

## **74<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Virtual Side Event**

### **RACE to the Finish: European Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Fourth United Nations High Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health**

#### **Overview**

Everyone has a stake in accelerating action on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health. To emphasize the urgency of this work, at the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC73) held in Astana in 2023, the Region launched a 100-week challenge to make every week count to achieve the internationally agreed NCD-related SDG targets ahead of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (HLM4) in 2025.

The Region is not yet on track to achieve this target, or the targets and indicators for the associated NCD Global Monitoring Framework, so there is no room for complacency.

Unless the WHO best buys for NCDs are implemented more rapidly, including reducing tobacco use, it has been estimated that the European Region will have the highest proportion of smoking adults of all WHO regions, projected to reach 23% by 2030. Currently, people over the age of 15 years in Europe consume the highest amount of alcohol per capita in the world, and none of the Member States in the European Region will achieve the 2025 target to halt the rise of overweight and obesity that was committed to as part of the NCD Global Monitoring Framework. Although mortality from cardiovascular disease has declined in recent years, the rate of decline is stalling in many countries. In addition, deaths from cancer far exceed those that can be prevented or avoided. Factors such as conflict, pandemics, insecurity, natural disasters, increased levels of addiction and the increasingly digital and disconnected lives that people lead have exacerbated the mental health challenges faced by populations in the Region.

At this session, representatives from Member States and civil society, as well as other stakeholders will review the progress that has been made and consider the urgency of the action needed to be taken towards the attainment of SDG target 3.4 relating to NCDs and mental health.

#### **Programme**

Facilitator: Ilona Kickbusch, Founding Director, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

## Tuesday, 22 October 2024

10:00–10:05

### Welcome Address

*Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge*

10:05–10:20

### Regional report card: update on progress toward the NCD targets

Dr Rakovac will provide an update on progress towards NCD targets and commitments in the WHO European Region based on the latest available data.

10:20–10:40

### An NCD agenda for action in the WHO European Region

*Gauden Galea*

Dr Galea will present a vision for accelerating progress toward the NCD targets and a synthesis of comments from stakeholders received during a virtual comment period.

10:40–11:30

### Investing in partnerships to advance progress on NCDs

*Ilona Kickbusch*

Dr Kickbusch will reflect on the presentations of the two speakers and facilitate a dialogue with representatives of government, civil society, youth, people with lived experience and academia on jointly advancing the NCD agenda.

## Speakers



### Ilona Kickbusch

Founding Director and Chair,  
Global Health Centre,  
Graduate Institute of  
International and  
Development Studies



### Gauden Galea

Strategic Advisor to the  
Regional Director, Special  
Initiative on NCDs and  
Innovation, WHO Regional  
Office for Europe



### Ivo Rakovac

Regional Advisor, NCD  
Surveillance, WHO  
Regional Office for  
Europe

## Practical information

### Zoom connection details

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJl0f-uprIjEtUHi8SBmeE7ax7XhREEd9a>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **Languages**

This session will be in English and Russian