



---

**WHO Regional Office for Europe  
Access to Novel Medicines Platform**

**21 April 2023**

**Original: English**

## **Working groups**

### **Background**

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals and in accordance with the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”, on 14 March in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Subgroup on Governance of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee approved the establishment of the WHO Regional Office for Europe’s Access to Novel Medicines Platform (NMP). The creation of the NMP, a unique multistakeholder platform, was initiated following the conclusion of the Oslo Medicines Initiative of 2020–2022.

The Regional Office will host the platform as a neutral convenor, which will enable Member States, partners and non-State actors – including the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions and philanthropic foundations – to agree on and deliver solutions jointly to improve patient access to novel, high-cost medicines. The NMP aims to identify concrete actions, including pilot proposals, to improve affordable and equitable patient access in the Region. Further details can be found in the terms of reference (ToR).

The work of the NMP will be coordinated by the WHO Secretariat, and oversight and guidance will be provided by European regional governing bodies – specifically, the Subgroup on Governance of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee. Responsibility for the execution of the strategic priorities of the NMP rests with the WHO Secretariat, subject to WHO’s rules and procedures, including the Framework of Engagement with non-State Actors (FENSA),<sup>1</sup> and the availability of funding. Progress will be reported through consultations and technical briefings with Member States, non-State actors and other partners, and also through Regional Committee meetings.

Within the Platform, time-limited working groups (WGs) will be established from June 2023 until December 2025, to deliver its aims and objectives to identify concrete deliverables, including pilot proposals. Through the consultations on the NMP with Member States, non-State actors and other partners in January and February 2023, the specific objectives and potential proposed areas of work for the NMP WGs to take forward were refined. They are summarized in Figure 1.

Participation in the WGs will be voluntary, and each WG will be chaired by a Member State representative, with vice-chairs drawn from non-State actors and other partners, as outlined in the draft ToR of the platform. The Chair will work with the WHO Secretariat and Vice-chairs to draft and oversee the development and delivery of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group (including scope, activities and deliverables), prepare the working group meetings, and finalise

---

<sup>1</sup> Framework of engagement with non-State actors. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015 (<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/253238>).

the deliverables. Subject to available resources, the WHO/Europe will convene an annual face to face meeting of the Platform entities and working groups.

WHO will ensure fair representation of stakeholders within each group. All WG members will be required to complete a declaration of interest, which will be made public, along with the lists of members. Potential conflicts of interest will be managed according to FENSA and other WHO policies, to ensure that the benefits in terms of direct or indirect contributions to public health and the fulfilment of the Organization's mandate outweigh any residual risks of engagement. WG meetings are expected to take place quarterly at a minimum, with at least one meeting per year held in person. Members shall not receive remuneration for their service, and each member of the Platform shall be responsible for covering all costs and expenses relating to participation in NMP work and activities, including – but not limited to – travel and subsistence expenses in connection with attendance at meetings<sup>2</sup>. Files of successful applicants not initially recruited as members will be kept on record to provide a “pool” of experts that may be drawn from in future years to address specific topics, should a need arise.

Nominations for membership of the WGs are sought until **15 June 2023**. They should include a **completed application form** and **one-page relevant biography** to [euro-nmp@who.int](mailto:euro-nmp@who.int).

### **Principles and criteria for membership of the WGs**

WG members should be nominated primarily according to their qualifications, experience and expertise in the relevant fields. In confirming appointments to the WGs, WHO will take into account the composition of eligible entities (Member States, partners and non-State actors), geographical distribution of the applicants, their skills mix and gender balance. This is to ensure that the WGs provide a balance of expertise and views. Appointments to the WGs will be made according to the set criteria below, by the WHO Secretariat, and – once the chairs and vice-chairs are identified – through discussion with them.

Nominations should:

- be a member and designated representative of an eligible entity of the NMP;
- have technical expertise in the topic and proposed activities of the WG;
- demonstrate personal commitment to support patient access to medicines and the activities of the NMP;
- have an understanding of the social, political, economic and professional influences related to medicines within the Region;
- agree to adhere to and comply with relevant international technical norms and standards, especially those established by WHO;
- meet the requirements of WHO's declarations of interests, confidentiality and FENSA (if appropriate).

The WGs should have:

- appropriate and equal representation across the eligible entities;
- appropriate and equal distribution across geographical locations and income levels of the member countries;
- appropriate and equal distribution across genders.

---

<sup>2</sup> When possible, at its sole discretion and subject to a signed agreement, the WHO Regional Office for Europe may provide financial support to NMP participants for specific Platform activities.

Fig. 1. Proposed WGs

