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Date: 25 February 2025

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

Dear Ms Sõber,

WHO European regional consultation meeting:

Harnessing innovation for public health in the WHO European Region 2025–2030 (Innovation4PH)

1 April 2025

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe is pleased to invite Member States to a virtual consultation meeting on **1 April 2025** to further shape and contribute to the Regional Strategy for harnessing innovation for public health 2025–2030 (Innovation4PH). This initiative builds on the unanimous support from all Member States during the 74th session of the Regional Committee in October 2024, where the development of this Strategy was strongly endorsed. Your participation is crucial to refine a transformative roadmap that addresses the Region's permacrisis challenges, including climate-related health threats, noncommunicable diseases, an ageing population and health workforce shortages.

Aligned with the European Programme of Work 2025–2030 (EPW 2.0), which dedicates 30% of regional efforts to innovation, Innovation4PH aims to foster systemic transformation through equitable, cross-sectoral solutions. The draft strategy, developed through extensive technical consultations and aligned with global frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, now seeks your expertise to ensure it reflects diverse national contexts and prioritizes actionable, scalable approaches.

The meeting will centre on receiving your feedback to strengthen the strategy's relevance and impact. Key discussion areas include mechanisms to enhance collaboration across health, environment, technology and industry sectors; strategies for scaling innovations in resource-constrained settings; and governance models to align innovation ecosystems with public health priorities. Member States are encouraged to share best practices, policy insights and implementation challenges to enrich the Strategy's practicality and adaptability. Your contributions will directly

shape the final Strategy to be presented at the 75th session of the Regional Committee, ensuring it serves as a dynamic tool for building resilient, equitable public health systems across the Region.

To ensure comprehensive representation, nominations are invited from Ministry representatives (e.g. health, digital transformation and science/technology) and national innovation leaders (e.g. directors of innovation hubs, research institutions or public-private partnerships). Please provide us with the names, official positions and titles, and email addresses of the proposed participants at your earliest convenience. For your reference, we have attached the Scope and purpose document.

The working language for the event will be English, with simultaneous interpretation in Russian provided for your convenience. Access details and preparatory documents, including the draft strategy and provisional agenda will be shared upon confirmation of participation.

To facilitate the nomination process, we kindly request that your response be addressed to Dr Moredreck Chibi via email chibim@who.int, with a copy sent to Nataliia Shapoval shapovaln@who.int.

We would appreciate receiving your country's nomination no later than **15 March 2025**

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gauden Galea
Special Advisor to the Regional Director,
Special Initiative on Noncommunicable Diseases and Innovation (SNI)
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Enclosures:

Scope and purpose

Copy for information:

Ms Agne Nettan-Sepp, Head, European Union Affairs and International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Suur-Ameerika 1 Tallinn 10129, Estonia

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 Genève CH-1209, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Andre Pung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia, Frederiksgade 19, 4th floor Copenhagen K 1265, Denmark

Ms Kristina Köhler, Liaison Officer, WHO Country Office, Estonia, Paldiski Road 81 Tallinn 10617, Estonia