



World Health Organization

COLLABORATING CENTRES Fact sheet

Over 800 institutions in over 80 countries supporting WHO programmes

Institutions are designated as WHO collaborating centre by the Director-General under a formal mechanism of collaboration to carry out activities in support of the Organization's programme at all levels. As of 2017, WHO's network of WHO CCs brings together more than 800 highly regarded academic and scientific institutions in over 80 countries, supporting WHO programmes and priorities with time, expertise and funding.

The designation is initially agreed for four years, and can be renewed before it ends. During the period of designation, the centre implements an agreed list of activities in support of WHO programmes, independent of financial support given to the institution by WHO.

A win-win relationship

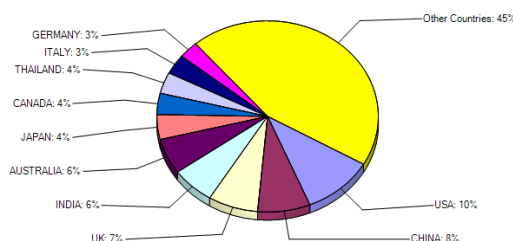
The collaboration brings benefits to both parties. WHO gains access to top centres worldwide as well as the institutional capacity to support its global health work, and to ensure its scientific validity. Institutions benefit from enhanced visibility and recognition by national authorities, calling public attention to the health issues on which they work. The designation also opens up improved opportunities to exchange information and develop technical cooperation with other institutions, in particular at international level, and to mobilize additional resources from funding partners.

Networks of WHO collaborating centres

Collaborating centres are encouraged to develop working relations with other centres and national institutions recognized by WHO, by setting up or joining collaborative networks with WHO's support. Examples of existing technical networks are the WHO Collaborating Centres for Influenza, and the Network of WHO Collaborating Centres on Occupational Health.

Past and present

WHO collaborating centres have been designated since the establishment of WHO. The first institution designated was the Department of Biological Standardization at Statens Serum Institut in Copenhagen in 1948. Currently, centres are found in over 80 countries, with most of them located in the following Member States:



The majority of designated institutions are departments or units of universities, laboratories, research institutes, hospitals, ministries, or national academies. All of them have a long and successfully history of carrying out jointly planned activities with WHO prior to being designated.

Overall, WHO collaborating centres work on a diverse range of subjects, across all of WHO's technical programmes. Their activities include, for example, carrying out research for WHO, assisting in the development of a WHO guideline, gathering and analysing data for a WHO report, dissemination of information, providing a training course by request of WHO, standardization of terminology, or provision of technical advice to WHO.

Find the centres

The WHO collaborating centres database is the official source of information about WHO collaborating centres worldwide. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.who.int/whocc/>