



**Accelerating Implementation of the
International Health Regulations (2005)
and Strengthening Emergency
Preparedness in the WHO European
Region – A High Level Meeting**

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**Munich, Germany
13-15 February 2018**

**24 November 2017
Original: English**

Scope and purpose

Background

Fulfilling joint commitments made under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)¹, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)², Health 2020³, the European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁴ and the G20 priorities⁵, requires shared strategic direction and coordinated actions.

In response to recommendations made by representatives of State Parties of the WHO European Region who met in February 2017 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, the scope of this proposed high level meeting has been broadened thematically in order to enable a comprehensive approach to health emergency preparedness and response. It is set as follow up to the document presented at the 67th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2017 on accelerating implementation of the IHR and strengthening laboratory capacities for better health in the WHO European Region⁶. It is addressing the priority areas for IHR application, implementation and compliance in the WHO European Region based on current needs and existing gaps.

The meeting is being organized with financial support of the German Government.

Objectives

The WHO Regional Office for Europe continues to actively support the States Parties to further develop and maintain their capacities for preparedness, surveillance and response in accordance with the IHR including the development of mechanisms for multi- sectoral and cross- border collaboration, as well as to strengthening the role of National IHR Focal Points (NFPs). For this, the main purpose of this meeting is to accelerate the implementation of the IHR and strengthen the emergency preparedness in the WHO European Region.

¹ International Health Regulations (2005): Third Edition. World Health Organization (<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/246107/1/9789241580496-eng.pdf?ua=1>)

² Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

³ Health 2020: A European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/199532/Health2020-Long.pdf?ua=1)

⁴ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

⁵ PRIORITIES OF THE 2017 G20 SUMMIT https://www.g20.org/Content/DE/_Anlagen/G7_G20/2016-g20-praesidentschaftspapier-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile)

⁶ Document EUR/RC67/13; http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/343949/67wd13e_IHRandLaboratories_170706.pdf)

The meeting will address regional work on IHR core capacities and its close linkages with health systems strengthening efforts and addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as a growing issue of international concern. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the progress made to date and the process ahead, share experiences and address existing gaps and challenges in complying, implementing and applying the IHR. It will provide a platform for focused discussions and consensus building on the next steps that are required for the development of a Regional Action Plan.

The meeting will have the following objectives:

- To provide an update on the progress made to date and challenges faced in complying with, implementing and applying the IHR in the WHO European Region;
- To elaborate on the linkages between IHR core capacities, preparedness and operational readiness in the WHO European Region;
- To facilitate collaboration with national public health institutes and their equivalents on capacity-building activities, simulation exercises, after-action reviews and external evaluations;
- To elaborate on the role of the IHR as the framework to coordinate efforts for controlling the international spread of AMR; and
- To integrate the emergency management cycle with health systems strengthening and prioritize the actions to guide the approaches;
- To review the conceptual linkages between IHR core capacities and health systems strengthening.

General programme

The two-and-a-half day programme will provide an interactive platform for senior public health and technical experts from States Parties and WHO to discuss strategic aspects of acceleration of IHR implementation in the WHO European Region.

AMR and its linkages with the IHR will be highlighted. Health system strengthening and essential public health functions and operations, and their roles in accelerating the IHR implementation will be discussed. Invited speakers will play a central role during the meeting by illustrating challenges, gaps and opportunities in the IHR implementation process and the means to fill-in the gaps. The decisions from the meeting will serve as a basis for the development of an Action Plan for the WHO European Region on the IHR.

Participants

Total: 100 to 150 participants

Target audience:

- Technical representatives from States Parties in the WHO European Region (National IHR Focal Points, Ministries of Health, other sectors)
- Senior public health experts;

Up to three individuals can be nominated per States Party. Ideally, these will be:

- An expert who is part of the National IHR Focal Point team and
- Two senior experts involved in strategic activities facilitating national IHR implementation, with health systems and public health knowledge and experience

Meeting arrangements

Duration: 2.5 days

Dates: 13-15 February 2018

Simultaneous interpretation between English and Russian will be provided