



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
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Our reference:	EOC-NET	Your reference:
Notre référence:		Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:		Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Date: 17 July 2024

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

Dear Ms Sõber,

### **Designation of a National Focal Point for the Public Health Emergency Operations Center Network**

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) provides an essential platform for emergency coordination functions, including preparedness actions and response to public health emergencies. Operating throughout the emergency management cycle, PHEOCs serve as a hub for coordination, collaboration, and information sharing needed to detect, verify, prepare for, and respond to a range of public health threats.

The World Health Organization (WHO) established the Public Health Emergency Operations Center Network (EOC-NET) in 2012. The EOC-NET focuses on identifying and promoting best practices for Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs/PHEOCs). It also supports Member States in building and enhancing their PHEOC capacities for effective preparedness and response activities, aligned with the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005).

In November 2015, WHO headquarters, in collaboration with the EOC-NET partners, published the Framework for a Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC)<sup>1</sup>. This framework provides countries with key concepts, high-level evidence-based guidance, and standards for designing, developing, and strengthening PHEOCs. The framework has been complemented by several handbooks, templates, and training courses.

As of March 2024, WHO and the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) are working together to build a "European Regional Forum", for all Member States in the WHO European Region, as part of the broader Global EOC-NET. To further grow and support the EOC-NET in our Region, we plan to develop a regional strategy, map PHEOC operational capacity of our Region and host webinars, exchanges of good practice, training sessions, research, technical workshops, conferences, operational collaboration, networking events, and joint simulation exercises.

In this context, I have the honour to invite you to designate one representative, who will serve as the EOC-NET national focal point for your country, from 1 September 2024 to 31 December 2025. A new request will then be sent to confirm the current national focal point or nominate a new one.

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<sup>1</sup> [Framework for a Public Health Emergency Operations Centre \(who.int\)](http://www.who.int/publications/m/item/framework-for-a-public-health-emergency-operations-centre)

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The EOC-NET national focal points are expected to fulfil the following functions:

- Represent the country at regional and global EOC-NET meetings.
- Contribute to the regional and global community of practice.
- Promote the strengthening of national PHEOC capacities.
- Be able to speak on the mandate and function of your national PHEOC.
- Act as the primary channel of communication between your country and the EOC-NET secretariat.
- Support the development and implementation of a Regional Strategy for EOC-NET.


If you have a PHEOC established in your country, then it is advisable for the EOC-NET national focal point to be your national PHEOC manager or the designated operational lead.

Alternatively, if you do not have a national PHEOC established, please indicate this in your response and nominate an appropriate official from your national health authority, who is responsible for emergency preparedness and response activities.

I look forward to receiving your designation, including the name, functional title, and email address of the focal point, by 21 August 2024. Please send this information by email to [euroeocnet@who.int](mailto:euroeocnet@who.int).

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the WHO EOC-NET regional focal point, and manager of the WHO Regional EOC, Mark Shapiro ([mshapiro@who.int](mailto:mshapiro@who.int)).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gundo Weiler

Director Country Support and Partnerships

Acting Regional Emergency Director

**Copy for information to:**

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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