



Genomics and Precision medicine
UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark
29 April 2025

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Scope and purpose

Background

Genomics and precision medicine offers great potential for increasing the efficiency of health systems – from clinical prevention, through early detection and screening, to targeted treatment for specific subgroups, avoidance of treating non-responders, rehabilitation, and palliative care. However, implementing it requires a transformation of health services and significant resources; but investing now will lead to savings later. Leveraging the work initiated by the WHO/Europe Access to Novel Medicines Platform and aligned with the new Regional Strategy on “Harnessing innovation for public health in the WHO European Region 2025–2030” and the “Framework for resilient and sustainable health systems in the WHO European Region 2025–2030”, the proposed European Programme of Work (EPW) 2.0 will prioritize smart investment in and support equitable access to genomics and precision medicine in the WHO European Region.

This new area of work for WHO/ Europe aims to support the equitable access to genomics and precision medicine in our Region through strengthening public health infrastructure and investing in genomic literacy and training for healthcare professionals to develop reliable, advanced molecular diagnostics and targeted treatment pathways, with particular focus on rare diseases and cancer. We hope this paves a new pathway for support to countries in appropriate investment in genomics, that could bring about much needed change and transformation creating sustainable and efficient health systems in Europe that are future proof, where innovations are available, accessible to and affordable by all that need them.

Meeting objectives

On 29 April 2025, Access to Medicines and Health Products, WHO Regional Office for Europe, will host the first expert meeting on genomics and precision medicine for the WHO European Region. The aim of this meeting is to set the direction and strategy for genomics and precision medicine in our Region for the next five years (2025-2030) by:

- identifying needs and priorities from across the Member States in our diverse Region, and where WHO Europe’s support is most sought, valued and needed;
- receiving input and guidance from experts on the key next steps we should take together along with all relevant stakeholders;
- facilitating peer learning through development of potential sub-regional hubs that create communities of mutual support that enable the development of sustainable and future-proof health systems, and

- providing a forum to share the progress on the work till date and an opportunity to shape and co-create the development of these initiatives.

Format

This one-day event will facilitate knowledge sharing, strategic discussion, and collaborative planning on genomics and precision medicine in the WHO European Region. The format includes a mix of presentations, moderated discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions to encourage active participation and ensure a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape and the steps needed for bringing equitable access to our Region.

Participants

This event will bring together all nominated focal points from the 53 Member States of our Region with academic and international experts, civil society and patient organizations actively working in this discipline to bring about transformation. It will also include delegates from the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, to ensure we are working in collaboration for building trust and equitable access in our Region.