



# 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.

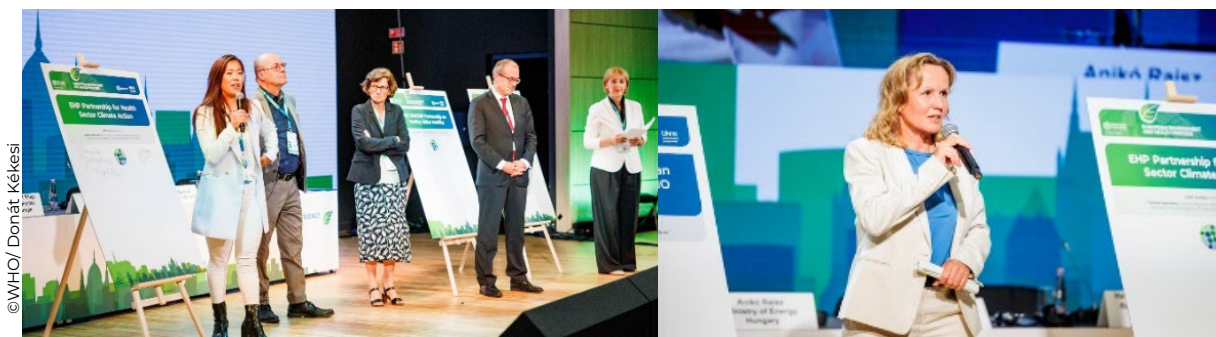


## What are the avenues of action within the EHP Partnerships?

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.



# The EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment

**Lead Member State:** Hungary

**Current partners (2025):** Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Montenegro and Republic of Moldova

## Why is risk reduction important in the school environment?



A healthy environment in educational facilities (e.g. schools, kindergartens, etc.) is fundamental for the health, well-being and optimal learning outcomes of children. Risks associated with inadequate air quality or poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are well known, yet further efforts are needed to accelerate the uptake of good practices and protect children's health effectively.

## Scope of work



Children's health and the school environment have been the focus of work of the EHP since [the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health](#) held in Budapest, Hungary, in 2004. With the adoption of the [Budapest Declaration](#) in 2023, environment and health ministers from across the WHO European Region reaffirmed and strengthened their commitment to improve indoor air quality to reduce children's exposure to chemical hazards and to ensure equitable access to safe water and sanitation services in all settings.

There is sound scientific evidence on health hazards associated with poor indoor air quality, as well as WASH. Through the work of WHO and its partners, this knowledge has been translated into practical tools and other useful resources. However, the uptake of good practices lags in many Member States of the WHO European Region. In addition, challenges still need to be addressed, including those related to legal arrangements and cooperation among health and education sectors.

## What are the main objectives?

The objective of the EHP Partnership on risk reduction in the school environment is to promote actions towards improving the quality of indoor environments to protect children's health. The objectives are to:

- support the dissemination of existing tools and resources, including those developed by WHO and its partners;
- identify measures to enhance the uptake of good practices through knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning among partners;
- facilitate action at both policy and technical levels to improve the management of indoor school environments; and
- raise awareness of risks and risk management measures among a wider range of stakeholders – including parents and children – to foster behavioural change that supports better health and learning outcomes.

For more information,  
please contact: [euceh@who.int](mailto:euceh@who.int)

