



EHP Partnerships



World Health
Organization

European Region

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.

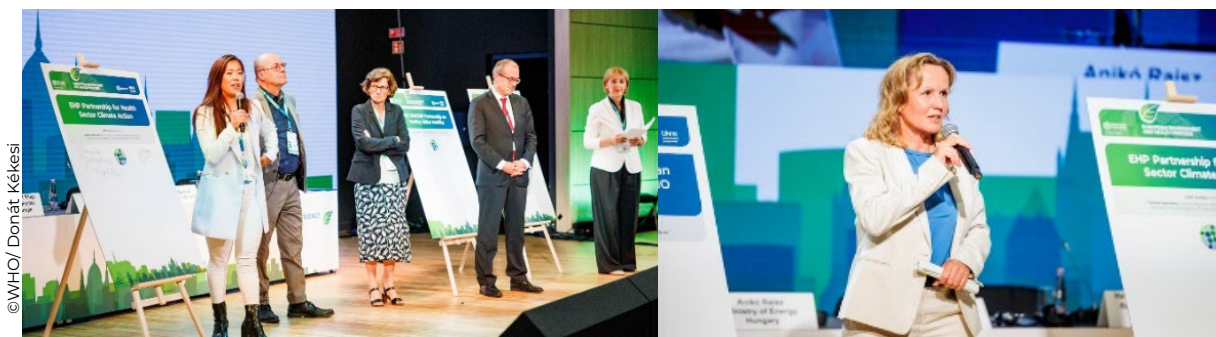


What are the avenues of action within the EHP Partnerships?

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 on Human Biomonitoring

Lead Member State: Germany

Co-lead Member State: Georgia

Current partners (2025): Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Why human biomonitoring?

Human biomonitoring (HBM) measures the concentrations of chemicals in human fluids and tissues. The results directly reflect the total body burden of chemicals from various sources and exposure pathways. As such, HBM is a vital component of health and environmental policies. By identifying critical levels of chemical exposure and most affected population groups, HBM helps to set priorities for public health action and supports the implementation of a [Health in All Policies approach](#).



©Georgian National Centre for Diseases Control and Public Health

Scope of work

The aim of this EHP Partnership is to promote the use of HBM as a scientific tool to inform decision-making, share knowledge and experience and build capacity across the WHO European Region to use HBM in regulating hazardous chemicals to protect public health.

What are the main objectives?

The objectives of the EHP Partnership on HBM are to:

- facilitate bilateral and subregional cooperation for HBM within the WHO European Region;
- serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise among countries and institutions;
- promote capacity-building through training, regular meetings and technical and methodological support;
- facilitate access to relevant knowledge, tools and infrastructure;
- identify gaps and common challenges, and explore solutions at national, subregional and regional levels; and
- promote the use of HBM in environment and health policies for the management of chemicals and the protection of public health, including through the development of strategies and action plans.



For more information,
please contact: euceh@who.int

