarterly meetings in a hybrid format. One in-person meeting will be organized annually, complemented by an annual online webinar to promote peer learning and the exchange of experiences.

It is expected that poison centres will continue to support one another directly, for example, through twinning arrangements between established and newly developing centres.

EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment



Overview

The EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment, led by Hungary, promotes healthier indoor environments in educational settings to protect children's health. Building on long-standing EHP commitments, including the [Budapest Declaration](#), the Partnership supports the use of practical tools, encourages uptake of good practices and fosters cross-sector collaboration. It works to raise awareness and drive policy and technical action, addressing risks related to air quality, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and chemical exposure in schools.

The Partnership was formally established on 27 June 2024 at the [14th meeting of the EHTE](#) in Utrecht, Netherlands (Kingdom of the). It is led by Hungary. At its launch, two Member States – Germany and the Republic of Moldova – joined the Partnership. Since then, four additional countries – Belarus, Georgia, Luxembourg and Montenegro – have become members, bringing the total to seven.

Key activities

Since its inception, the Partnership has convened two online meetings, both hosted by Hungary's National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy. The first meeting, held on 12 November 2024, brought together five of the seven current members: Belarus, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg and Montenegro. Georgia and the Republic of Moldova – unable to attend – provided written contributions in advance.

During the meeting, partners discussed environmental conditions in schools, focusing on indoor air quality and WASH. Country presentations covered national legal frameworks, guidelines, monitoring systems and relevant research. Absent members submitted national summaries. Participants agreed to take a holistic approach to improving school environments, addressing both air and water-related issues. Members were invited to contribute materials – including presentations, national guidelines and studies – for upload to a shared SharePoint repository.

The second online meeting, held on 8–9 May 2025, was opened to a broader audience and received strong support from the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health and the WHO Country Office in Hungary.

Following an overview of WHO regional activities and major European research projects informing school-based interventions, partners presented national case studies and tools for improving air quality and WASH in schools. The meeting also addressed risk communication strategies targeting pupils, parents and teachers.



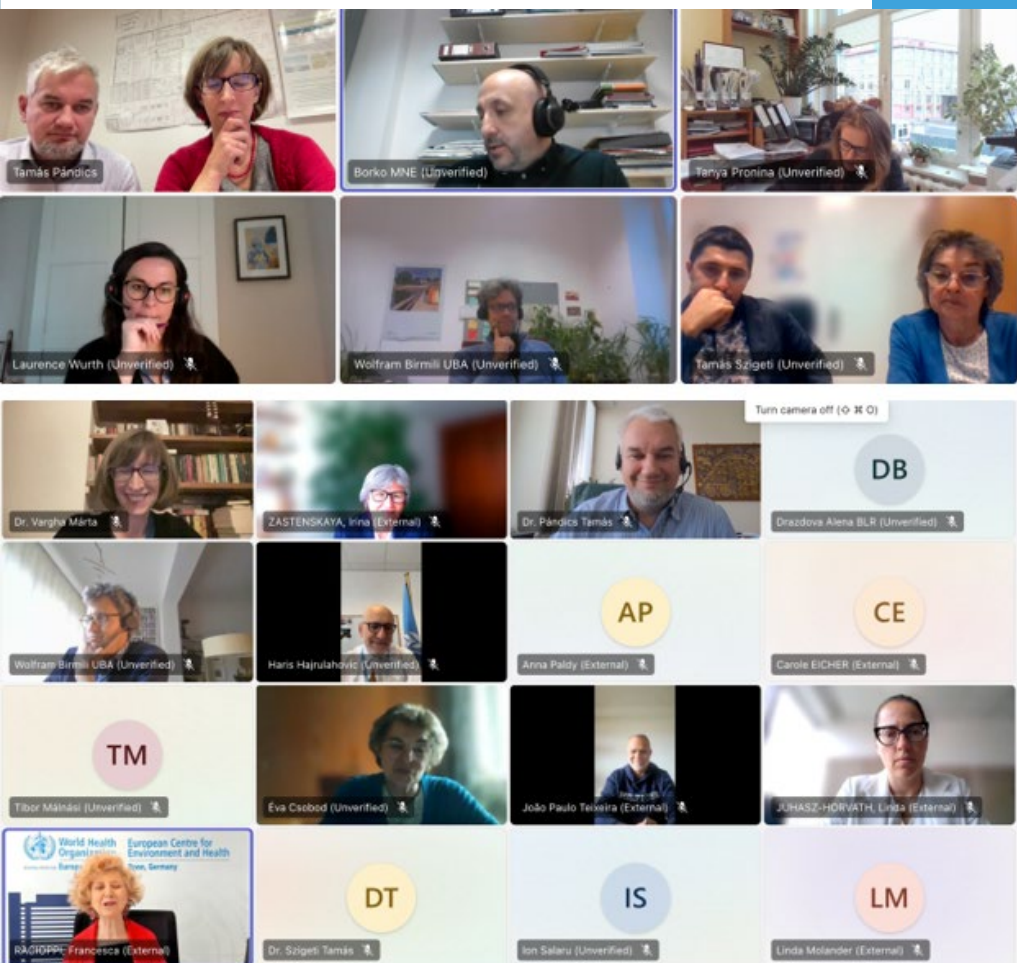


Photo: The second meeting (virtual) of the EHP Partnership on risk reduction in the school environment (May 2025) © Marta Varga

Looking ahead

At the second meeting, partners agreed on key next steps and emphasized the need to raise the Partnership's visibility to expand membership and strengthen engagement. Around the same time, Portugal and Sweden expressed interest in joining, signalling growing momentum.

Partners will continue to share resources and materials via the EHP SharePoint platform. At the national level, members will engage with relevant counterparts in the fields of air quality and WASH to reinforce the Partnership's holistic approach. Collaboration will also be pursued with youth-focused initiatives, including the EHP Partnership on Youth and the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition

The next Partnership meeting is planned for November 2025, either as a standalone event or as a side event at the Meeting of the Parties to the [WHO/Europe–United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Protocol on Water and Health](#), in coordination with other EHP Partnerships.

Conclusion

The EHP Partnerships continue to play a vital role in translating the [Budapest Declaration](#) into action through collaborative, country-led efforts across key thematic areas. Their growth, expanding membership and increased engagement reflect a strong commitment to environment and health priorities in the Region. In the upcoming biennium, the Partnerships will focus on implementation, mutual learning and alignment with WHO/Europe's broader strategic objectives.




A large, stylized leaf graphic in shades of blue, spanning the top half of the page. The leaf has prominent veins and is set against a dark blue background.

WHO European Centre for Environment and Health

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1

D-53113 Bonn, Germany

E-mail: euceh@who.int

 [@who_europe](#)

 [@WHORegionalOfficeforEurope](#)

 [@WHOEurope](#)

 [@whoeurope](#)