

WHO AHEAD

Action Network for Health Engagement Advocacy and Diplomacy

Concept Note and Agenda on Leadership Dialogue on Global Health Diplomacy

7-11 October 2024, Brussels

This note describes WHO's initiative on Global Health Diplomacy, inspired by Dr Kluge as WHO Regional Director for Europe and led by WHO Office to the EU (WEU).

Leadership Dialogue on Global Health Diplomacy (LDGHD)

In the current era, our world is confronted by a myriad of challenges and threats to health. These range from an accelerated pace of climate change and environmental degradation, which bring more frequent severe weather events and climate sensitive epidemic diseases, to the silent pandemics of noncommunicable diseases and antimicrobial resistance; modern societies patterns of unsustainable consumption; till rising inequality, polarization, and conflicts around the world. At the same time, each of these challenges transcends borders, sectors, languages, ethnicities, and political divides. No single country, sector or organization can deal with them in isolation. Thus, **multilateralism, international and multisectoral and multi-stakeholders' cooperation are more relevant than ever** and, consequently, **it gives to health diplomacy a new impetus and relevance.**

Global health diplomacy is pivotal to health governance on global, regional, and national scales. It constitutes a fundamental part of the health and foreign policy agenda of numerous countries and geopolitical entities. Health diplomacy, if well conducted, can yield enhanced health outcomes at every level, foster greater equity and social cohesion, and improve relations and trust among parties, even amidst conflicts. It also bolsters stakeholders' commitment to unite and work together for health advancement. Moreover, it can significantly **reinforce the country's leadership position on foreign affairs, boosts external visibility, and build strategic international alliances.**

As the main goal of global health diplomacy is to bring about evidence-informed, credible, and politically achievable agreements in the interest of public health, successful health diplomacy requires specific global health and political knowledge and evidence as well as diplomatic experience, practice, and competence.

The LDGHD organized by WEU, is scheduled to take place in Brussels between 7 -11 October 2024. This programme will showcase prominent academics, experts, and practitioners in the field of health diplomacy. The dialogue is supported by a faculty group, with members selected by the WHO.

This initiative seeks to establish a shared framework for Global Health Diplomacy and enhance health diplomacy capacity within the WHO European Region and beyond. The programme aims to deliver a unique learning experience that is hands-on, practical, inclusive, personalized, and customized to meet the audience's specific needs.

It is an advanced training opportunity for professionals interested in deepening their understanding of global health diplomacy (WHO Representatives and Heads of WHO Country Offices as well as Member States' representatives, i.e., Ministries of Health, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, health attaches, Presidents and Prime Ministers Cabinets.)

Aligned with the WHO's Enhanced Competency Framework, the educational objective of this initiative aims also to enhance the Core Leadership Competency of Promoting the Organization's position in health leadership.

Participants in this initiative will benefit from the opportunity:

- To **acquire relevant knowledge and competencies in health diplomacy**, enhancing their ability to navigate an ever-complex geopolitical landscape.
- To engage in **interactive knowledge sharing and practical experiences** related to the topic.
- To **establish a network** with stakeholders involved in global health from participant countries and EU institutions.

More specifically, the leadership dialogue will:

- Offer an overview on **political and global and regional geopolitical situation** and trends and present the mandate and political objectives of the main entities (blocks, alliances, organizations, and institutions) relevant for advancing health and wellbeing.
- Explore various approaches used in **global health diplomacy** which will contribute to shape a common approach to Global Health Diplomacy.
- Describe **essential tools of multilateral, bilateral and multi-stakeholder diplomacy** relevant for global health as well as the elements of successful global health diplomacy in various context, including in humanitarian settings.
- Explore the most recent development in **global health architectures**, key global health venues and actors, global health instruments.
- Explore the key ingredients of successful **engagement for health at national level**, involving various stakeholders (e.g., Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Finance and Economy, parliamentarians, civil society).
- Present **the EU role as a multilateral and global player** as well as the EU role on global health.
- Offer examples of successful **global health diplomacy practices**.

The leadership dialogue will help acquire practical skills and provide useful indications for successful negotiations and advocacy for health. The focus will be put on building capacity to communicate and engage with stakeholders, in various sectors, across different parties and countries, including in complex and humanitarian settings.

The 2024 cohort will include WHO representatives, Heads of WHO Country Offices and high-level officials from the Ministries of Health from: *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.*

The dialogue will be delivered in English.

Leadership Dialogue on Global Health Diplomacy – Content outline

MODULES AND LECTURES

This programme will be built over four days, around several sessions, including lectures, workshops, and panel discussions. All lectures will be followed by the Q&As and all workshops will follow the instructional design strategies with focus on participants activities.

Please find the preliminary programme and the outlines of the sessions' content below.

A high-level event on *Mental health and polycrises* is scheduled on Monday 7 October 2024 in the afternoon.

SESSION	TITLE	FORMAT	TIMING	CONTENT OUTLINE	SUGGESTED SPEAKERS
DAY 0 – 7 October					
A high-level event on Mental health and polycrises, co-hosted by the Hungarian Presidency to the European Council and WHO Europe					
Welcome Evening Reception hosted by Dr Hans Kluge and Dr Oxana Domentti					
DAY 1 – 8 October					
1	Registration and morning tea & coffee		08:30-09:00		
2	Welcome Keynote Speech by Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe		09:00–09.07	Dr Hans Kluge	
3	Welcome by Dr Oxana Domentti, WHO Representative to the EU		09:07–09:15	Dr Oxana Domentti	
4	An introduction to Diplomacy The Organization of Diplomacy A Diplomat's Conceptual Toolbox	Module	09:15-11:00	Johan Verbeke, Guest Professor in Modern Diplomacy	
5	Wellbeing break		11:00-11:15		
6	Multilateralism in Diplomacy The Normative Framework of Diplomacy	Module	11:15-13:00	Johan Verbeke, Guest Professor in Modern Diplomacy	

7	Lunch		13:00 – 14:00	
8	Introduction to Global Health Diplomacy	Module	14:00- 16:00	Dr Adnan Hyder, Professor of Global Health
9	Networking break		16:00- 16:15	
10	Global health Architecture and Governance. Key actors/stakeholders and interests in global health	Workshop	16.15- 18.00	Dr Adnan Hyder, Professor of Global Health, and representatives of participants
11	Closure of the day		18.00	
DAY 2 – 9 October				
12	Welcome to Day 2		09:00- 09:05	Prof. Janusz Janczukowicz (Wrap-up)
13	Health and Foreign policy: the current geopolitical landscape	Module	09:05- 11:00	Mr Rory Keane, Head of Office at the United Nations Liaison Office for Peace, and Security UNLOPS
14	Wellbeing break		11:00- 11:15	
15	The global geopolitical landscape. EU and Global Health Security and a new	Guest Lecture	11:15- 12:30	Dr Christian Haggenmiller, EU Military Service (EMS), EU External Action Service (EEAS)

	geostrategic paradigm			
16	Lunch break		12:30-13:30	
17	Health Diplomacy in Humanitarian settings	Module	13:30-15:30	Dr Rudi Coninx, Senior adviser at WHO, Former Head of the Humanitarian Policy & Guidance unit in the Emergency Operations Department at the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE)
18	Wellbeing break		15:30-16:00	
19	Leadership and management of humanitarian, peace and development programs in complex environment	Guest Lecture	16:00-17:00	Thomas White, Former Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza
20	EU Health Diplomacy in Humanitarian settings	Guest Lecture	17:00-18:00	Joanna Darmanin, Head of the Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies Unit, DG ECHO, European Commission
21	Closure		18:00	Closure
DAY 3 – 10 October				
22	Welcome to Day 3		09:00-09:05	Prof Janusz Janczukowicz
23	Diplomacy and communication	Module	09:05-11.00	Roy Wadia, Regional Communications Chief, WHO Regional Office for Europe Joanna Roberts, Health Editor, POLITICO Matthias Lüfkens, Founder of DigiTips, former Associate Director-Media and former Head of Social Networks at the World Economic Forum

24	Networking and Wellbeing break		11:00-11:15	
25	Health Diplomacy/the engagement with the Parliament	Module	11:15-13:00	Oxana Domenti, WHO Representative to the EU and guest speakers
26	Lunch		13:00-14:00	
27	Health Advocacy The role of civil society	Module	14:00-15:00	Health diplomacy at national level - the role of CSO
28	Networking break		15:00-15:15	
29	Global Partnerships for Health	Guest Lecture	15:15-16:45	Martin Seychell, Deputy-Director General, DG INTPA, European Commission
30	Closure		16:45	
DAY 4 – 11 October 2024				
31	Welcome to Day 4		10:00-10:05	Dr Oxana Domenti
32	Welcome remarks		10:05-10:15	Sandra Gallina, Director General, DG SANTE, European Commission
33	Perspective from the European Union: EU Institutions		10:15-10:40	10.15-10.30: DG SANTE, European Commission 10.30-10.45: DG Research and Innovation, European Commission 10.45-11.00: European Centre for Disease Control 11.00-11.15: European Medicine Agency 11.15-11.30: DG Health Emergency and Response Authority 11.30-11.45: European External Action Service

				11.45-12.15: Interactive debate with participants
34	Networking Lunch		12.15-13.30	Exchange with EU officials from DG SANTE, DG NEAR, DG RTD, DG HERA, DG ECHO, EEAS, EMA and ECDC
35	Exchange of views with global health leaders		13:30–15:00	Global health leaders
36	Closing remarks		15:00–15:15	Closing Remarks Dr Oxana Domenti
37	End of the Dialogue		15:15	End of the Dialogue