



**Memorandum of Understanding between the
European Committee of the Regions
and the
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe**

1. Preamble

1) The World Health Organization ("WHO"), an intergovernmental organisation established by its Member States, is the directing and coordinating agency for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

2) The WHO is represented in the European Region comprising 53 countries by the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) and has public health, scientific and technical experts based in the main office in Copenhagen, Denmark, in decentralised centres and in country offices in its Member States.

The Committee of the Regions ("CoR") is the European Union advisory body composed of local and regional authorities, as mentioned in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As a political assembly of regional and local representatives, its mission is to provide institutional representation for all the EU's territorial areas, regions, cities and municipalities.

3) Recognising the benefits of genuine, substantive cooperation between the CoR and WHO/Europe and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation, the Parties have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding.

They wish to strengthen collaboration in areas of mutual interests to enhance the health policy dialogue and bring forward the efforts to help meet major health challenges.

2. Purpose

The main purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to outline the areas of cooperation and the cooperation mechanism between the CoR and WHO/Europe. It expresses a joint commitment to the formulation of a concrete partnership on the basis of the general principles and objectives contained herein, recognising health as a major investment for sustainable human, economic and social development. For WHO/Europe, fostering intersectoral cooperation ensuring implementation of health issues across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emanating from the "Transforming our

world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and for the CoR, the 3rd EU Health Programme, as well as the Committee's annual work programmes, are the cornerstones of the cooperation determined in this Memorandum of Understanding, whose promotion and strengthening will result from the Action Plan in Appendix I.

3. Focal areas of cooperation

Without prejudice to cooperation in other health-related fields, the Parties have identified and agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

- 3.1 Addressing social, economic and environmental determinants of health and health inequalities including gender and rights issues;
- 3.2 Promotion of healthy and active lifestyle and awareness raising about the health risks including unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol;
- 3.3 Promotion of multi-sectorial and life-course approaches for effective policy and programmes, high impact interventions and defining vulnerability and groups in need;
- 3.4 Sharing and promotion of knowledge-driven public health responses to major communicable and non-communicable diseases and immunisation;
- 3.5 Promotion and strengthening awareness of health and environment in European sub-national and local settings;
- 3.6 Addressing the health inequities within the Health 2020 policy framework;
- 3.7 Preparedness and response to major public health threats and health emergencies;
- 3.8 Promoting and strengthening universal health coverage (UHC) and integrated person-centred health services.

4. Means

The joint cooperation in the above agreed areas can be undertaken through already existing tools and instruments of both the CoR and WHO/Europe:

- 4.1 Collaboration, including with subnational and local authorities, through the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) and the Regions for Health and Healthy Cities Network;
- 4.2 Consultation and exchange of relevant information and documents and activities, including through on-site workshops;
- 4.3 Promotion and raising awareness among national, regional and local authorities, as appropriate, and other relevant institutions and organisations, including on the need for active involvement of all in the design and implementation of public health measures and programmes, and on effective and efficient public health policies and solutions;
- 4.4 Promotion of policy and sharing of good practice at the local and regional level within the European Union and beyond;
- 4.5 Collaboration on relevant advocacy and communication campaigns, programmes and activities;
- 4.6 Invitation to relevant meetings of the Parties.

5. Responsible entities in the CoR and WHO/Europe

Within the CoR, the responsible department for the implementation and monitoring of the Memorandum of Understanding is the NAT commission and its secretariat.

The responsible department within WHO/Europe is WEU and PAR unit.

6. Entry into force

This Memorandum enters into force on the day of its signing by the authorised Representatives of both Parties. At the time when this Memorandum enters into force, both Parties will inform their staff.

7. Modus operandi

Every two years by 31 October, the Parties will have developed and agreed on a joint activity plan of following years. Every other year, the cooperation between the Parties will be reviewed jointly.

8. Confidentiality

It is acknowledged that each Party may possess confidential information, which is proprietary to it or to third parties collaborating with it. Any such information shall only be shared between the Parties under a separate confidential disclosure agreement, specifically covering such information.

9. Liability

Each Party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding. Thus, a Party shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party, or that other Party's staff or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaboration under this Memorandum of Understanding.

10. Publications

- 10.1 Subject to each Party's proprietary rights and/or the proprietary rights of others, and without prejudice to obligations of confidentiality, the results of any collaborative activity under this Memorandum of Understanding may be published by either Party. The Parties are encouraged to publish the results of their joint work in a collaborative fashion. Guidelines for authorship of major, international, peer-reviewed journals will be used to establish authorship of collaborative publications. In regard to separate publications, it is agreed that in order to avoid prejudicing proprietary rights and the confidentiality of information, the publishing Party shall transmit to the other party for its review the material intended to be published at least 60 (sixty) days before a proposed publication is submitted to any editor, publisher, referee or meeting organiser. In the absence of any objection by the other Party within that 60 day period, concerning prejudice to proprietary rights or confidentiality of information, the publication may proceed. Any publication as referred to above shall duly acknowledge both Parties. In addition to review of the content of publications as referred to above, each Party shall have the right to review the

- 10.2 acknowledgement and request reasonable changes to the use of its name, or request that its name be deleted altogether. The Parties agree that the use of logos shall be sought on every joint event or products and materials.
- 10.3 Copyright in any jointly prepared publications resulting from or relating to any of the collaborative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be vested in WHO/Europe and CoR jointly, who shall each independently and severally be entitled to exploit such copyright in any manner and for any purpose as they may each in their sole discretion deem appropriate, except that no use shall be made of such publications for or in conjunction with commercial and/or promotional purposes.
- 10.4 Copyright in any publications resulting from or relating to any of the collaborative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, and prepared by one of the Parties hereto on its own, shall be vested in that Party, provided however, that any such publication shall be submitted to the other Party for review and comments in accordance with paragraph 10.1. above.

11. Use of the Parties' names

Except as explicitly provided in this Memorandum of Understanding, neither Party shall, in any statement or material of a promotional nature, refer to the relationship of the other Party to the collaboration pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding, or otherwise use the other Party's name, acronym and/or emblem, without the prior written consent of the other Party.

12. Amendments

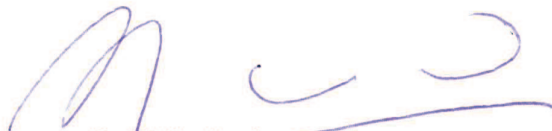
This Memorandum of Understanding may only be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

13. Termination


Any Party is within its right to terminate this Memorandum having notified the other Party in writing six months prior to termination. It is agreed that any termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be without prejudice to: (i) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity; and (ii) any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Two copies are signed.

Agreed and accepted: 21 November 2016



Karl-Heinz Lambertz
First Vice-President
On behalf of the
European Committee of the Regions



Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director for Europe
On behalf of the
World Health Organization

European Committee of the Regions – World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
JOINT ACTION PLAN 2019-2020

The overall objective of the development of the Action Plan is to strengthen the implementation and coordination of research-based health policy and practice at the local level in Europe. This is in line with the goals and targets set out by the third EU Health Programme (2014-2020) and the WHO Health 2020: the European policy for health and well-being, as well as the European Committee of the Regions and its Commission for Natural Resources (NAT) annual work programmes. In order to do so, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) agree to extend standing invitations to each other for participation in the annual WHO Regional Committee Meetings and the Commission for Natural Resources meetings, and to jointly promote their respective work.

Focal Areas of Cooperation	Activities	Tentative dates	Means/Tools	Organisation
Determinants of health	CoR participation in WHO/Europe Regional Committee (Copenhagen, Denmark)	16-19 September 2019	conference	WHO/Europe
	CoR participation in WHO/Europe Regional Committee (Tel Aviv, Israel)	14-17 September 2020	conference	WHO/Europe
	Solidarity in health – ten years on	Summer 2019	Joint letter to the new Commissioner for health	CoR and WHO/Europe
Healthy and active lifestyle	WHO/Europe participation in the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) 2019	October 2019	WHO/Europe – CoR joint event	CoR and WHO/Europe
	WHO/Europe participation in the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) 2020	October 2020	WHO/Europe – CoR joint event	CoR and WHO/Europe

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	Joint meeting and communication activity concerning 2020 World Health Day	07 April 2020	meeting	CoR and WHO/Europe
	WHO involvement in the CoR NAT work on healthy and sustainable diets and food public procurement	2019	Good practice presentation and workshop (possibly within the NAT commission meeting)	CoR
	Discussion with members of the CoR and relevant WHO team on concrete actions during a visit to the WHO Regional Office	Spring 2020	on-site workshop	WHO/Europe
Multi-sectoral and life-course approach	WHO involvement in the CoR work on digitalisation in health 2019	2019	Meeting with the Rapporteur	CoR
	WHO participation in the NAT legislative works on Healthy ageing in the EU	March-October 2019	Meeting with the Rapporteur / policy debate	CoR
Public health responses to major communicable and noncommunicable diseases and immunisation	Exchange of regional success stories and best practice examples	2019-2020	information exchange	CoR and WHO/Europe
	WHO involvement in the CoR work on alcohol harm prevention	05 July 2019, Sweden	Policy debate (possibly within the NAT commission meeting)	CoR
Health and environment	CoR participation in the WHO European Health and Environment upcoming conferences		conference/ expert meeting(s)	WHO/Europe

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	WHO-CoR joint conference in collaboration with Euroregio Meuse-Rhine	26-28 June 2019	conference	WHO and CoR
	WHO involvement in the CoR legislative works on endocrine disruptors	January-June 2019	Meeting with the Rapporteur / policy debate	CoR
	CoR participation in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network: Mayors' Summit (2019 and 2020)	2020	conference	WHO/Europe
	CoR participation in the WHO Regions for Health Network Annual Meeting (2020)	2020	conference	WHO/Europe
Addressing health inequalities within the Health 2020 policy framework	WHO participation in the CoR policy debate on Health inequalities 2020: stock taking	Spring 2020	Policy debate (possibly within the NAT commission meeting)	CoR
	WHO/Europe participation in the works of the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing	2019-2020	Intergroup meetings at the margins of plenary sessions	CoR
Health threats and health emergencies	WHO/Europe participation in activities relating to the EU Urban Agenda		to be defined	CoR
Universal health coverage and integrated person-centred health	Debate on Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All (SDG3)		Initiative presentation and debate	WHO/Europe - CoR

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services	Discussion with members of the CoR and relevant WHO team on concrete actions during a visit to the WHO Regional Office	Spring 2020	on-site workshop	WHO/Europe