

GLOBAL FORUM OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

Collaborating for a Healthier Future

7 – 9 April 2026

Venue: Village Implid – Matmut Stadium & WHO Academy, Lyon, France

Format: Hybrid (in-person and virtual)

Language: English

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – (FAQ)

The Global WHO Collaborating Centres (WHOCC) Forum is a global meeting bringing together WHOCCs, WHO leadership and technical departments, regions, and partners to strengthen collaboration, share experiences, and advance collective action across priority public health areas.

The Forum will take place in Lyon, France, in the sidelines the One Health Summit 2026, hosted by the Government of France, and will be held in a hybrid format, allowing participation both in person and online.

For the avoidance of doubt, the forum will not be dedicated to administrative or procedural issues; evaluation of individual WHOCCs; negotiating operational details of designation agreements; or institution-specific internal issues that fall outside the shared agenda and broader collaboration goals.

1. Who can participate in the Forum?

Participation is limited to institutions officially designated as WHO Collaborating Centres (WHOCCs) and invited WHO staff representatives.

Institutions whose designation process has not been formally completed are not eligible to participate.

2. Is registration still open?

No. Registration for both in-person and virtual participation is now closed.

Due to the high level of interest and venue capacity limitations, additional in-person registrations cannot be accommodated.

3. How many participants are allowed per WHO Collaborating Centre?

A maximum of **two (2) participants per WHO Collaborating Centre** may attend the Forum in any modality.

4. What is the format of the event?

The Forum will be conducted in a **hybrid format**, combining:

- In-person participation in Lyon, France
- Virtual participation through a dedicated online meeting platform

All registered virtual participants will receive access details and technical instructions prior to the event.

5. Where will the in-person sessions take place?

In-person sessions will be held in Lyon, France, at:

- Village Implid, Matmut Stadium. Address: 353 Av. Jean Jaurès, 69007 Lyon, France.
- WHO Academy (for breakout and group work sessions).

Detailed logistical information has been shared directly with confirmed participants.

6. What are the working hours of the Forum?

All times are in Lyon, France local time (**Central European Summer Time, CEST**).

- Tuesday, 7 April 2026: 14:00–20:00
- Wednesday, 8 April 2026: 08:00–17:30
- Thursday, 9 April 2026: 08:00–18:00

Participants are advised to plan travel and attendance accordingly.

7. In which language will the Forum be conducted?

The Forum will be conducted **in English only**.
Interpretation will not be provided.

8. Will invitation letters be provided for visa purposes?

Participants requiring visa support should contact their respective WHO Responsible Officer directly. Invitation letters and supporting documentation will be issued through the appropriate WHO channels.

9. Who is responsible for travel and accommodation?

Participants are responsible for organizing and covering their own travel and accommodation arrangements, unless otherwise formally notified by WHO.

Practical information regarding recommended hotels and transport connections has been shared with confirmed participants.

The Forum will take place at the Village Implid, Matmut Stadium. Several hotels offering affordable rates are available across the City of Lyon, along with an efficient public transportation network that facilitates daily commuting across the city. More information on local transportation is available here: <https://www.tcl.fr/en/discover/visit-lyon>

The Ruck Hotel, located at the venue facilities, has kindly provided a preferred rate for participants of the Forum, please visit <https://theruckhotel.com/> and use the discount code: RUCKH2026.

10. How will virtual participants access the meeting?

An interactive event platform will be available to all participants, providing access to the virtual agenda, live sessions, a dedicated networking space, and a virtual poster exhibition.

Full access details, including connection instructions and technical guidance, will be shared with you closer to the event to ensure smooth and engaging experience.

Registered virtual participants will receive:

- A personalized access link
 - Technical guidance
 - Information on session access
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11. Where can I find the agenda?

The latest version of the annotated agenda is available on the event webpage and in the downloadable documents section.

Updates will be communicated to registered participants as necessary.

12. Who can I contact for further questions?

Participants are strongly encouraged to review this FAQ document and the information available on the event webpage before contacting the Secretariat.

For inquiries not addressed in the available documentation, please contact: globalforumwhocc@who.int. Please note that, due to the high volume of communications, response times may be longer than usual.

For IT and virtual platform support contact: info@globalforumwhocc.org

Global WHOCC Forum Organizing Committee

Department of Science for Health, Science Division
World Health Organization (WHO)