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Date: 7 January 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,

Request for nominating a National Data Focal Point on eye care for the Global status report on eye care and vision impairment (2027)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing a Global status report on eye care and vision impairment to be presented in 2027, in order to strengthen evidence-informed planning and monitoring of eye care within health systems and to support progress toward global eye care targets. This process offers Member States an opportunity to showcase national achievements in eye care, to build networks with other countries and partners during data collection and consultation, and to lay the groundwork for future technical collaboration and potential funding opportunities.

WHO kindly requests your country to nominate one National Data Focal Point (NDFP) who is an eye care professional working within the government and who is well placed to collaborate with national monitoring and evaluation structures and other relevant departments. The NDFP may, if desired, designate one to two National Data Contributors to support them in data collection and validation, drawing on expertise from sectors such as health, social welfare, education, finance, academia, civil society, and WHO Collaborating Centres. To help you conduct this work, WHO can provide modest financial support during the data collection process (e.g. translation, convening of actors for a consensus meeting), if needed by member states.

The main responsibilities of the NDFP on eye care for the Global status report on eye care and vision impairment (2027) will be to:

1. Coordinate national-level data collection activities for the Global status report.
2. Oversee the work of any National Data Contributors and ensure their representation spans all relevant sectors.
3. Validate and submit national data through the secure WHO online platform.
4. Liaise with WHO/EURO Technical Officer for support and guidance.

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5. Ensure timely completion of surveys, questionnaires, and validation exercises in line with the global schedule.
 6. Participate in WHO-organized online training for NDFPs; the first online training is planned for the **second week of February 2025** (exact dates to be confirmed).
 7. Work with WHO Regional Offices to develop a national work plan aligned with project milestones (Q2 2026 –Q4 2027).
 8. Coordinate the collection and submission of relevant national legislation, policies, and strategic documents on eye care.
 9. Organise multi-sectoral consensus meetings to validate national submissions.
 10. Facilitate ministerial approval of national datasets using the WHO “sign-off sheet” process.
 11. Respond to WHO queries and requests for clarification on submitted data.
 12. Support dissemination of the report nationally and advocate for the use of findings to inform policy.

We would be grateful to receive the nomination, including the nominee’s name, job title, organization, department and email address, at your earliest convenience and no later than **31 January 2026**. Shirin Kiani, Technical Officer, Disability, Assistive Technology, Ear/Eye Care at WHO Europe, is responsible for this activity and it would be appreciated if you would address your reply to her at kiannis@who.int with europereye@who.int in copy.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Director, Division of Health Systems

Encls:

Concept note

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