



**Health systems for prosperity and solidarity:
leaving no one behind
Tallinn, Estonia
13–14 June 2018**

**High-level meeting
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Scope and purpose

Background

The Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth of 2008, signed by all 53 Member States of the WHO European Region, represented a shared commitment to a values-driven agenda for strengthening health systems. This commitment, which emphasizes solidarity, equity and participation, has also been reflected in the work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe; most recently in the “Priorities for health systems strengthening in the European Region 2015–2020: walking the talk on people-centredness”¹ and the people-centred health systems pillar of Health 2020, the policy framework for the WHO European Region.

Ten years on from the signing of the Tallinn Charter, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, with the support of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, is organising a high-level technical meeting to celebrate the Charter and reaffirm the commitment to its values. The meeting, entitled Health systems for prosperity and solidarity: leaving no one behind, will reflect on progress and priorities in health systems strengthening within the Region, and will also look ahead to what we can expect in an increasingly changing European landscape. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Estonia, and will take place in Tallinn on 13–14 June 2018.

Towards health systems for prosperity and solidarity

The European environment has changed drastically since the signing of the Tallinn Charter, particularly in its political, economic and social context. Some of the attributes that we assign to European health systems and that are reflected in the Tallinn Charter – that they are based on solidarity, equity and universalism – are under threat. At the same time, we see broader global directions, such as the United Nations sustainable development agenda and the push towards universal health coverage (UHC), which show us that the Tallinn Charter and its underlying values remain very relevant today. Reviewing and reaffirming the relevance of the Charter in this new environment is therefore important to help us to ensure that all Europe’s citizens are able to benefit from effective, equitable and appropriate care delivered by well-functioning health systems – directions which are at the heart of Health 2020, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the agenda of the UHC2030 International Health Partnership.

¹ Priorities for health systems strengthening in the WHO European Region 2015–2020: walking the talk on people centredness. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2015 (EUR/RC65/13; <http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/past-sessions/65th-session/documentation/working-documents/eurrc6513-priorities-for-health-systems-strengthening-in-the-who-european-region-20152020-walking-the-talk-on-people-centredness>, accessed 10 January 2018).

Objectives

Given the focus on strengthening European health systems for prosperity and solidarity and leaving no one behind and building on the values of the Tallinn Charter, the meeting will be organized around three overarching themes:

- **Include** – improving coverage, access and financial protection for everyone
- **Invest** – making the case for investing in health systems
- **Innovate** – harnessing innovations and systems to meet people's needs.

This high-level meeting will serve as an opportunity:

- to celebrate the Tallinn Charter, its values and achievements on its 10th anniversary;
- to share innovations and recent good practices from across the WHO European Region;
- to outline a new vision for person-centred and resilient health systems of the 21st century, in line with the SDGs and Health 2020, with a stronger commitment to achieving equity.

Within this framework, the meeting is expected to:

- reaffirm the value base of European health systems, as set out in the Tallinn Charter, in a contemporary and future context;
- position the work to strengthen health systems in the WHO European Region in the global context of the sustainable development agenda and the SDGs, including our regional emphasis on equity;
- detail the transformational change required to put the three “I”s (Include, Invest, Innovate) into practice as a cross-cutting agenda for health systems; and
- explore the need for a high-level foresight group on European health systems that can support Member States in their planning and decision-making on the basis of informed (expert) consideration of potential future trends and directions for health systems and societal preferences.

Participants will include ministers of health and finance; high-level representatives and experts of Member States from across the WHO European Region (including patient representatives, decision-makers in the finance and health sectors, health-service coordinators and managers, and academics); selected keynote speakers; and representatives of specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, nongovernmental and civil society organizations. A series of technical documents and policy briefs will support the high-level meeting, which will comprise a combination of plenary and parallel sessions.

Looking ahead

Building on the conference themes, an outcome statement on behalf of all meeting participants will be prepared. Although it will not be a political document, the statement will take the format of a call to action in support of values-based health systems in Europe.