



**Second Expert Meeting of the Coalition of Partners to Strengthen Public Health
Capacities and Services in the European Region: *How do we Collaborate Powerfully &
Accelerate Targeted Action?***

Location: Helsinki, Finland

20 September 2017

Date: 28-30 November, 2017

Original: English

Scope and Purpose

Background

Sustainable Development Goals and Health 2020. In 2012, Member States endorsed a new policy framework for health in the European Region, *Health 2020*, with the goal of “significantly improving the health and well-being of populations, reducing health inequalities [and] strengthening public health. In the same year, the *European Action Plan to Strengthen Public Health Services and Capacities* was endorsed, which is considered a key implementation pillar of Health 2020. The values, aims and approaches of Health 2020 align with those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in this way; the implementation of Health 2020 supports the achievement of the SDGs, including Universal Health Coverage in the European Region.

The Coalition of Partners to Strengthen Public Health Services and Capacities in the European Region. In January 2017, a diverse group of professionals convened at the WHO/Europe for a two-day expert meeting to kick-start the Coalition of Partners (CoP) collaboration to strengthen public health services (PHS) and capacities in the European Region. The CoP focusses international expertise, including expertise internal to the WHO Regional Office for Europe, towards a concerted and systematic collaborative effort to support countries in their endeavors to strengthen the enabler functions of PHS: *Human Resources for Public Health; Financing of PHS; Organization and Governance of PHS; and Public Health Legislation*. In this way, the CoP directly responds to country needs and is, as such, demand-driven.

CoP Agenda for Action. WHO/Europe and CoP partners have co-created the draft Agenda for Action (AfA), which sets out the joint objectives and practical actions of the CoP, and acts a guiding document for the Coalition. The AfA is a working document and evolves over time. Importantly, members of the CoP take joint responsibility for mobilizing the resources needed to implement the actions set out in the AfA.

Implementing the AfA. During the CoP expert meeting in January 2017, participants started to develop joint proposals to take forward the implementation of the actions set out in the draft

AfA. In the months following the meeting, 11 project proposals have materialized; covering issues such as building public health leadership, public health competencies, human resources, public health legislation, and accreditation and credentialing systems. Furthermore some proposals have transformed in practical action.

Against this backdrop, the PHS Programme of WHO/Europe is convening the CoP to a second 2½-day expert meeting to strengthen this key collaboration and promote further joint actions. The *calling question* to the participants will be: *How do we Collaborate Powerfully & Accelerate Targeted Action to Strengthen PHS across the European Region?*

This event is an open event, welcoming all relevant decision-makers and experts from within national PHS, international organizations, and academia.

Aim and objectives of the workshop

The **aim** of the workshop is to **accelerate current actions and seize further opportunities** for the CoP to respond meaningfully and practically to the needs of countries to strengthen their PHS, while working towards a powerful and effective collaboration.

Workshop objectives

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 of the Coalition of Partners to support countries to strengthen public health services, towards universal health coverage.

Expected outcomes

1. Assessment of progress of current projects.
2. The collaborative platform underpinning the work of the Coalition of Partners is strengthened; to enable the Coalition to intervene effectively.
3. The relationships among the partners of the Coalition of Partners are strengthened.
4. Next steps identified and actions initiated.
5. Country champions are further enabled to intervene to strengthen public health services at the country-level.

Format

The expert meeting will follow a workshop format, and take place over two and a half days in Helsinki, Finland. The emphasis will be on interactive sessions that allow for exchange of ideas and co-creation. Working languages will be English and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation provided.