



15 YEARS OF ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

FOURTH SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (SEE) HEALTH MINISTERIAL FORUM

HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY IN SEE BY 2030 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UN

03-04 APRIL 2017
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SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Her Excellency Ms Ruxanda Glavan, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova, in her role as the Past and Current President of the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN), and Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, are calling for ministers of health to attend the Fourth Forum of SEE Ministers of Health, to be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 03-04 April 2017. Ambassadors of member States of the SEEHN to the Republic of Moldova, national health coordinators, all partners and high-level keynote speakers are also invited.

The Fourth Forum will be held under the Current Presidency of His Excellency, Dr. Petar Moskov, Minister of Health of Bulgaria in the first half of 2017. Thus, this cornerstone high level event of the SEE Health Network will be unique as it will be for the first time when the provisions of the new Memorandum of Understanding for the collaborative leadership of the “Troika” Presidency will be implemented.

Regional cooperation for public health was formalized when the ministers of health of the SEEHN adopted and declared their commitment to the provisions of the Dubrovnik, Skopje and Banja Luka Pledges, endorsed at the First, Second and Third Forums in 2001, 2005 and 2011, respectively.

Forum goal

The Fourth Forum is the next cornerstone of regional cooperation for public health and well-being in SEE. The meeting seeks to further discuss the political and technical collaboration and the way forward for a closer partnership.

The Fourth Forum, under the theme “Health, well-being and prosperity in SEE by 2030 in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN”, follows 15 years of SEE cooperation (2001–2016), streamlined towards the global and European efforts for achieving improved health, equity and accountability in health,

SEE HEALTH NETWORK MEMBER STATES



PARTNERS



building on major European resolutions, charters, communiqués, treaties, frameworks and action plans, as well as the new European policy framework for health and well-being, Health 2020.

In continuation of efforts to implement the principles, priority areas and actions of the European policy for health and well-being, Health 2020, and the SEE 2020 strategy, the main purpose of the Forum is to introduce joint subregional and national actions in the SEE region for implementing and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the objective of better health, equity and accountability.

The Forum will bring together high-level representatives of governments in the SEE region and beyond in order to share best practices and identify common challenges. The topics for discussion include the status and challenges of noncommunicable diseases, universal health services, cross-border public health, emergencies and migration, as well as joint efforts to address issues related to the socioeconomic determinants of health.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development approach health improvement as a shared societal goal across all parts of government. The Agenda addresses complex challenges of health and well-being by promoting an integrated policy response across sector and portfolio boundaries, incorporating concern for health and health equity impacts into the policy development process of all sectors and agencies. This allows governments to address the key determinants of quality of life, well-being, health and health inequities in a more systematic way, and enables them to take into account the benefit of improved population health for the goals of other sectors.

SEE regional collaboration for public health and well-being

SEE regional cooperation on public health remains a high priority for underpinning political cooperation and economic development in the SEE region, facilitating confidence-building and supporting European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Fourth Forum will review the performance of the SEEHN during the past 15 years and identify opportunities for future cooperation. The Forum will also review the status, national capacities and future opportunities related to the achievement of the SDGs in the SEE region.

SEE regional cooperation in public health has entered a very important phase, with changes in the political set-up and emerging new entities, in particular the Regional Cooperation Council, and with three of the SEEHN member States (Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania) already members of the European Union. Such developments require the SEEHN to adapt to new realities and to develop a more regionally owned and led framework for cooperation. In 2015, Croatia withdrew its formal membership and took the role of a partner country to the network, together with Slovenia.

The SEEHN Memorandum of Understanding of 2008 and its Addendum of 2011 therefore need revision in view of the current and future developments of the SEEHN and its governance and institutional mechanisms.

Forum outcomes

The Forum will be a firm step along the pioneering path taken by the ministers of health of the SEEHN in 2001, when they signed the Dubrovnik Pledge, the first political document on cooperation on health development in the SEE region.

The expected outcomes of the Fourth Forum are the political commitment of all SEE governments to an expanded subregional cooperation for introducing and/or strengthening the principles, priority areas and actions towards achieving better health, well-being and prosperity in the region in the context of the SDGs. A fourth political document, the Chisinau Pledge, accompanied by the SEE Health 2030 strategy and a new Memorandum of Understanding, will be signed to that effect.