



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Date: 10 April 2025

Dr Karmen Joller
Minister of Social Affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs
Suur-Ameerika 1
10129 Tallinn
Estonia

Our reference:	Your reference:
Notre référence:	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:	Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:	На Ваш номер:

Dear Madam,

**Technical consultation on strengthening clinical research and trial ecosystem
in the WHO European Region, 10 – 11 June 2025**

I have the pleasure to inform you that the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe is planning the above event. The European Programme of Work (EPW) emphasizes improving patient outcomes and driving innovation. Recent insights, however, have highlighted significant challenges in the clinical development space that hinder access to essential treatments. The 75th World Health Assembly resolution (WHA75.8) called for Global Guidance on Best Practices for Implementing Scientifically and Ethically Sound Clinical Trials. Published in 2024, this guidance addresses the current paradigm where clinical trials often prioritize commercial interests over public health needs, leading to a disconnect between research efforts and societal health priorities.

In order to leverage the global momentum generated by WHA75.8, WHO is hosting this in-person regional technical consultation on **10 - 11 June 2025** in Prague, Czechia. The consultation will inform Member States and stakeholders about WHA75.8 and present the guidance for best practices for clinical trials, emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift in clinical trial design and implementation. The consultation seeks to strengthen countries' capacities to conduct research and clinical trials that generate high-quality evidence for health interventions and aims to contextualize evidence-based guidance to improve health policy and practice. The working language will be English, with simultaneous translation into Russian.

We would be grateful for your kind collaboration with the following:

1. We have the pleasure of inviting you to nominate one person to participate in this consultation. This participant should be actively involved in or responsible for the coordination and collaboration with various national and international stakeholders in clinical research and trials at the national level and/or organizing clinical research and trial guideline development at the national level. Please address your reply giving the name, functional title and email address of the proposed participant at your earliest convenience but **no later than 25 April 2025** to the WHO Data, Evidence and Digital Health unit at euhiudata@who.int. We shall then communicate with the participant directly and provide them with the necessary documentation

and administrative information in due course. We also kindly ask the nominated participant to register for the event using this link: indico.un.org/event/1013916/registrations/17577/.

2. We also kindly ask you to disseminate the attached survey with relevant professionals working at policy, research and academic roles at the local and national levels. Please assure them that their responses will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and will be used solely for this consultation process. We encourage national participation in this survey by **15 May 2025**, as the responses will provide us with valuable perspectives regarding key barriers and areas of focus needed to improve the Clinical Trials ecosystem and thus inform the technical consultation that will take place in Prague in June.
3. Finally, we request that you kindly provide us with names, functional titles and email addresses of focal points on your National Ethics Committee who could provide more information about their national activities. This information can also be sent to the WHO Data, Evidence and Digital Health unit at euhiudata@who.int. Please send this at your earliest convenience but **no later than 15 May 2025**.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of the above requests. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the continuous and fruitful collaboration.

Yours very truly,



Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Director
Division of Country Health Policies and Systems
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Encls:

Scope and purpose
Provisional agenda
Clinical research survey

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
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