

Reforming public health: a collaborative effort

EPW core priorities and flagships

Moving towards universal health coverage
Promoting health and well-being

WHO collaboration

Technical guidance
Designated WHO counterpart

Germany faces significant challenges in reducing premature mortality and preventable illnesses, particularly NCDs. In February 2023 Germany's Ministry of Health requested the Regional Office's support to strengthen international collaboration in areas related to population health, most notably by establishing the Federal Institute for Prevention and Education in Medicine (BIPAM).

This collaboration led to bilateral and joint exchanges with chief medical officers in several European countries. The Regional Office also supported activities related to the Pact of Public Health Services, including the founding of the German Society for Public Health Services, and convened ministerial staff in a WHO public health leadership course in 2023. A renewed focus has been put on continuous cooperation with stakeholders at federal, regional and local levels, and enhancing joint work with WHO collaborating centres.

The impact

BIPAM, which is set to open in 2025, will improve data analytics and use, public health research using artificial intelligence, health service linkages, health promotion, and risk communication, all while ensuring that international best practices are embedded in its work. Evidence-based guidelines for public health services have also been developed to improve decision-making and quality of health services. The Regional Office will continue to support national public health reforms by enhancing access to knowledge and experience from other countries.

Lessons learned

- Collaboration that includes cooperation with stakeholders at federal, regional and local levels ensures cohesive public health strategies.
- A clear understanding of roles and boundaries among partners supports effective cooperation.
- WHO's networking support for accessing colleagues and their expertise in other countries is vital.

Donors and partners

Ministry of Health; various public health institutes and scientific societies



Outdoor recreational activities in Immenstadt im Allgäu in southern Germany.
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“Collaborating with the Regional Office on a key policy priority was mutually beneficial, strengthening our health reforms and improving our ability to support its mission.”

Dr Ute Teichert, Director General for Public Health and Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Germany

What's next?

Germany plans to further integrate international best practices into its public health system with continued support from the Regional Office. The focus will be on strengthening a collaborative approach in the German public health system, improving data-driven public health policies, and maintaining international collaborations to address both current and future health challenges.