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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>

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Date: 10 July 2017

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

Dear Dr Berdzuli,

**WHO European Regional meeting of National Immunization Programme Managers and the 17th meeting of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts (ETAGE)
Budva, Montenegro, 24-27 October 2017**

I have the honour to inform you that the WHO Regional Office for Europe plans to hold the above-mentioned meetings.

Under the auspices of the Minister of Health, Montenegro, a meeting of National Immunization Programme Managers from 53 Member States in the WHO European Region will be held on 24, 25 and 26 (morning) October 2017, followed by the annual meeting of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts (ETAGE) on 26 (afternoon) and 27 October in Budva, Montenegro.

We expect approximately 150 participants from 53 Member States of the WHO European Region as well as experts from the WHO and international partners, to take part in the Programme Managers Meeting (PMM). The objectives of the meeting are to present and discuss the progress and challenges in meeting the five strategic objectives of the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015-2020 (EVAP), exchange experiences, promising practices and country case studies and define key priority areas for accelerated action under each strategic objective.

The annual ETAGE meeting will be held immediately following the PMM. ETAGE is an advisory body tasked with providing independent review and technical input to the WHO Regional Director in relation to the eradication, elimination and control of vaccine-preventable diseases in the WHO European Region.

I have pleasure in inviting you to nominate two participants, including the *National Immunization Programme Manager* and the *Chair of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG)*, to attend the PMM (24-26 October). The *Chair of the NITAG* is hereby invited to extend her/his stay in Budva to attend the ETAGE meeting (26-27 October).

A proposed scope and purpose and agenda for each of these events will be developed and sent to the nominees.

The working languages will be English and Russian and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Travel for participants will be arranged and paid for by this office, and they will also receive a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting in accordance with our travel regulations.

I look forward to receiving your nominations, giving the names, functional titles and addresses of the proposed participants. We shall then communicate with them directly and provide them with the necessary documentation and administrative information in good time.

We would be grateful if you would instruct your staff to send the required information to the WHO Regional Office for Europe, attention of Ms Natasha Allen Grue (e-mail: allenn@who.int, telephone: +45 45 33 66 03) at your convenience but if possible no later than 04 August 2017.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail: vaccine@euro.who.int.

We thank you for your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu
Director
Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable
Diseases

Copy for information to:

Dr Sofiko Belkania, Head, Executive Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., 0119 Tbilisi, 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, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark

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

Dr Marijan Ivanusa, Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia