



# 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.

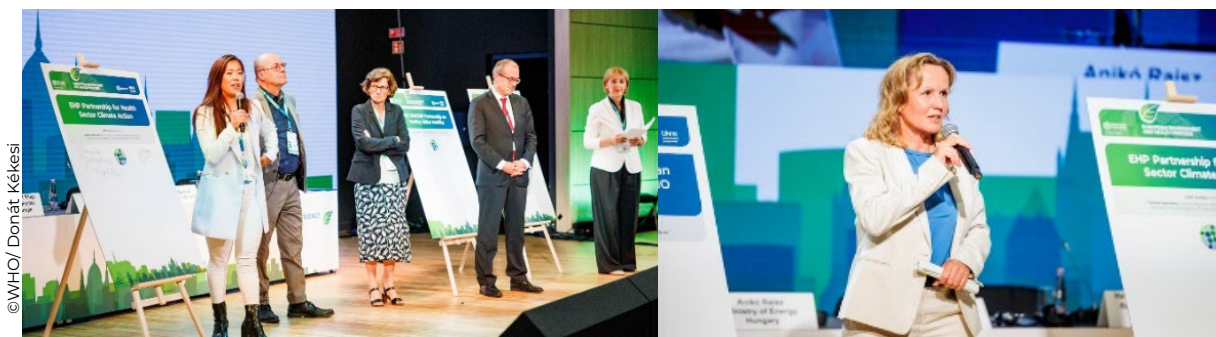


## What are the avenues of action within the EHP Partnerships?

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 Poison Centres

**Lead Member State:** United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Co-lead:** The European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT)

**Current partners (2025):** Austria, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain and Türkiye.



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## Why poison centres?

Poison centres play a crucial role in reducing health risks and impacts associated with hazardous substances. They do so by providing clinical toxicology advice, engaging in poisoning prevention activities, assessing and managing exposures to harmful chemicals, and contributing to the sound management of chemicals and public health management of chemical incidents for the protection of public health.

## Scope of work



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 aims to serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and tools as well as a hub for enhancing expertise and accelerating capacity-building in participating countries. Well-resourced poison centres equipped with necessary capabilities are essential for national preparedness, detection, response and recovery in the context of chemical events and emergencies.

## What are the main objectives?

The objectives of the EHP Partnership on Poison Centres are to:

- facilitate technical support – such as sharing expertise, training and twinning – to help countries develop and strengthen their poisons centres;
- provide advice to poisons centres on how to integrate with national cross-governmental or public health chemical networks and share relevant toxicovigilance and toxicosurveillance data (i.e. pharmacovigilance/toxicovigilance);
- increase the awareness of public health issues related to chemical safety and preventive actions across governments, regional organizations, industry, the general public and other relevant stakeholders;
- support the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) by enhancing national capacities for managing chemical incidents of public health concern; and
- support assessments and surveys of poison centres to identify current capacities and gaps in training or resources.

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