



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.

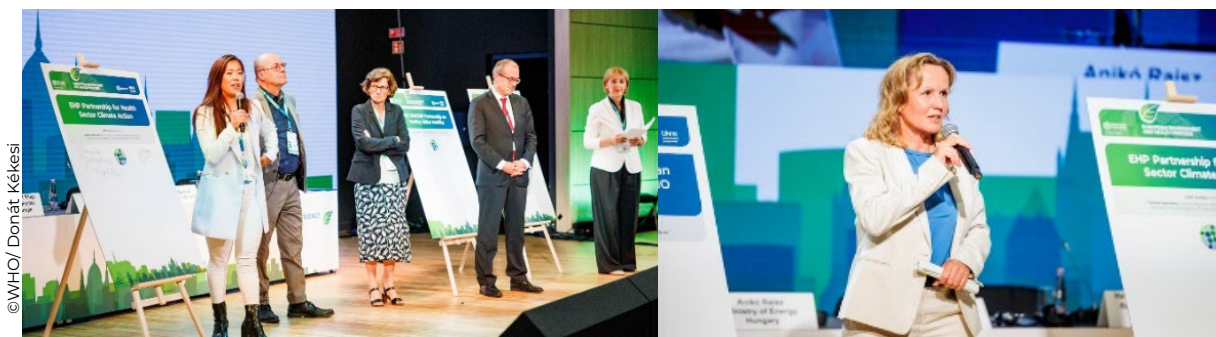


What are the avenues of action within the EHP Partnerships?

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 Youth

Lead Member State: Slovenia

Partnership co-lead: International Youth Health Organization

Current partners (2025): European Environment and Health Youth Coalition; International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; and Institute for Health and Environment



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Why Youth?

Youth play a vital role in driving action to address health challenges linked to climate change, environmental pollution, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Yet, their potential as future leaders is often overlooked in current decision-making processes. Strengthening youth engagement ensures that policies reflect their needs, empowers them to co-shape their future, and supports progress toward health and environmental sustainability.

Scope of work

The [EHP Partnership on Youth](#) provides a structured platform for meaningful youth participation in environment and health processes across the WHO European Region. It connects young people with decision-makers and stakeholders, enabling dialogue, joint action and skills development. By aligning with [WHO/Europe's Youth4Health initiative](#) and collaborating with existing youth organizations, the Partnership serves as a regional hub for young actors committed to environment and health, helping amplify their voices and strengthen their impact.

What are the main objectives?

The EHP Partnership on Youth aims to:

- facilitate bilateral and subregional collaboration in the Region, emphasizing meaningful youth engagement in environment and health;
- support effective communication through regular meetings;
- enable young people's access to knowledge, tools, contacts and infrastructure, fostering capacity-building networks;
- provide training, technical support and other capacity-building opportunities;
- compile a comprehensive list of young experts on environment and health topics;
- identify and analyse gaps and challenges faced by young people, proposing innovative solutions and strategies;
- contribute to the Region's work on Budapest commitment implementation and disseminate results among youth organizations;
- advocate for the development, implementation and evaluation of policies focusing on Youth in environment and health including national and international strategies and action plans; and
- serve as a mechanism for implementing commitments outlined in the [Budapest Youth Declaration](#).

For more information,
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