



WHO Europe Innovation Summit 2027

University of Szeged, Hungary
14–16 April 2027

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Scope and purpose

Background

The WHO Europe Innovation Summit 2027 will convene Member States, political leaders, public health authorities, academic institutions, innovators, implementers and partners from across the WHO European Region. Hosted by the University of Szeged **through the Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary Research, Development and Innovation (CEIRDI), Cluster of Third Mission Developments, in its capacity as a WHO Collaborating Centre on Public Health Innovation**, the Summit will provide a high-level regional forum for advancing public health innovation from policy ambition to equitable, scalable and sustainable impact.

The Summit will support countries in addressing the practical conditions that enable innovation to improve population health: political leadership, governance, evidence, financing, workforce capacity, digital and data capability, implementation support and collaboration. It will bring together those who set public health priorities with those who develop, evaluate, finance and implement solutions.

The Summit is convened in support of WHO/Europe's **Strategy on harnessing innovation for public health in the WHO European Region 2025–2030** and the **Second European Programme of Work 2026–2030 (EPW2)**. The Strategy, adopted by all 53 Member States in October 2025, provides a framework for strengthening the capacity of countries to use innovation for better public health outcomes. EPW2 identifies innovation and technology as central to shaping future health systems and advancing united action for health across the Region.

Aims and objectives

The WHO Europe Innovation Summit aims to strengthen regional cooperation and help Member States accelerate the translation of public health innovations into more effective public health interventions and health services, leading to measurable improvements in health outcomes, health equity and health-system resilience.

The Summit will create a common space for political dialogue, country exchange, practical problem solving and partnership development. It will connect regional priorities with national experience and help identify the actions, capabilities and collaborations required to move promising innovations beyond

isolated pilots and into real-world implementation. The Summit will also provide a platform for sustained collaboration beyond the event, linking Member State priorities and Summit outcomes with the ongoing work of the Regional Office and its Collaborating Centre on Innovation at the University of Szeged.

The specific objectives are to:

- a. advance political and policy dialogue on the contribution of innovation to healthier, fairer, more resilient and future-oriented health systems;
- b. support Member State learning and collaboration;
- c. connect policy, evidence and implementation;
- d. develop partnerships and practical next steps.

Strategic focus

Public health innovation encompasses more than new technologies. It includes new or improved approaches to policy, services, financing, governance, workforce development, communication, data use and cross-sector collaboration. The Summit will focus on the practical value of innovation in responding to priority public health challenges in the WHO European Region.

The programme will explore how innovation can contribute to:

- more people-centred, equitable and resilient health systems;
- better prevention and management of noncommunicable diseases and other major health challenges;
- healthy ageing and support for populations with complex and changing needs;
- effective use of data, digital tools and emerging technologies in public health;
- stronger public health workforces, leadership and institutional capability;
- improved governance, regulation, evidence generation and financing for adoption and scale-up;
- greater public trust, effective communication and meaningful community engagement;
- partnerships that link public health priorities with research, innovation and implementation capacity.

Member State engagement

Member States are at the centre of the Summit. The Summit will provide a structured process through which countries can identify and share priorities, exchange experience, work through implementation challenges and shape regional action. This engagement will be supported by a digital repository hosted by the University of Szeged through the Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary Research, Development and Innovation (CEIRDI), Cluster of Third Mission Developments, in its capacity as a WHO Collaborating Centre. The repository will serve as a regional resource for country priorities, evidence, practical tools, implementation lessons, Summit outputs and commitments.

Before the Summit, Member States will be invited to nominate senior representatives with responsibilities in health policy, public health, health-system transformation, innovation or implementation. A consultation process will gather country priorities, examples of practice and practical bottlenecks that can inform the programme and identify areas for peer exchange.

During the Summit, Member State delegations will contribute to high-level dialogue, country panels, peer-learning formats, implementation clinics, design sessions and commitment-setting discussions. These formats will support countries in comparing experience, testing approaches and identifying practical next steps with peers and partners.

After the Summit, WHO/Europe in partnership with CEIRDI as its recently designated WHO Collaborating Centre on Innovation, will circulate an outcome record and commitments tracker. Progress on priority actions, partnerships and initiatives will be reviewed at approximately three and six months, supporting continued learning and collaboration across the Region.

Programme structure

The Summit will take place over three days, following a deliberate progression from shared priorities to practical action and sustained partnership. **Day 1, “Innovations that matter,”** will focus on priority public health challenges with a particular focus on healthy ageing and NCDs, country needs, emerging approaches and promising solutions. **Day 2, “Innovation to impact,”** will examine the conditions required for adoption, implementation, evaluation and scale-up, including governance, evidence, financing, workforce capability and enabling systems. **Day 3, “Partnerships for innovation,”** will focus on collaboration, commitments and pathways for continued regional action.

The programme will include high-level plenaries, thematic discussions, country exchanges, parallel sessions, implementation clinics, design labs, innovation showcases and networking opportunities. Sessions will combine strategic dialogue with practical exchange and will generate clear messages, recommendations, action points or other agreed outputs.

Participants

The Summit will convene approximately 500 in-person participants, including:

- senior representatives of the 53 Member States in the WHO European Region;
- ministers, commissioners, senior political leaders and government officials;
- WHO leadership and technical experts;
- public health authorities and health-system leaders;
- universities, research institutions and public health institutes.
- innovators, implementers and organisations supporting adoption and scale-up;
- international and regional partners, professional networks and civil society representatives;
- experts in digital health, data, policy, regulation, financing, workforce development, communications, equity and implementation.

Participation will reflect geographic balance, diversity of experience, relevance to the programme and the capacity to contribute to and carry forward Summit outcomes.

Expected outcomes

The Summit will generate a set of practical outputs to support continued regional action, including:

- shared messages, policy directions and priorities for action emerging from high-level and thematic discussions;
- country experiences, implementation insights and practical lessons;
- documented commitments and proposed actions from Member States and partners;
- identified opportunities for regional learning, technical cooperation and partnership;
- flagship initiatives or action pathways for further development;
- a Summit outcome record and follow-up tracker.

The Summit will be supported by a monitoring, evaluation and learning process that captures participation, engagement, session outputs, commitments, partnerships and progress after the event. This will provide a basis for accountability, learning and continued collaboration.

Further information

Detailed information on registration, Member State nominations, programme contributions, session-convening opportunities and practical arrangements will be shared in due course.