

EHP Partnerships

The Environment and Health Process (EHP) is the first-ever process aimed at eliminating the most significant environmental threats to human health. Established in 1989, it is governed by the Member States of the WHO European Region and serves as a dynamic intersectoral policy platform for developing and implementing policies that promote environment, health and well-being. The EHP's objectives and priorities are defined by the Ministerial Conferences on Environment and Health that convene every 5–7 years.

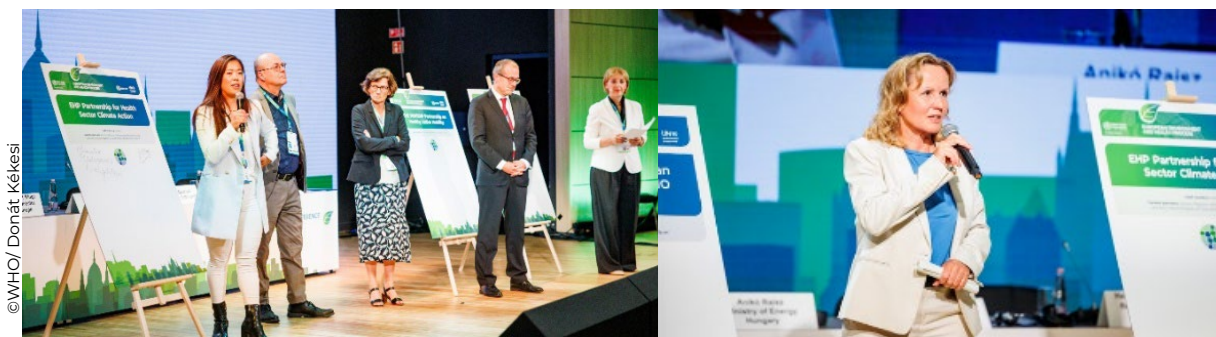
At the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Member States adopted the Budapest Declaration and its Roadmap to 2030, which emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address health concerns arising from the triple environmental crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss. It was at this conference that the "EHP Partnerships" were established as a new practical, agile, thematic and action-oriented mechanism to support the implementation of these commitments.

What are the avenues of action within the EHP Partnerships?

The EHP Partnerships is a mechanism that offers the opportunity to Member States and EHP stakeholders to voluntarily collaborate in good faith on topics of common interest within the scope of the Budapest Declaration. Operating as communities of practice, they support a wide range of collaborative efforts to address pressing environment and health challenges. These include joint projects, capacity-building through trainings and workshops, technical assistance, and cooperation in research and innovation. The Partnerships also facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, promote the use of WHO guidelines and tools, contribute to international advocacy and resource mobilization, and foster opportunities for "twinning" and shared learning.

What is the governance of the EHP Partnerships?

An EHP Partnership is not a legal entity. It can be established and led or co-led by Member States and/or recognized stakeholders of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF). EHP Partnerships are approved by EHTF decisions and operate under their Terms of Reference, with WHO providing overall guidance and support. While flexibility is key, the Partnerships adhere to WHO's general principles, as outlined in its Constitution and the European Programme of Work. All EHTF members are welcome to initiate or join EHP Partnerships, which are mainly supported by voluntary financial or in-kind contributions from their partners.



EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action

Lead Member State: Ireland

Current partners (2025): Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Israel Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Norway, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Why climate action in the health sector?

The health sector has a critical role to play in addressing climate change – both by reducing its own environmental footprint and by enhancing the resilience of health systems to climate-related risks. This includes advocating for policies that prioritize public health and climate resilience, fostering research and innovation in sustainable health-care practices and collaborating with other sectors to drive systemic change towards a low-carbon future.

Scope of work

This Partnership builds a community of practice across the health sector in the WHO European Region, supporting countries in building climate-resilient, low-carbon health systems. It promotes mutual learning by facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices, in alignment with the goals of the [Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health \(ATACH\)](#) and the [2024 World Health Assembly resolution on climate and health](#).

What are the main objectives?

The EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action will explore a range of climate mitigation and adaptation issues as part of its work programme:

Mitigation areas

- transport, transit and mobility;
- greener models of health care;
- air pollution; and
- the economic co-benefits of health sector climate action.

Adaptation areas

- extreme weather events;
- heat health action planning;
- zoonotic and food-, water- and vector-borne diseases; and
- local and subnational approaches to adaptation.

To maximize its effectiveness, countries that have not yet assessed their health sector's capacity for climate action are particularly encouraged to join the EHP Partnership. The Partnership serves as a regional platform for peer-to-peer exchange and mutual support, connecting countries with more advanced climate and health programmes to those in earlier stages of development. The Partnership complements the work of [the EHTE Working Group on Health in Climate Change \(HIC\)](#).

For more information,
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