



**Fifteenth meeting of the European Environment
and Health Task Force (EHTF) Bureau**

EURO/EHTFB15

**Virtual
10 December 2025**

**9 February 2025
Original: English**

Draft meeting highlights

Background and introduction

The WHO European Centre for Environment, Climate Change and Health (WHO ECEH), acting in its capacity as Secretariat of the European Environment and Health Process (EHP), supported the EHTF Chair and co-Chair in the organization and conduct of the Bureau meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Raquel Duarte-Davidson. Ms Brigit Staatsen served as acting co-Chair, in agreement with Ms Maia Javakhishvili, who followed the meeting online while on ministerial duty abroad.

Participants

The meeting was attended by representatives from 29 Member States of the WHO European Region and 5 stakeholders, including youth representatives.

Overall scope

The meeting focused on:

- Exchange of experiences and insights among Member States, stakeholders, EHP Partnerships, and the EHP Secretariat on the implementation of the Budapest commitments
- Coordination and planning of EHTF activities for 2026 and beyond, including the Bonn Dialogues and the next EHTF meeting.

Key discussion points and main agreements

- 🌿 The WHO Secretariat updated the EHTF Bureau on WHO/Europe's current strategic and programmatic work as well as the financial situation. Member States provided national updates on the implementation of the Budapest Declaration, including inputs from Czechia, Hungary, North Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, and Tajikistan. All EHTF members were invited to showcase national and organizational commitments in English and/or Russian via the [online poll](#).
- 🌿 The Bureau continued the co-design of the EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027, advancing the Task Force's shared vision into a practical framework. Guiding questions remain open to support further development of the draft Programme, and inputs were invited via the [online form](#), with responses expected by the end of January 2026.

- 🌿 The Bureau agreed on the organisation of two Bonn Dialogues in 2026: one on Menstrual Health scheduled for May, and a second, tentatively focused on Environment and Health within a One Health approach, anticipated for the second half of the year. EHTF members were encouraged to lead or co-lead the Dialogues, and to propose speakers and topics aligned with their national priorities to the Secretariat at euceh@who.int.
- 🌿 Updates were provided by the six active EHP Partnerships on their ongoing work and activities.
- 🌿 Potential hosting opportunities for the next EHTF meeting were explored. National consultations will continue with the EHP Secretariat to launch a call for hosts in early 2026.
- 🌿 The initiation of a photo and video gallery showcasing EHP's work since its establishment in 1989 was agreed. EHTF members were encouraged to share archival materials from various EHTF meetings with the EHP Secretariat at euceh@who.int.



The following sections provide a more detailed overview of the key discussions and decisions summarized above and are organized according to the main topics of the meeting sessions (Annex 1).

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda and programme

1. The meeting opened with remarks from the EHTF Chair and the WHO Secretariat. Following the introduction of the scope and purpose of the meeting, participants adopted the agenda as proposed.
2. Participation by Member States, stakeholder organizations, and the EHP Secretariat is illustrated in the figure below.

Figure. Representation of countries and stakeholders at the EHTF Bureau meeting



2. Updates from the WHO Second European Programme of Work and the recent developments

3. The Secretariat updated the Bureau that the Member States of the WHO European Region adopted the [second European Programme of Work 2026–2030](#) (EPW 2) at the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The new five-year strategy provides an action-oriented framework to build healthier, fairer and more resilient societies across the Region by the end of the decade. Environment and health, particularly climate change are recognized as one of the four core pillars of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, marking an important milestone and reaffirming Member States' commitments under the Budapest Declaration.
4. The Secretariat further highlighted that EPW2 aims to raise the political profile of, and support for, stronger action on the health impacts of climate change, reflecting the [call to](#)

[action](#) of the [Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health](#). The Commission, an independent advisory group convened by WHO/Europe in June 2025, has since held two hearings and a [special consultation](#) with leading experts and will review evidence and experiences to develop final recommendations for accelerated climate and health action, to be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2026. The [next special consultation](#) was scheduled to be held on 19 January 2026.








5. The Secretariat also noted that WHO is facing an unprecedented organizational and financial crisis, resulting in significant workforce reductions globally and within the WHO Regional Office for Europe with nearly a quarter of staff positions in the Region expected to be reduced by mid-2026. This situation requires increased prioritization, refocusing, and mainstreaming of environment and health across technical areas.
6. Against this backdrop, the EHTF Bureau and participants emphasized that strong Member State engagement is essential to sustain progress on implementation of the Budapest commitments across the Region and agreed to explore, at country level, options for dedicating capacities to support the work of the EHP.



3. Implementation of the Budapest commitments: 2025 in review

7. The session opened with an online poll inviting participants to provide an overall reflection on 2025 in relation to implementation of the Budapest commitments, as well as more broadly at country level, with response options including progress, collaboration, learning, and resilience, and space for additional comments. “Collaboration” emerged as the most frequently selected response, underscoring its importance for advancing environment and health action across countries in the current context.
8. In this context, the EHP Secretariat presented an overview of WHO work in 2025 in support of implementation of the Budapest commitments, covering governance, coordination mechanisms and thematic areas of work, followed by updates from Member States on country-level implementation. All of these updates are detailed in the sections below.

Table 1. EHP snapshot on main activities and outputs in 2025

Governance, strategic reflection and coordination	
	EHTF meeting and participation: The 15 th EHTF meeting was attended by over 100 participants, including representatives from 38 countries and 12 key stakeholders, reinforcing the collaborative nature of the EHTF and providing a broad platform for exchange on implementation of the Budapest commitments.
	Strengthened Bureau leadership: A new EHTF Bureau was elected, ensuring regional and subregional representation, including the first-ever representative from Central Asia.
	EHTF Bureau meetings: Two EHTF Bureau meetings were convened to steer implementation of the Budapest Declaration, including prioritization of activities and agreement on key milestones.
	Strategic discussions in changing context: At its 15th meeting, the EHTF explored how evolving political and economic landscapes are influencing environment and health policies and practices across the WHO European Region. Ten key takeaways for advancing the Budapest commitments are available in the meeting highlights .
	Progress tracking and monitoring: To strengthen monitoring of implementation, the EHTF tested and endorsed an online poll to collect country examples of policies, projects, research, partnerships, and other initiatives, with plans to expand its use across the Region.
Bonn Dialogues on Environment and Health	
	Nature-based solutions and health: The Dialogue convened 170 participants from across the WHO European Region and beyond, sharing evidence and practical examples of how nature-based solutions can improve health across sectors. A key moment was the launch of a new WHO report on nature-based solutions and health, developed jointly with the WHO Collaborating Centre on Natural Environments and Health at the University of Exeter.
	Safe active mobility: On World Bicycle Day, WHO/Europe launched the “ Let’s Get Moving! 100 Reasons to Walk and Cycle More ” campaign, engaging nearly 200 participants. Developed under THE PEP, the campaign highlights the multiple benefits of walking and cycling, including healthier people and greener cities to stronger

	communities and economic opportunities. Campaign materials are available in Annex 2.	
Coordination of EHP Partnerships		
	Six EHP Partnerships have expanded to involve 45 countries and additional organizations across the WHO European Region and have become a key implementation mechanism for the Budapest commitments. The EHP Secretariat supported this growth through coordinated facilitation, annual summaries, communication products (see Chapter 4), and maintenance of a dedicated online platform.	
Communication and advocacy		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EHP digital content on the WHO website and the EHP SharePoint was updated and expanded. ✓ Three editions of the EHP Newsletter were produced in English and Russian, with a fourth in preparation. ✓ High-impact social media, including the #LetsGetMoving challenge, generated over 75,000 impressions, with each post averaging nearly 2,400 impressions – almost double the typical reach of WHO/Europe posts. 	

a) Air quality

- ✓ New WHO [guidance](#) provides updated evidence and methodological advice to improve health risk assessments of air pollution and enable policy-makers to make better-informed decisions on clean air and climate change mitigation policies.
- ✓ WHO/Europe contributed to the [Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#) through [regional science-policy snapshots](#), including on transboundary air pollution, energy access, climate change and health.
- ✓ A new WHO Collaborating Centre on air quality and health was designated at the Environmental Research Group, Imperial College London, strengthening support for evidence-based action on air quality and health.

b) Chemical safety

- ✓ Chemical safety work focused on human biomonitoring (HBM) and poison centres, in close coordination with the respective two EHP Partnerships.
- ✓ Two WHO trainings on human biomonitoring were organized in Serbia and Estonia.
- ✓ Continued technical engagement with Member States supported progress toward the establishment and strengthening of poison centres.

c) Climate change and health systems

- ✓ The [12th meeting of the Working Group on Health and Climate Change](#) was convened, with participation from 39 Member States, providing a platform for experience-sharing and discussion of regional and global developments, including COP processes and the EPW2. Discussions also covered outcomes of the [2025 Global Survey on Health and Climate Change](#) and emerging research priorities, with a new work plan under development.
- ✓ Work is underway to finalize the second edition of the WHO Heat–Health Action Planning Guidance, with its launch planned for the second quarter of 2026 following peer review. The updated guidance will reflect latest evidence and practice, with emphasis on governance, early warning systems, protection of vulnerable populations,

communication, health system resilience, surveillance, evaluation, and learning. The guidance will be accompanied by a public health message bank and user action briefs for health professionals.

- 🌿 Climate change and health activities included support to Member States on low-carbon health systems, contributions to policy discussions, and collaboration on a project addressing mental health and climate change, with a report expected in early 2026.

d) Nature and health

- 🌿 The WHO Bonn School course on Nature and Health was successfully delivered over four and a half weeks, with 31 participants from 29 countries, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. The course strengthened understanding of interlinkages between nature, biodiversity and human health, drawing on the latest scientific evidence and contributions from around 20 lecturers from WHO Collaborating Centres and academia. Participants engaged in problem-based, interdisciplinary projects addressing flood mitigation, heatwaves, noncommunicable diseases, pollution prevention, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, invasive species, and health system co-benefits through nature-based interventions.
- 🌿 A consultation on nature-based solutions and health was held on 2 September to inform a forthcoming WHO report focused on case studies, tools, and implementation approaches. Key priorities identified for the report include legal and governance frameworks, robust evidence and monitoring, cost-benefit analysis, capacity and funding needs, cross-sectoral collaboration, and political support. The Nature-based Solutions and Health report is planned for release in tMay 2027.

e) Water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH)

- 🌿 The WHO wastewater and environmental surveillance (WES) project, supported by European Union [HERA](#) funding, focuses on building sustainable regional capacities for systematic, evidence-based WES implementation as public health tool, aligned with national laboratories and governance structures. In 2025, a first capacity-building event was held for Central Asian countries, with a second event planned for March 2026 targeting Western Balkan countries. This work reflects a broader shift from ad hoc to institutionalized WES surveillance, enhancing preparedness for multiple pathogens and strengthening public health resilience across the region.
9. Member State representatives then provided updates on country-level implementation of the Budapest commitments, highlighting how these commitments are being translated into tangible action on the ground.
 10. In the **Republic of Moldova**, a national **Poison Information Centre** has been established within the National Agency for Public Health, strengthening public information and WHO-supported risk communication on chemical safety, ensuring regulatory preparedness for managing health-related chemical emergency data in line with national decisions and European Commission regulations. Surveillance of poisoning cases, is integrated into the national public health information system, allowing real-time monitoring of exposures and better detection of chemical incidents.
 11. Key achievements on the national work on **air-quality monitoring and climate-related health risks** include: a collaboration agreement with the Environmental Agency for primary data exchange on air pollution, chemicals and climate indicators; final approval of a Ministerial Order introducing monitoring of selected air pollution and climate-related

diseases based on ICD-10 categories; and integration of air-quality alerts and climate events into WHO's Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources Initiative, now entering the operational phase with strengthened analysis and response.




12. **Czechia** is finalizing its **National Portfolio of Actions for Environment and Health (2025–2026)**, directly grounded in the priorities of the Budapest Declaration. The Portfolio was developed jointly by the Ministries of Health and Environment, the National Institute of Public Health, and other key institutions, supported by an informal working group that also monitors progress and updates actions. The Portfolio covers eight priority areas, including urban noise, asbestos, human biomonitoring (mercury and lead), light pollution, pharmaceuticals in the environment, and strengthened investigation of drinking-water-related accidents and outbreaks. Actions are aligned with national and EU-level strategies and legislation, including the National Asbestos Profile, with progress reviewed during a follow-up working group meeting in October.
13. **Hungary** hosted the [Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health](#) which was held in Budapest on 5–7 November, marking the 20th anniversary of the Protocol's entry into force. The meeting brought together over 230 participants from more than 30 countries. In terms of growing membership and leadership, North Macedonia and Uzbekistan formally joined the Protocol, with positive progress reported from Italy, Ireland, and Kazakhstan. New leadership was elected, with the Republic of Moldova as Chair and North Macedonia as Vice-Chair. The meeting of the Parties confirmed the Protocol's role in translating global and regional commitments into country-level action, strengthening governance and cross-sectoral cooperation on environment and health. Key decisions included the adoption of the Programme of Work for 2026–2028, a strategy for Protocol implementation, and financial measures to strengthen sustainability. More than 12 new publications were launched, including the first regional report on WASH in health care facilities and guidance on equity in water and sanitation services (Annex 2).
14. **North Macedonia** developed its **Heat Health Action Plan (2025–2030)**, featuring a colour-coded alert system, clear service protocols, and targeted protection for vulnerable groups. The plan was activated during recent heatwaves and is under evaluation, with a financial impact assessment planned with WHO support.
15. Since joining the Protocol on Water and Health in 2023, North Macedonia has advanced its implementation with high-level political engagement, focusing on **rural water and sanitation** and vulnerable populations.
16. The **National Action Plan for Health Security**, developed with WHO and EU support, is being assessed, reflecting Budapest priorities on preparedness, recovery, and protection from environmental and infectious threats.
17. Actions on **decarbonisation, mobility, and air quality** include assessing emissions from primary health care, deploying cleaner public transport, expanding cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and using WHO tools to quantify health benefits from active mobility.
18. **Poland** is using the **HRAPIE 2.0 methodology** to estimate health costs of air pollution, supporting implementation of EU air quality directives and strengthening the case for more ambitious clean air policies. Results are expected in early 2026.
19. The Ministry of Health is launching workshops for municipal-level decision-makers to raise awareness and provide tools on air pollution, noise, and climate change, planned for 2026.

20. Poland is scoping a **national strategy for the energy transformation of hospitals**, integrating energy efficiency, cost–benefit analysis, and resilience of critical infrastructure. The strategy explores the use of climate, security, and resilience funds, rather than health budgets alone, to support hospital transformation. A national survey of hospitals received around 1,400 responses, enabling tailored analyses of investment needs, expected energy savings, financial returns, and resilience benefits.
21. **Tajikistan** is addressing legacy contamination from historic industrial activities, with over 200 identified sites containing obsolete and highly hazardous pesticides, including large burial sites. A dedicated 12-hectare disposal site has been established in southern Tajikistan, where more than 40,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides and contaminated soil have already been collected and secured. Clean-up efforts are linked with community health protection, including the installation of new water supply systems to provide safe drinking water to over 1,000 people, including more than 500 children, in highly affected areas.
22. Tajikistan is also developing a **national digital registration system for pesticides and chemicals**, in cooperation with the ministries of health and agriculture, supported by a new decision-maker database mapping contaminated sites.
23. In regard to the implementation of the **Stockholm Convention**, the country is updating its **National Implementation Plan**, including improved assessment of **PCBs in the energy sector**, with new laboratory capacity expected to significantly refine contamination estimates.
24. The session ended with a [photo and video collage](#) highlighting EHTF's work over the years. The gallery would benefit from additional photos, and meeting participants were encouraged to share any images from their archives with the EHP Secretariat at euceh@who.int.



4. Update on the EHP Partnerships

Additional information on the EHP Partnerships is available through the following materials:

-  **[Leaflets](#)**: explore individual Partnership leaflets for detailed information on their focus areas and activities.
-  **[Annual summary](#)**: review key achievements and progress between two latest EHTF meetings.
-  **[Video highlights](#)**: Watch a cinematic overview of the Partnerships' journey over the past year from Utrecht to Bonn (virtual), showcasing milestones and progress toward implementing the Budapest commitments.

25. This session provided a structured overview of the progress, priorities, and future direction of the six EHP Partnerships, as summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Overview of main EHP Partnerships' activities in 2025

<u>Health Sector Climate Action</u>	The Partnership grew to 12 members and successfully conducted two deep-dive sessions, one on subnational health sector engagement in climate adaptation and another on pharmaceutical sustainability. These sessions combined strategic and implementation perspectives, providing participants with tangible case studies and actionable insights, while fostering peer learning and practical exchange between countries. The Partnership also reviewed its terms of reference to streamline objectives and planning, with Norway volunteering to chair the next deep dive focused on capacity building for climate engagement in the health sector. Overall, the Partnership has strengthened its presence, normalized collaborative activities, and embedded climate considerations across health systems, supported by active facilitation and coordination from the WHO European Region, laying the groundwork for continued progress into 2026 and beyond.
<u>Human Biomonitoring</u>	The Partnership expanded with Bosnia and Herzegovina joining as its 22nd member and held its second and third annual meetings in Belgrade and Tallinn, establishing a stable structure for collaboration. The Partnership advanced a comprehensive work program covering all stages of HBM studies, from planning and implementation to interpretation, policy use, and communication, while fostering peer learning through the exchange of national and EU-level study examples. Hosting meetings in Georgia, Serbia and Estonia demonstrated the benefits of national engagement, and efforts to strengthen dissemination and outreach included developing multilingual materials and a strategy for broader communication. Key outputs in progress include an expert list, stakeholder and country maps, an inventory of resources, and guidance for interpreting HBM data, with preparations underway for the fourth annual meeting in 2026, alongside plans for topic-

	focused webinars to deepen engagement and knowledge sharing across the partnership.
Poison Centres	The Partnership expanded its regional engagement through the European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) joining as co-lead, enabling broader collaboration across WHO European Region. Key achievements included the first official meeting at the EAPCCT Congress in Glasgow, featuring presentations on toxicovigilance and establishing poison centres, and the launch of a Europe-wide survey on poison centre capacity, with responses from 30 countries informing preliminary analyses for the next EAPCCT Congress in Vilnius. The Partnership also initiated targeted projects, with Malta leading data harmonization, Slovenia and the United Kingdom co-leading chemical preparedness and training, France focusing on toxicovigilance, and Ireland advancing advocacy and awareness. Looking ahead, 10 countries volunteered for a twinning program pairing higher-resource and lower-resource poison centres to strengthen capacity through training, mentoring, and sharing good practices, forming a comprehensive 18-month work program to advance poison centre performance across the region.
Risk Reduction in the School Environment	The Partnership focused on peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing to improve school health and safety. In 2025, it brought together partners from Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Montenegro, and Republic of Moldova, with expressions of interest from Sweden, Portugal, and Serbia. Activities included an online meeting in May, showcasing good practices on indoor air quality, water, sanitation, and hygiene, followed by national-level outreach to strengthen holistic approaches. A side event in November at the MOP7 highlighted synergies across multiple partnerships, including Youth and Health Sector Climate Action, and introduced the new WHO guideline on hand hygiene in community settings. In 2026, the Partnership plans to expand membership and host two meetings to further strengthen collaboration and regional impact.
Youth	The Partnership sparked in 2025 with a strong focus on engagement, advocacy, and creative outreach. It launched a series of interactive workshops using the board game introduced in Utrecht, built internal capacity, and established youth-led social media channels to reach and inspire young audiences. Advocacy efforts included co-hosting two high-profile side events with the WHO Youth Council: one at the World Health Assembly on geopolitical trends and planetary health, and another at COP30 in Brazil examining climate futures. The Partnership also explored new collaborations, engaging faith leaders at the Resilience Europe Summit and partnering with youth organizations for visible climate and health actions, such as the environmental impact campaign on tobacco during COP11 in Geneva. Looking ahead, the Partnership plans to expand activities in 2026 through a study session on planetary health and additional online and in-person events, ensuring youth voices continue to shape climate and health action despite funding challenges.

Healthy Active Mobility

THE PEP/EHP Partnership, coordinated by Austria, France and the Netherlands, continued to promote walking and cycling across Europe in 2025. Key activities included a partnership meeting in Rotterdam to share best practices on walking policies, participation in the Walk 21 conference in Tirana to develop a monitoring system for the Pan-European Master Plan for Walking, and engagement in the European Commission's Urban Mobility Days in Vilnius, focusing on cycling. The Partnership is integrating walking and cycling under the broader theme of active mobility and is working to establish an International Day for Walking on 27 April to raise awareness and support further action in the region.

5. EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027

26. The proposed outline of the PoW, developed in close consultation with the Chair, co-Chair and EHTF members, reflects the feedback received during the latest EHTF meeting in June 2025 and a subsequent consultation. The outline builds directly on the Budapest Declaration and aligns with global and regional policy frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EPW2. Its purpose is to ensure that EHTF activities remain aligned, purposeful and effective, moving from strategy to concrete impact.
27. The PoW is structured around several core pillars, including the continuation of the EHTF, its Bureau, and the Working Group on Health in Climate Change meetings; empowerment of EHP Partnerships; and strengthened advocacy, communication and information sharing. Particular emphasis is placed on prioritizing low-cost, high-impact actions, such as the Bonn Dialogues, which typically attract 200–300 participants and engage both experts and wider audiences.
28. At the country level, the PoW aims to accelerate implementation of the Budapest commitments through practical tools, including a dedicated reporting mechanism and the further development of National Portfolios. These Portfolios strengthen political legitimacy, support intersectoral collaboration, improve communication on international commitments, and engage regional and local authorities.
29. The EHTF and Secretariat remain open to requests for regional consultations to reflect the diversity of capacities and challenges across the WHO European Region.
30. Capacity building remains one of the central components of the PoW. Activities include the continuation of the Bonn School on Environment and Health, facilitation of national policy dialogues upon request, and ongoing work on professional profiles and workforce competencies in environment and health.
31. A streamlined performance indicator framework is being developed to monitor progress against the Budapest Declaration, reducing the number of indicators to a manageable set while maintaining alignment with the SDGs and other key reporting frameworks.
32. Preparation of a more detailed and operational version of the PoW ahead of the 2026 Task Force meeting will continue. Members were invited to provide feedback through a short poll.

33. The discussion also initiated early reflection on the 2029 Ministerial Conference, encouraging members to consider expectations for success, strategic priorities, and potential hosting opportunities.

6. Preparations for the upcoming EHTF meeting



34. The next EHTF meeting is anticipated to take place in 2026.
35. Participants expressed an interest for an in-person meeting, noting that face-to-face interactions can be more productive and impactful than virtual formats, while acknowledging the additional resources and effort required. Flexible hosting options were highlighted, including:
- 🌿 Hosting can be led by a Member State, stakeholder, or jointly, allowing for tailored resource pooling.
 - 🌿 Meetings can be scheduled to align with sub-regional or national events, maximizing efficiency and synergy.
 - 🌿 Multiple financing models are possible, including single-country funding or co-funding with other countries and partners.
36. Hosting an EHTF meeting provides an opportunity to showcase national leadership in environment and health, highlight achievements and innovations, and increase international visibility and collaboration. It also supports intersectoral cooperation, promotes national experts and institutions, engages local initiatives and youth, attracts political attention, and can facilitate future fundraising.
37. A possible 3-day meeting structure could include:
- 🌿 Day 1 for arrival, site visits, and an optional icebreaker reception;
 - 🌿 Day 2 for registration, plenary and parallel sessions, keynote speeches, a “marketplace” for experience sharing, poster presentations, and an evening social dinner; and
 - 🌿 Day 3 for morning and early afternoon sessions concluding around 15:00, followed by participants’ departure.
38. A potential host may wish to consider contributing, subject to national context and feasibility, to aspects of meeting organization such as practical arrangements, logistical support, and local engagement, including facilitation of participation by eligible Member States, coordination with WHO on venue and technical arrangements, and engagement of local youth and civil society.
39. The WHO’s roles in organizing the meeting include developing meeting documents, providing technical expertise and arranging keynote speakers, liaising with speakers, moderators, participants, and partners, offering on-site support during the meeting, preparing the detailed script and meeting report, and managing communications via website and social media to enhance local and international visibility. These roles are subject to agreement between the host and the WHO.
40. The session highlighted the importance of early planning, ideally six months in advance, and set a preliminary timeframe of May-September 2026 for the next EHTF meeting.
41. Participants were invited to discuss feasibility with their ministries and provide feedback on formats and arrangements.









42. The EHP Secretariat will launch a call for expressions of interest to host the next EHTF meeting in early 2026.
43. The session also noted that this is an opportune moment to start planning for the next Ministerial Conference, tentatively scheduled for 2029. While it may seem distant, successful conferences rely on long-term preparation, broad consultation, and strategic foresight. It was agreed that this discussion will be included on the agenda of the next EHTF meeting.

7. Summary of decisions and next steps

44. To support the EHTF in gathering information on how countries are implementing the Budapest commitments, all EHTF members were encouraged to highlight their country's or organization's commitments through the [online poll](#).
45. Participants expressed broad support for the proposed outline of the EHTF 2026–2027 Programme of Work. Three guiding questions remain open to further refine the draft Programme, and contributions are welcome via the [online form](#) by the end of January 2026.
46. EHTF members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat at euceh@who.int to indicate interest in leading or co-leading the Bonn Dialogues, as well as to suggest relevant topics and speakers aligned with their country priorities.
47. The six EHP Partnerships, now linking 45 countries and organizations across the WHO European Region, reported continued progress in their collaborative work.
48. Participants were encouraged to begin consultations with their national authorities about potentially hosting or co-hosting the EHTF meeting, while the EHP Secretariat will launch a call for hosts in early 2026.
49. To create a photo and video gallery illustrating EHP's work since its inception in 1989, attendees were encouraged to share any archival images from previous EHTF meetings with the Secretariat at euceh@who.int.

Annex 1. Provisional agenda

10:00–10:05	<div> <div>Session 1</div> <div>Opening and adoption of the agenda and programme</div> </div> <p><i>Participants will be welcomed by the Chair and the meeting organizers. The Bureau is expected to adopt the agenda and programme of the meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Relevant documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> /1 Provisional list of documents /2 Scope and purpose /3 Provisional agenda /4 Provisional programme
10:05–10:15	<div> <div>Session 2</div> <div>Updates from the WHO Second European Programme of Work (EPW2) and recent developments</div> </div> <p><i>The 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (28–30 October 2025) adopted the EPW2, which guides WHO/Europe's priorities through to 2030, and reaffirms the region's strong commitment to the legacy of the Budapest Conference.</i></p> <p><i>EHP Secretariat will present the key highlights from EPW2 and update participants on recent organizational developments within WHO.</i></p> <p><u>Relevant documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> /7 EPW2 /8 Health forward – a future we build together: background paper for the Second European Programme of Work /9 Global Health Strategy for 2025–2028 - advancing equity and resilience in a turbulent world: fourteenth General Programme of Work
10:15–10:55	<div> <div>Session 3</div> <div>Implementation of the Budapest commitments: 2025 in review</div> </div> <p><i>The EHP Secretariat will present key highlights on the implementation of the EHTF Programme of Work in 2025, followed by interventions from Member States and stakeholders to report on progress, share experiences and exchange knowledge related to the implementation of the Budapest commitments.</i></p> <p><u>Relevant documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> /10 Progress report: Implementation of the EHP /11 Highlights of the 15th EHTF meeting (hybrid, 17 June 2025) /12 EHP Newsletters 2025: March, June and September issues /13 Highlights from the tenth Bonn Dialogue on Environment and Health: Kicking off the “Let's Get Moving! 100 Reasons to Walk and Cycle More” campaign (virtual, 3 June 2025) /14 Highlights from the ninth Bonn Dialogue on Environment and Health on nature-based solutions and health (virtual, 22 May 2025)
10:55–11:00	<div> <div></div> <div>Inspiration break</div> </div>
11:00–11:25	<div> <div>Session 4</div> <div>Update on the EHP Partnerships</div> </div> <p><i>Lead countries will spotlight the latest on EHP Partnership developments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <i>EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action;</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  EHP Partnership on Human Biomonitoring;  EHP Partnership on Poison Centres;  EHP Partnership on Risk Reduction in the School Environment;  EHP Partnership on Youth; and  THE PEP/EHP Partnership on Healthy Active Mobility. <p><u>Relevant documents:</u></p> <p>/15 Annual summary of the work of the EHP Partnerships</p> <p>/16 Video “European Environment and Health Process Partnerships: a year in progress”</p>		
11:25–11:40	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Session 5</td><td>EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027</td></tr> </table> <p>At its fifteenth meeting, the EHTF discussed the framework of its Programme of Work. This session will focus on identifying and prioritizing feasible activities for 2026 and beyond, taking into account the current financial constraints and the need for efficient, well-coordinated action. It will include the 2026 Bonn Dialogues, the environment and health professional profiles and competency framework, development of the monitoring framework and collection of country updates on the implementation of the Budapest commitments (including National Portfolios).</p> <p>The Bureau’s input will help to further elaborate the Programme of Work, which will be shared with the EHTF for feedback following the Bureau discussion.</p> <p>Guiding questions to support the discussion can be found here.</p> <p><u>Relevant document:</u></p> <p>/6 Draft outline of the EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027</p>	Session 5	EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027
Session 5	EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027		
11:40–11:55	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Session 6</td><td>Preparations for the upcoming EHTF meeting: timeline, venue and preferred session formats</td></tr> </table> <p>In this session, participants will consider the meeting timeline and preferred formats as well as explore ideas and opportunities to host the meeting.</p>	Session 6	Preparations for the upcoming EHTF meeting: timeline, venue and preferred session formats
Session 6	Preparations for the upcoming EHTF meeting: timeline, venue and preferred session formats		
11:55–12:00	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Session 7 </td><td>Any other business, summary of decisions, next steps and closure of meeting</td></tr> </table> <p>This session allows participants to raise any other business not covered in the formal agenda. The Chair, together with the meeting organizers, will summarize key decisions, outline next steps, and close the meeting.</p>	Session 7 	Any other business, summary of decisions, next steps and closure of meeting
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Annex 2. Materials shared in the meeting chat

Shared by the Member State:

- [Interactive mapping database related to contaminated sites in Tajikistan](#)

Shared by the EHP Secretariat:

- [Second European Programme of Work, 2026–2030 – “United Action for Better Health](#)
- [Health forward – a future we build together: background paper for the Second European Programme of Work](#)
- [Water for all: embedding equity in drinking-water policies: policy brief](#)
- [Healthy habits, healthy schools: good practices for hand hygiene and menstrual health in schools in the pan-European region](#)
- [National situational analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities in Montenegro: summary report](#)
- [Improving quality of care through water, sanitation and hygiene services](#)
- [Prevalence of *Legionella* as a waterborne pathogen and its impacts on health in the pan-European region](#)
- [Small-scale sanitation and drinking-water supply systems: driving country action towards safer services](#)
- [Training package: Strengthening drinking-water quality surveillance using risk-based approaches](#)
- [Health risks of air pollution in Europe: HRAPIE-2 project: updated guidance on concentration–response functions for health risk assessment of air pollution in the WHO European Region](#)
- [WHO updates guidance to better inform decisions on clean air and climate change mitigation policies](#)
- [Highlights of the fifteenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force](#)
- [Wall and desk 2026 calendars “12 Months and More Than 100 Reasons to Walk and Cycle More”](#)
- Materials of the “[Let’s Get Moving!](#)” 100 Reasons to Walk and Cycle” campaign:
 - [Brochure](#)
 - [Social media tiles](#)
 - [Multilingual video](#)
- [Protecting health through urban redevelopment of contaminated sites: planning brief](#)
- [Urban redevelopment of contaminated sites: a review of scientific evidence and practical knowledge on environmental and health issues](#)
- [Nature-based solutions and health](#)

Shared by the EHP stakeholders:

- [Global Environment Outlook, Seventh Edition: A Future We Choose](#)
- [Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation](#)
- [Global Cooling Watch 2025: The Three Degrees](#)
- [Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target](#)
- [Adaptation Gap Report 2025: Running on Empty](#)
- [Frontiers 2025: The Weight of Time](#)
- [Faith for Earth Coalition](#)
- [Systematic Review of the Health and Equity Impacts of Remediation and Redevelopment of Contaminated Sites](#)
- [Chemical Pollution and Men’s Health: A Hidden Crisis in Europe](#)
- [The PFAS policy landscape across Europe and beyond: A comparative overview](#)
- [Policy briefing: Health at the centre of EU climate policies](#)