

Building leadership in health

EPW core priorities and flagships

- Moving towards universal health coverage
- Protecting against health emergencies
- Promoting health and well-being
- Incorporating behavioural and cultural insights

WHO collaboration

Training and capacity-building
Pan-European Leadership Academy

Kyrgyzstan is experiencing a growing burden of NCDs, with particularly high rates of cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes. These challenges are exacerbated by lifestyle factors, delayed diagnoses and systemic weaknesses within the health-care system. Addressing these pressing issues requires strong leadership and innovative approaches to public health.

Kyrgyzstan partnered with the Regional Office through the Pan-European Leadership Academy, a programme designed to develop transformational leadership across the Region. As part of this initiative, Deputy First Minister of Health Dr Mederbek Ismailov led a project to create institutional frameworks that incorporate behavioural and cultural insights into public health strategies for combating NCDs.

The impact

The Academy's structured learning and peer-to-peer exchanges equipped the Deputy First Minister of Health with practical tools and new approaches to improve the prevention and treatment of NCDs in Kyrgyzstan. These insights are being used to shape the 2030 Health System Development Strategy, which now prioritizes enhanced communication between health workers and patients to build trust and ensure continuity of care.

Lessons learned

- Interacting with international peers offers valuable perspectives on health system management.
- Modules focused on communication practices help health professionals succeed in joint decision-making at the national policy level.
- Ongoing learning is crucial for adaptation to new and emerging public health issues.

Donors and partners

Ministry of Health



European Region



First Deputy Minister of Health Dr Mederbek Ismailov receives his Pan-European Leadership Academy completion award from Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.
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“Despite my extensive experience, the Academy taught me that it is never too late to learn about new public health tools and approaches.”

Dr Mederbek Ismailov, First Deputy Minister of Health, Kyrgyzstan

What's next?

Building on his experience with the Pan-European Leadership Academy, the Deputy First Minister of Health is committed to further strengthening Kyrgyzstan's health system with a focus on incorporating behavioural and cultural insights into PHC reform. Continued collaboration with WHO and other international partners will be key to sustaining these efforts.