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Date: 22 July 2024

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,

Expansion of WHO data collection platforms to provide detailed data on alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes and prices

The World Health Organization (WHO) is committed to providing Member States with accurate, relevant and internationally comparable information that they can use to guide the development of health policy and to evaluate the impact of those policy measures.

As WHO scales up its technical assistance on health taxes, it is imperative that high-quality, credible and independent data remain available to support researchers and policy-makers in their decision-making. Following a successful collection of data on pricing and taxation of alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) in 2022, WHO is embarking on a second round of data collection this year. And as in the work conducted in 2022, we believe that the Ministry of Finance, or similar agency, is the most suitable to provide the most up-to-date data.

We kindly request that the Ministry of Health facilitate the nomination of a representative from the Ministry of Health and a representative from the Ministry of Finance, who will help us to compile the country data on alcohol and SSB taxes and who will be involved in validating the results for the country once the analysis is complete. Our priority is the most accurate reflection of your country data. Please find attached Annex 1, which contains the names of designated national data providers from the 2022 round of data collection.

We kindly ask that you provide contact details, including name, functional title, email address and telephone number, of nominated representatives no later than 16 August 2024. Please send your nominations to Ms Natalia Fedkina (fedkinan@who.int, copying in euNCDsurveillance@who.int) and Ms Nataliia Shapoval (shapovaln@who.int), who will coordinate this activity on behalf of the Special Initiative on Noncommunicable Diseases and Innovation. They will be in touch with the nominated representatives to give further details of the survey.

Thank you for your valuable cooperation with WHO in this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Gauden Galea
Strategic Advisor
Special Initiative on Noncommunicable Diseases and Innovation

Encls:

Annex 1. Nominated data providers for WHO data collection survey on alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes and prices 2022.

Copies for information:

Ms Triin Uusberg, 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 William Mart Laanemäe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
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Ms Kristina Köhler, Liaison Officer, WHO Country Office, Estonia, Paldiski Road 81 Tallinn 10617, Estonia