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Date: 7 February 2024

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

Dear Ms Ohov,

“Rehabilitation and assistive technology integration into national strategies of Member States in the WHO European Region” project – request for nominations of focal persons to participate

I am writing to invite your country to participate in the “Rehabilitation and assistive technology integration into national strategies of Member States in the WHO European Region” project. This project aims to understand the current status of integration of rehabilitation and assistive technology into health systems in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region, and provide information on how WHO can best provide support for rehabilitation and access to assistive technology in each Member State. The concept note that is included with this invitation gives further details on this important initiative.

I am formally requesting your office to nominate a focal person for rehabilitation and a focal person for assistive technology to participate in this project on behalf of your country. We understand that you may nominate one or more individuals, and that these individuals may work in different ministries.

The requirements for participation in this project are as follows. In the first two quarters of 2024, participating focal persons will be asked to: 1) complete a 15-minute online survey via WHO’s secure dataform survey platform; and 2) share all relevant policy documents (in English, or other languages if English documentation is not available) on the integration of rehabilitation and assistive technology into national strategic plans. As part of the project, a database of Member States’ assistive technology and rehabilitation focal persons will be created, so, with your permission, the contact details of your focal person(s) will be stored. Your nominated focal persons may be contacted in the future; for example, if there are new WHO rehabilitation resources to share.

Please send your nomination(s) to Justine Gosling, Technical Specialist in the Disability, Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology team at the WHO Regional Office for Europe (eurorehab@who.int) at your earliest convenience, but no later than 1 March 2024. Please include details of your nominees name(s), functional title(s), email address(es) and language preference(s), if nominees are not fluent in English. Your nominees will then be contacted directly with all the information needed for participation in this project.

Project results will be available in early 2025, and will be presented in a WHO policy brief and published in an article in an open-access journal.

I am looking forward to our collaboration on this important project, which will help WHO provide support for rehabilitation and access to assistive technology to all Member States in the European Region.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Director, Division of Country Health Policies and Systems

Encls:

Concept note

Copy for information to:

Ms Triin Uusberg, Head, European Union Affairs and International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Suur-Ameerika 1, 10129 Tallinn, 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, CH-1209 Genève, Switzerland

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

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