



**4th Annual Meeting of Integrated Health
Services Delivery Focal Points
Almaty, Kazakhstan
22–23 June 2017**

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Provisional scope and purpose

Background

The WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery¹ takes forward the vision of Health 2020 and its priority of transforming health services delivery to meet the health challenges of the 21st century. It calls for action across four domains, upholding the same principles of a primary health care (PHC) approach for people-centred health systems and aligning with the values and strategies developed in the global Framework on integrated, people-centred health services² and the commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals.³

In 2016, Member States unanimously endorsed the approach and areas for action of the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery at the 66th session of the Regional Committee for Europe. Its endorsement followed a three-year development and consultation period, first launched in September 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia. During this period, a forum of appointed technical representatives on integrated health services delivery from all WHO European Member States was established.

Meeting annually, together with nominated country delegates and invited guests, this network of focal points serves as a unique platform to share country initiatives, exchange lessons learned and uptake new evidence. Now in its fourth year, the annual meeting of integrated health services delivery focal points will be held for the first time in the context of the implementation of the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery. This meeting is also set in the context of the implementation of the global Framework on integrated people-centred health services and with a view to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 2018.

Rationale

This two-day Meeting sets out to convene focal points on integrated health services delivery and nominated delegates from countries, together with invited experts and WHO staff members, in the tradition of annual meetings and launch of the implementation of the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery and global Framework on integrated people-centred health services.

¹ Strengthening people-centred health systems in the WHO European Region: framework for action on integrated health services delivery. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/315787/66wd15e_FFA_IHSD_160535.pdf?ua=1, accessed 21 March 2017).

² Framework on integrated, people-centred health services. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 (A69/39; http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha69.html, accessed 21 March 2017).

³ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. New York: United Nations; 2015 (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>, accessed 21 March 2017).

This year's Meeting will focus on the status of PHC in the WHO European Region to explore demands for tackling acute and chronic care needs in primary care. This focus anticipates the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata and international conference in 2018 to celebrate this historic event, seeking an evidence-informed understanding of the responsiveness of primary care towards a forward-looking vision for strengthening PHC in the Region.

Moreover, with a view to implementing the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery, priority avenues for integrated health services delivery, as gateways for transforming services in practice, have been identified to include integrating PHC and public health services; PHC and hospitals; and health services delivery and social care. Given the interest and activity around integrating PHC and hospitals, this stream is proposed as a priority area of focus and will be explored from a global perspective in collaboration with WHO headquarters.

Objectives

This Meeting aims to present and discuss the implementation of the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery, with the following objectives.

Day one: 22 June 2017 – Status of PHC in the European Region

1. To present the endorsed WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery and its implementation package and solicit updates from countries on transforming health services delivery in practice.
2. To introduce an approach to describe the status of PHC in the European Region with a view to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 2018.

Day two: 23 June 2017 – Integration of hospitals: global perspective

3. To discuss and exchange practices, focusing on integrating PHC and hospitals as a priority gateway for transforming health services delivery in the Region and globally.

Expected results

This Meeting is expected to achieve the following:

- updating focal points on the WHO European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery, its implementation package and illustrative country practices on putting integrated health services delivery into practice;
- providing guidance to focal points on an approach to depict the status of PHC in the Region and its intended application in countries; and
- exploring country needs and perspectives on integrating PHC and hospitals.

Discussion points and key conclusions from this 4th Annual Meeting will be documented in the form of a meeting report.

Participants

Participants are expected to include:

- integrated health services delivery focal points from the WHO European Region;
- country delegates nominated by the respective health ministries;
- WHO staff members from the WHO European Region and headquarters; and
- invited temporary advisers.