

# A commitment to the environment and health

HUNGARY

**EPW core priorities and flagships**  
Promoting health and well-being

**WHO collaboration**  
Technical guidance  
Partnership between the Regional  
Office and Country Office

As host of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2004 and again in 2023, Hungary has a strong track record in the European Environment and Health Process (EHP). The 2023 Ministerial Conference led to the adoption of the Budapest Declaration, which emphasizes urgent action on health challenges related to climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and land degradation in the Region.

In collaboration with the Regional Office, Hungary has prioritized improving indoor air quality, especially in schools, and monitoring water quality. The Regional Office has provided technical guidance on developing indoor air quality risk assessment tools, and facilitated study tours and workshops enabling Hungarian experts to adopt best practices from other countries. The WHO Collaborating Centre on Environmental Health Risk Management at the National Public Health Center in Budapest also enhances risk-based management and surveillance for safe water and sanitation, benefiting Hungary and the entire Region.

### The impact

Hungary's water safety planning system, developed with WHO support, has significantly improved access to safe drinking water, thereby reducing related health risks. Within the EHP, Hungary is working with countries including Germany, Luxembourg and the Republic of Moldova to share tools, guidelines and best practices to improve indoor air quality across the Region.

### Lessons learned

- Long-term engagement with the EHP is vital for sustained public health improvements.
- Implementing science-based risk assessment tools can reduce the burden of environmental health factors.
- Sharing knowledge and tools across borders strengthens the overall capacity of the Region.

### Donors and partners

Hungarian National Public Health Center; Ministry of the Interior



The Regional Office is supporting Hungary's long-standing engagement with the EHP.  
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**“We have to act now, using our knowledge and expertise, to improve the quality of the environments we live in.”**

**Dr Tamás Pándics**, Director of the National Public Health Center, Hungary

### What's next?

Hungary plans to further integrate environmental health into its public health framework, with a focus on the recently launched EHP Partnership on indoor school environments. This initiative aims to leverage the extensive research already conducted in Europe, using it to implement practical solutions that improve air quality and reduce health risks in schools.