



**Eighth meeting of the
European Environment and
Health Task Force (EHTF)**

**EURO/EHTF8/2
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**Bonn, Germany
20 – 21 March 2018**

Scope and purpose

The Eighth meeting of the EHTF and the first one in follow up to the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which took place in Ostrava, Czech Republic, 13-15 June 2017, is convened to support the Member States in the implementation of the commitments from the Ostrava Declaration.¹

Background

In June 2017, fifty-three Member States of the WHO European Region assembled at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The main outcome of the Conference was the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration – the Ostrava Declaration – with the key commitment for all Member States to attain visible, measurable and equitable progress in environment and health in the WHO European Region by enhancing national implementation and action, both domestically and internationally, which is paramount for effective advancement on health and environment. To this effect, Member States committed to develop national portfolios of actions on environment and health by the end of 2018 to implement the commitments of the Parma Conference and the Ostrava Conference. The main purpose of the portfolios, which reflect national specificities, priorities, means and capacities in the choice of selected objectives and activities, is to ensure that Member States have well-coordinated, comprehensive and coherent strategies and policies to address the persistent burden of diseases attributable to environmental determinants. (Annex 1 of the Ostrava Declaration).

Objective

This meeting of the Task Force is convened to kick-off and support the work of the Member States on the development of national portfolios for action on environment and health.

Annex II of the Ostrava Declaration² established the new governance of the European Environment and Health Process and all Member States have officially nominated focal points from their Ministries of Health and of Environment by the end of 2017. The focal points are responsible for initiating and coordinating country actions leading to the establishment or/and improvement of already existing environment and health portfolios for action at the national level.

¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health/documentation/declaration-of-the-sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health/annex-1.-compendium-of-possible-actions-to-advance-the-implementation-of-the-ostlava-declaration>

² <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2017/06/sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health/documentation/declaration-of-the-sixth-ministerial-conference-on-environment-and-health/annex-2.-institutional-arrangements-for-the-european-environment-and-health-process>



Moreover, 26 Member States included health and environment and the follow up to the Ostrava Declaration in the Biannual collaborative agreements with WHO for 2018-19 and this meeting would also be of direct support to the country-level work in the coming biennium.

To facilitate the work of the national focal points, the meeting will focus on providing an orientation to the resources and technical support available across the seven priority areas and related actions in Annex I. The meeting will also be presented with some inspiring examples of different country approaches already applied.

Specific objectives and outputs

To kick off and support the work on national portfolios for action, by:

- presenting and discussing tools and approaches for each of the seven priority areas identified in Annex 1 of the Ostrava Declaration;
- presenting successful country examples of national multisectoral collaboration and coherent policy making on environment and health, and promoting a peer-to-peer exchange of experiences and knowledge;
- agreeing on how the progress on Ostrava commitments will be assessed and monitored;
- reviewing what technical assistance is needed from WHO and on a bilateral level to support the Member States in developing portfolios and strengthening national coordination on environment and health;
- introducing the new Task Force to its tasks according to the adopted Ostrava Declaration, by agreeing on the programme of work of the Task Force and electing its Bureau;
- presenting and endorsing the programme of work and budget for the EHP secretariat for 2018-19.

