

Coalition of Partners:

Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services in the European Region



An Invitation to the 2nd Expert Meeting 28-30 November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland

How do we Collaborate Powerfully and Accelerate Targeted Action?



What Does the Coalition of Partners Do?

The Coalition of Partners (CoP) brings together public health practitioners in the spirit of co-creation and collaboration to accelerate action to strengthen essential public health services (PHS) and capacity in countries of the WHO European Region.

The CoP provides:

- A systemic platform to focus efforts and resources;
- A community of practice and an innovation hub, to share ideas and develop new solutions;
- An instrument through which to intervene to strengthen public health services.

The focus of the CoP lies across the four enabling functions of PHS:

1. Human Resources for Public Health
2. Financing of Public Health Services
3. Organization of Public Health Services
4. Public Health Legislation

A Culture of Practice and Participation

It is widely accepted that in order to be successful public health practitioners, we must collaborate across disciplines, institutions and sectoral boundaries, to engage stakeholders in the co-creation of strategies to improve public health services (PHS).

We aim to model this collaborative and participatory approach through our practices within the CoP. Our intention is for the CoP to become a community of practitioners; a platform for committed professionals gathered around the common purpose of strengthening PHS, whilst remaining committed to moving forwards and learning together. And learn we must, for while the science of management is a well-established discipline, the science of managing and improving PHS and the practice of co-creation, participation and stakeholder engagement are still very much emerging fields.

So how do we do this? Author and pioneering facilitator of complex change processes, Adam Kahane, speaks of the importance of constructing a ‘container’ - *“a physical, social, mental and intentional space which is simultaneously spacious enough and delimited enough to enable a group to experiment, play, and practice both creatively and safely”*.¹ The CoP provides just such a container for partners to connect and be in practice together.

Those who attended the CoP kick-off meeting in January 2017 were invited into a programme designed specifically to encourage participation, interaction and co-creation. Meeting in this way allows us to connect to our collective wisdom, identify fresh perspectives, new opportunities for each of us to contribute, and to co-create a pathway towards the results we want to see.

¹ Kahane, A. 2010, *Power and Love*, Berrett-Koehler, San Francisco. p122

So far, feedback from partners has been very positive and we are excited to continue exploring this approach; not only as a format for future meetings, but as an underlying philosophy for the CoP as a whole.



The 2nd CoP Meeting

This second meeting in Helsinki builds on the foundations established at the kick-off meeting in Copenhagen, in January 2017. That meeting generated a renewed interest in the potential of building partnerships and aligning efforts to enable countries to strengthen their PHS (see more on what came out of that first meeting in January 2017 [here](#)).

The purpose of this expert meeting will be to:

1. *Take stock of current projects.* To share and learn from our achievements to date, in pursuit of the objectives of the Agenda for Action.
2. *Move towards a powerful and effective collaboration.* To strengthen the structural and financial foundations of the Coalition, while nurturing relationships towards a greater cohesion.
3. *Accelerate implementation.* To initiate the next steps for the Coalition of Partners to support countries to strengthen public health services, towards universal health coverage.

This meeting will include a mix of inspiration and engagement through group work, dialogue cafes and storytelling. We will be working together with questions that require our collective attention; and grappling with challenges that demand varied, co-created solutions.

This meeting is not an exposition for observers, and is not a stage for promoting an agenda or approach over another; it is a space for active involvement, genuine dialogue and collaborative

action. This meeting is a conscious attempt at bringing together a diverse set of perspectives and approaches, which can improve public health capacities and services in the Europe Region.

We'll be working directly with questions such as:

1. What do countries need (generally and specifically) to allow them to pursue effective reforms of PHS and improve public health outcomes?
2. What are the needs of the CoP initiative itself at this point in time, in order for it to be an effective change agent?
3. What opportunities exist for accelerating actions and moving forward?

An Open Invitation

If you have an interest in strengthening PHS and wish to be part of the solution, then we need and welcome your input and expertise; as to address this challenge we need a range of ideas and feasible approaches. We want to involve people, and groups of people, who have passion and a sense of responsibility to follow through with potential ideas and solutions. Your participation will allow you to make a valuable contribution to the development of your own action plan, or to support others in developing theirs so that the Coalition as a whole is aligned and working towards common objectives.

Furthermore, if you are working to contribute, or have expertise that contributes to the four enablers of PHS, then we are thrilled to have you with us in Helsinki.

We warmly invite you to:

- Bring your knowledge and experience to contribute to the collective wisdom of the group, as this will ensure a rich and engaging experience for us all;
- Be open and curious about what you are learning and how that can add value to you and your organisation's work in the future;
- Be prepared to challenge your assumptions and to change the way you think and work.

Practicalities

Date/Time:

Meeting Programme

Tuesday, November 28: 9:00 – 17:00

Wednesday, November 29: 9:00 – 17:00

Thursday, November 30: 9.00 - 13:30

Optional Programme

Thursday, November 30, 13.30 – 17.00

**This time has been set aside for self-organized activities (networking and socializing).*

Location:

Clarion Hotel Helsinki, Tyynenmerenkatu 2, Helsinki, Finland, 00220²

² Provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland (a partner of the CoP).

Languages:

Working languages will be English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

RSVP Process:

Please RSVP to Ms Danielle Agnello at euphs@who.int by 16 October 2017.

Participant numbers may be limited by venue capacity. In this case, places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Please complete this short survey [here](#), to register for the meeting and to apply for financial assistance (see below).

Costs:

A Partner of the Coalition of Partners, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, will be providing lunches and coffee/refreshments during the meeting, along with a social dinner.

Please note: we are asking for you to secure your own funds to cover your travel and accommodation costs. Limited funds will be made available to support those who, for financial reasons, would otherwise be unable to attend the meeting; priority will be given to who are actively involved in Coalition of Partners projects.

Please indicate in the registration form if you require funding. Also, please note, if needed, we are happy to provide an official WHO invitation at your request.

Contact:

The CoP Secretariat (Anna, Martin, Natalia, Danielle and James)

Ms Danielle Agnello will be the focal point for any queries in regard to this event. Please contact her on euphs@who.int.

