



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:

UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: contact@euro.who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Date: 5 May 2017

Dr Nino Berdzuli
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
Tbilisi 0119
Georgia

Our reference:
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Dear Dr Berdzuli,

**Training workshop on laboratory diphtheria diagnostics
Nicosia, Cyprus, 11-13 October 2017**

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Regional Office for Europe is working with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Diphtheria which is managed under the auspices of Public Health England to organize a training workshop on laboratory diphtheria diagnostics in Nicosia, Cyprus, 11-13 October 2017.

The main aim of the meeting is to strengthen the participants' skills and to build capacity in the laboratory diagnosis of diphtheria. The need for strengthening laboratory diagnostic skills was highlighted by the recent survey on global diphtheria diagnostic capacity. The laboratory capacity to diagnose this disease is a major challenge in countries with low or undetected incidence of the disease. Early and accurate laboratory diagnosis is critical to inform treatment of cases and management of close contacts.

The Scope and Purpose is enclosed. The working language will be Russian.

We would like to invite the national focal person who is responsible for the laboratory diagnosis of diphtheria to participate at this training workshop. The country participants will be able to benefit from the training to support the country's laboratory diagnosis of diphtheria.

It is important that prior to participating at the workshop, the participant must produce documented evidence of diphtheria immunization within the last ten years AND recent documented evidence of protective immunity levels to diphtheria (i.e.: >0.1IU/ml) according to WHO regulations.

In the meantime, should you require any additional information please contact Dr Mark Muscat, Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization (e-mail: muscatm@who.int).

This office will fully cover the participation costs of the nominated representatives.

We look forward to receiving your reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu
Director,
Division of Health Emergencies and
Communicable Diseases

Enclosed: as stated

Copy for information:

Dr Sofiko Belkania, Head, Executive Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave. Tbilisi 0119, Georgia

Mr Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, Genève CH-1202 Switzerland

H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia
Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, Copenhagen K 1203, Denmark

Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., Tbilisi 0179, Georgia

Dr Marijan Ivanusa, Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, UN House, 9 Eristavi St. Tbilisi 0179, Georgia