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Date: 31 May 2024

Ms Helen Söber
Adviser
European Union Affairs and International Co-
operation Department
Ministry of Social Affairs
Suur-Ameerika 1
10122 Tallinn
Estonia

Dear Ms Söber,

Assessing progress towards the global diabetes targets in the WHO European region

I have the honour to inform you that the WHO Regional Office for Europe has started the above-mentioned initiative, which includes a number of meetings.

Diabetes is one of the most common chronic conditions in Europe. At least 64 million adults and around 300 000 children and adolescents are estimated to be living with diabetes in the WHO European Region. Furthermore, according to International Diabetes Federation estimates, one third remains undiagnosed and up to half may not meet their treatment targets.

Five global diabetes coverage targets were adopted at the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA), which were developed following the seventy-fourth WHA resolution 74.4 on reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through strengthening prevention and control of diabetes. The five new targets set the standard that, by 2030: 80% of people with diabetes are diagnosed; 80% of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of glycaemia; 80% of people with diagnosed diabetes have good control of blood pressure; 60% of people with diabetes of 40 years or older receive statins; and 100% of people with type 1 diabetes have access to affordable insulin and blood glucose self-monitoring.

The targets complement the wider noncommunicable disease agenda, supporting achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the global and European action plans for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. Additionally, the targets specifically support the 2021 WHO Global Diabetes Compact initiative. However, there is currently not a clear picture of progress against the diabetes targets in the WHO European Region, and possibly also at national level.

To support Member States, WHO Regional Office for Europe is launching an initiative to get a more robust assessment of progress against the global diabetes targets in the WHO European Region and in-country. Assessment of the global diabetes targets across the Region can help to support targeted action, reduce disparities, and improve outcomes for those living with diabetes. Further detail on the initiative is available in the attached scope and purpose.

WHO held the first regional online technical workshop on Monday 13th May and you were invited to nominate participants to attend. The workshop aimed to help build a picture of how the targets can be measured within countries, specifically through sharing examples from different national contexts.

Follow-up online meetings will be arranged throughout the year to allow as many countries as possible to participate. The second online meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9th July 2024, and a further one to two meetings to follow by the end of 2024. The working languages will be English and Russian, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

As we did not already hear from you, we wonder if you would still be interested to provide nominations of two participants for this initiative and the related meetings. You may wish to consider the following as participants:

- Leaders working in diabetes, such as chief endocrinologists or heads of national diabetes programmes;
- Technical experts working in non-communicable disease surveillance, eHealth or diabetes registers.

I would be grateful if you could share the contact details (name, functional title, and email address) of the nominated representatives by 30 June 2024. Please send the nominations by email to Anita Strandsbjerg (strandsbjerga@who.int). For questions about the workshop please contact Dr Jill Farrington, Regional Medical Officer, Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes (farringtonj@who.int).

Sincerely yours,



Dr Gauden Galea
Strategic Adviser to the Regional Director
Special Initiative on NCDs and Innovation

Encls:

Provisional programme
Scope and purpose

Copy for information to:

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H.E. Ms Riia Salsa-Audiffren, Ambassador Representative of the Republic of Estonia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28A, CH-1209 Genève, Switzerland
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