



**World Health
Organization**

European Region

75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Virtual Side Event

Delivering on our Commitments on NCDs: accelerating our work within EPW2 and fulfilling the SDG commitments

Overview

The Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being (HLM4) convened on 25 September 2025. In the lead up to the meeting there have been numerous consultations and events focused on revitalizing efforts to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and enhance mental health both regionally and globally.

NCDs cause a vast majority of the avoidable disease burden and are a key pillar of the proposed EPW2 to be discussed at RC75. Four action plans and strategies (NCD prevention, tobacco, alcohol, physical activity) are expiring in 2025. With a new UN political declaration, new EPW2 and only 5 years before the SDG deadline, there is a need to discuss how countries, and the WHO European Region as a whole, will accelerate progress toward NCD commitments and reduce avoidable mortality.

This side event will reflect on outcomes of HLM4, present new data on the economic benefits of tackling NCDs, discuss progress towards NCD targets, and seek Member States' views on the proposed development of a new integrated action plan to reduce avoidable mortality from NCDs under the proposed EPW2.

Programme

Facilitator: Allison Ekberg, Technical Officer, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Tuesday, 30 September 2025

10:00–10:10

Opening Remarks

Turning global commitments into regional action: from HLM4 to EPW2

Gundo Weiler, Director, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO Regional Office for Europe

10:10–10:25	Reflecting on the 4th UNHLM on NCDs and Mental Health <i>Erkin Checheibaev Minister of Health, Republic of Kyrgyzstan</i> <i>Dóra Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir, Director of Public Health, Directorate of Health, Iceland</i> <i>Alison Cox, Policy and Advocacy Director, NCD Alliance</i> <i>Petrine Johannsen, UN Youth Delegate, Denmark</i>
10:25–10:40	Avoidable mortality, risk factors and policies for tackling NCDs: tracking trends in the WHO European Region <i>Ivo Rakovac, Regional Advisor and Unit Head, NCD Surveillance, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO Regional Office for Europe</i>
10:40–10:55	Driving NCD action forward in the WHO European Region <i>Sabine Vuik, PhD, Health Policy Analyst, OCED</i> <i>Dóra Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir, Director of Public Health, Directorate of Health, Iceland</i> <i>Allison Cox, Policy and Advocacy Director, NCD Alliance</i> <i>Petrine Johannsen, UN Youth Delegate, Denmark</i>
10:55–11:25	Discussion
11:25–11:30	Closing remarks <i>Gundo Weiler, Director, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO Regional Office for Europe</i>

Speakers



Dr Gundo Weiler
Director, Division of Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO/Europe



Dr Erkin Checheibaev
Minister of Health
Republic of Kyrgyzstan



Dr Dóra Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir
Director of Public Health, Directorate of Health, Iceland



Alison Cox
Policy and Advocacy Director
NCD Alliance



Petrine Johannesen
UN Youth Delegate
Denmark



Dr Ivo Rakovac
Regional Advisor and Unit
Head, NCD Surveillance,
Division of Prevention and
Health Promotion,
WHO/Europe



Sabine Vuik, PhD
Health Policy Analyst
OECD

Practical information

Languages

This session will be in English and Russian

Links

[Rev.4: Political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being](#)

[Avoidable mortality, risk factors and policies for tackling noncommunicable diseases – leveraging data for impact: monitoring commitments in the WHO European Region ahead of the Fourth United Nations High-Level Meeting](#)

[Quick buys for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases - The Lancet Regional Health – Europe](#)

[Saving Lives Spending Less: the Global Investment Case for Noncommunicable Diseases](#)