

**CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SEEHN TO THE NCD DIRECTORS MEETING,
MOSCOW 8 & 9 JUNE 2017**

Delivered on behalf of the SEEHN by Dr. Igor Spiroski the National Coordinator for Non-communicable diseases from FYR of Macedonia

**Honourable Minister of Health from the Russian Federation;
Distinguished high level representatives of Member States from the WHO European
Region;
Dear colleagues;
Ladies and gentleman;**

The ministers of health of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Bulgaria, the State of Israel, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Republic of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, member countries of the South-eastern Europe Health Network, have gathered at our Fourth Health Ministerial Forum: “Health, Well-being and Prosperity in South East Europe in the Framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030”, commemorating 15 years of regional cooperation in public health in SEE, in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 3–4 April 2017 to discuss the progress made and to promote continued enhanced cooperation on public health in the SEE region.

A pre-meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases was held on the 2th April 2017 at the occasion of the SEEHN Fourth SEE Health Ministerial Forum in Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova, focused on the significant toll NCDs pose on member countries countries as well as with the uneven progress in its prevention and control. We are sharing with other member states a brief summary of our discussions as a contribution to the European Roadmap 2030 to tackle Noncommunicable Disease.

First and foremost, Ministers of the SEEHN acknowledged that achieving universal health coverage (UHC) for our populations requires a full and extensive implementation of the Action Plan for Implementation of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2012–2016.

It has been proposed that the discussions of the successful pre-meeting would be summarized and submitted as a joint contribution to the proceedings of the WHO European Region NCD Directors Meeting to be held in Moscow 8-9 June 2017 and, via that way will be incorporated into the discussions at the Global Conference on NCD to be hold in Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2017 and from there to the UNHLM 2018;

With this statement of the SEEHN we would like to will highlight progress made so far, challenges and opportunities, to acknowledge the existence of innovations and major improvements particularly in management of NCD as well as the work that lays ahead in terms

of dealing notably with monitoring, surveillance and evaluation as well as the commercial determinants of NCD;

This statement faithfully reflects the discussions and consensus held at the NCD Pre-meeting organized in the context of the SEE Health Ministerial Forum in Chisinau.

During the Pre-meeting with representatives from member states of the SEEHN the Global and European context and developments in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases were discussed as well as current capacities of the SEE Health Network countries for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.

Countries from the SEE Health Network have made good progress in tackling NCD. They are well on track to achieve premature mortality reduction target by 2025 and 2030 however progress is uneven and there are significant threats namely the increase in obesity prevalence.

The majority of the countries have recently adopted new or revised old strategies and action plans on NCD. It is also very visible a significant improvement in the implementation of tool for management of NCD like cancer screening, registries and primary care based interventions.

Good innovations have been identified but the area of prevention can be improved particularly by considering the use of emerging evidence-based tools like fiscal policies, better labeling, and marketing controls just to mention a few. In particular there is a significant interest in moving forward in the areas of intersectoral action, commercial determinants of health, health workforce, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation.

We have made significant progress together. The SEEHN countries have significantly contributed to the positive trend in the European Region however we are faced with new and challenging developments being it the obesity epidemics; salt consumption stubbornly high or incredibly high levels of physical inactivity.

The SEEHN aligns itself with the WHO Regional Office for Europe in greeting all member states for huge progress towards achieving the global targets in the areas of alcohol and tobacco and by this making a major contribution to the reduction of premature mortality where the European Region is on the driving seat of this global transformation process

We would like however to be more ambitious, we believe we can go far beyond the global premature mortality target and welcome the challenging proposal by WHO/Europe.

We believe one should also look at quality of life as life expectancy increases and the impact of NCDs in this quality of life as differences across the region are stalling.