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Date: 29 October 2026

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,

WHO/Europe innovation summit, Szeged, Hungary, 14–16 April 2027
Request for nomination of delegates and national focal point

The WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) is pleased to invite your country to participate in the WHO/Europe innovation summit, to be held in Szeged, Hungary, on 14–16 April 2027. The summit is being organized in collaboration with the University of Szeged through the Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary Research, Development and Innovation, Cluster of Third Mission Developments, in its capacity as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Innovation.

The summit will bring together Member States, political leaders, public health authorities, researchers, innovators and implementation partners to advance public health innovation from policy ambition to practical impact. Supporting WHO/Europe's A Strategy on Harnessing Innovation for Public Health in the WHO European Region 2025–2030 (EUR/RC75/18; adopted in decision EUR/RC75(4)) and the Second European Programme of Work, 2026–2030 (EPW2), the summit will address the conditions that enable countries to adopt, adapt and scale effective approaches, including governance, evidence, financing, workforce capability, data and digital tools, public trust and partnerships.

The summit will be co-created with Member States. It will be shaped by the public health priorities, country experience and implementation challenges that Member States bring to the process. Countries will be invited to help identify the most pressing questions for regional dialogue; contribute examples, tools and lessons from national and local practice; propose priority topics or working formats; and, where appropriate, help convene or contribute to programme sessions. This will ensure that the summit's political dialogue, technical exchange and practical working sessions are directly relevant to the needs of countries across the WHO European Region.

Member State engagement will continue throughout the summit cycle. In advance of the meeting, country inputs will inform agenda development, the selection of use cases and the design of implementation clinics, peer-learning discussions and partnership sessions. During the summit, delegations will actively contribute to high-level dialogue, country exchanges, practical problem-solving sessions and the development of commitments or next steps. After the summit, WHO/Europe, in collaboration with the University of Szeged, will support continued exchange, document commitments and facilitate follow-up on priority actions and partnerships.

To establish this collaboration, we kindly request your Government to nominate:

- A national delegation for the summit, including a senior representative with responsibilities in health policy, public health, health system transformation, innovation or implementation. Delegations may also include relevant representatives from areas such as digital transformation, science and technology, research, innovation management or other sectors relevant to the national public health innovation agenda.

- One national focal point for the summit, who will serve as the principal liaison with WHO/Europe. The focal point will be invited to coordinate the country's contribution to the co-creation process – including consultation on national priorities and the identification of relevant experience and potential programme contributions – and to follow up on summit outputs and agreed actions. The focal point may also be a member of the national delegation.

Please provide the full name, official title, institution, email address and telephone number of each nominee, and clearly indicate the national focal point. We would be grateful to receive nominations by **30 November 2026** at euroinnovation@who.int.

In view of current budgetary constraints, the WHO Regional Office for Europe kindly requests Member States to cover travel and accommodation arrangements of their appointed participants. We greatly appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring your delegation's participation.

The enclosed scope and purpose document provides further information on the summit. Further communication will follow on the Member State consultation process, opportunities to contribute to the programme, registration and practical arrangements.

We look forward to working closely with your country in shaping a summit that reflects Member State priorities, builds on country experience and supports practical action across the Region.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Kremlin Wickramasinghe
Director, Prevention and Health Promotion
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Encls:
Scope and purpose

Copy for information to:
Ms Agne Nettan-Sepp, 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 Andre Pung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia, Frederiksgade 19, 4th floor, 1265 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Ms Katrin Aarma, Acting Head of Office, WHO Country Office, Estonia, Paldiski Road 81, 10617 Tallinn, Estonia