

Call for (co)hosts of the sixteenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 2026

What is the purpose of this document?	<p>WHO invites expressions of interest from countries and stakeholders interested in hosting the 16th European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) meeting in 2026, including through joint hosting arrangements involving more than one Member State and/or stakeholder, with pooled resources.</p> <p>This document provides an overview of the EHTF, outlines the objectives of its annual meeting, describes the procedure for submitting expressions of interest, and sets out practical information for organizing the meeting.</p>
What is the EHTF?	<p>The EHTF is an intergovernmental, intersectoral body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the European Environment and Health Process (EHP). It monitors progress on commitments outlined in the Budapest Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (2023) as well as those from previous Ministerial Conferences. The EHTF provides policy guidance, promotes collaboration, and reviews advancements in addressing environment and health challenges across the WHO European Region.</p> <p>🔗 The operational procedures of the EHTF are detailed in the Rules of Procedure.</p>
What are the main objectives of the EHTF?	<p>The EHTF aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">leaf Provide strategic guidance to support alignment between environment and health policies;leaf Support the implementation of the Budapest Declaration and previous Ministerial Conferences' commitments;leaf Develop and oversee the EHTF Programme of Work;leaf Facilitate exchange on relevant global, regional and subregional initiatives;leaf Oversee the establishment and functioning of EHP Partnerships and review progress and updates on their work.
Who are the members of the EHTF?	<p>The EHTF is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">leaf National focal points from ministries of health and environment of all Member States of the WHO European Region;leaf Intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations recognized as official stakeholders of the EHP;leaf WHO Secretariat. <p>🔗 This list presents the National focal points and recognized stakeholders of the EHP.</p>

When and where does the EHTF meet?	<p>The EHTF meets annually between Ministerial Conferences. To date, 15 meetings have been held in various cities across the WHO European Region, hosted by Member States and partners:</p> <p>2011 Bled, Slovenia 2012 Hague, Netherlands 2013 Brussels, Belgium 2015 Haifa, Israel (mid-term review) 2015 Skopje, N. Macedonia 2016 Vienna, Austria 2021 Virtual (Dec) 2021 Virtual (Feb) 2019 Bonn, Germany 2018 Bonn, Germany 2017 Copenhagen, Denmark 2022 Bonn, Germany 2023 Brussels, Belgium (HEAL) 2024 Utrecht, Netherlands 2025 Virtual Space for your expression of interest</p>
Why host the EHTF meeting?	<p>Hosting offers several benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaf Provides EHTF members the opportunity to hold their annual meeting in a setting that highlights a Member State's leadership, experience and progress in addressing environment and health challenges; leaf Enhances the international visibility of the national efforts on environment and health; leaf Enables national and regional experts to engage with peers and international partners, fostering exchange of experience and opportunities for collaboration; leaf Offers the possibility to align the EHTF meeting with national or subregional events or initiatives, maximizing resource use and creating synergy between initiatives.
When will the meeting take place?	<p>Tentatively, the 2026 meeting is expected to take place between May and September to avoid conflicts with other events. The host is invited to propose suitable dates.</p>
What is the proposed structure of the meeting?	<p>The meeting would take place over up to three days, with the exact format agreed jointly between the Host and WHO.</p> <p>An indicative structure may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaf Day 1: Arrival of participants; site visits and/or an informal networking or icebreaker reception, where feasible; leaf Day 2: Plenary and parallel sessions, a "marketplace"; an optional social or networking event;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 3: Morning and early afternoon sessions until ~15:00, followed by participants' departure.
Who are the participants?	<p>EHTF meeting typically brings together up to approximately 100 participants, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from ministries of health and environment of Member States of the WHO European Region; Representatives from UN Agencies and other relevant international organisations; Official EHP stakeholders; WHO secretariat; Invited speakers and experts; Participants/observers from the Host country.
What language will be used?	English, with simultaneous interpretation into Russian.
What support is expected from the Host?	<p>The arrangements below are indicative and subject to an agreement between WHO and the Host (Member State or stakeholder organization).</p> <p>In addition, flexible financing models are encouraged, including full funding by the Host or co-funding with other countries and partners.</p> <p>Depending on the agreed hosting model and available resources, the Host may contribute to the following elements to support the smooth and successful organization of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support to cover travel and accommodation for representatives from Member States eligible for financial support (maximum of 10), as well as core WHO personnel and invited speakers; Provision of an appropriate meeting venue, including rooms for plenary and parallel sessions, with audio-visual facilities; Support for interpretation services (English and Russian). This may include interpretation infrastructure for on-site interpreters or arrangements for on-line interpretation; Web-conferencing access to enable remote participation; Catering arrangements during the meeting (e.g. coffee breaks and lunches), and, where feasible, a social or networking event; Facilitation of local engagement, including the involvement of national experts, youth and civil society, where appropriate; As an optional, highly appreciated by participants, the Host may wish to consider a programme of study-visits to show case national or local initiatives. <p>WHO will work closely with the Host to clarify the scope of contributions, distinguishing essential elements from optional components and ensuring that arrangements remain proportionate, feasible and aligned with the objectives of the meeting.</p>

What is WHO's role?	<p>WHO will work closely with the Host throughout the preparation, delivery and follow-up of the EHTF meeting.</p> <p>In particular, WHO will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaf Provide overall coordination of the meeting, including convening participants and ensuring alignment with the objectives of the EHTF; leaf Co-develop the meeting programme with the Host, including the structure, thematic focus and agenda, taking into account regional priorities and the Host's interests; leaf Provide technical and policy expertise, including support in identifying and inviting speakers and contributors, as appropriate; leaf Coordinate communication and visibility activities, including participant outreach and post-meeting dissemination, in coordination with the Host; leaf Provide on-site coordination and support during the meeting; leaf Prepare the official meeting report and follow-up documentation.
What facilities should be available?	<p>To support the efficient delivery of the meeting, the venue should be able to accommodate approximately 100 participants and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaf A main meeting room suitable for plenary sessions; leaf Additional space for parallel or breakout sessions, as needed; leaf Areas for registration, informal exchange, and catering; leaf Space for displays or information materials, where relevant; leaf Audio-visual and technical support to ensure smooth operations; leaf A working space for the WHO Secretariat.
What are the indicative hosting costs	<p>Based on recent experience with in-person EHTF meetings, hosting costs have typically been in the range of approximately USD 70,000–100,000, though final figures will depend on the final scope and on-site possibilities (e.g. in case the host has access to meeting facilities vs. renting them).</p> <p>Hosting costs may be covered fully or partially directly by the Host, for example through services and in-kind contributions.</p> <p>Alternatively, the Host may provide a financial contribution to WHO to support the organization of the meeting. In this case, WHO and the Host will formalize the arrangement through a donor agreement, and the contribution will be subject to the standard Programme Support Cost (PSC) levy of 13%.</p>
Where should the meeting be located?	<p>The proposed meeting location should be easily accessible, with convenient connections to an international airport and efficient options for public and private transportation, to facilitate travel for participants.</p>
Are there sustainability considerations?	<p>Hosts of WHO events are encouraged to follow the WHO guidance on organizing sustainable meetings and conferences.</p> <p>leaf Further information and guidance is available here.</p>

How do countries express interest in hosting?	<p>National EHP Focal Points and representatives of EHP stakeholders are invited to submit a written expression of interest by 9 March 2026 via email: euceh@who.int</p> <p>Expressions of interest will allow WHO to initiate discussions with potential hosts in spring 2026, with a view to confirming arrangements well in advance of the meeting.</p>
In case of further questions	<p>Please contact EHP Secretariat at euceh@who.int or book a time directly for an online call here.</p>