

Hybrid Conference to Launch two WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES Maastricht University

October 10, 2025

Location: MECC Maastricht and online

Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPRHI) of Maastricht University launches two Collaborating Centres:

1. The WHO Collaborating Centre for **Regions for Health and Cross-Border Public Health** led by the Department of Social Medicine.
2. The WHO Collaborating Centre for **Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development** led by the Department of International Health.

Program

10:00 - 10:30	Registration
	Joint morning symposium
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome address by the WHO CC directors Prof. dr. Katarzyna Czabanowska Department of International Health, Maastricht University Director of WHO CC for Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development Prof. dr. Christian Hoebe Department of Social Medicine, Maastricht University Director of WHO CC Regions for Health and Cross-Border Public Health
10:45 – 11:45	PART 1: Endorsement speeches Chair: Prof. dr. Christian Hoebe Dr. Hans Kluge Regional Director, WHO Europe (online) Prof. dr. Stef Kremers Vice-dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University Dr. Jarno Habicht WHO Representative, Head of the WHO Country Office in Ukraine (online) Dr. Bettina Menne WHO Senior Advisor for Healthy Settings and Coordinator of the WHO Regions for Health Network Dr. Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Health Systems (online) Prof. dr. Silvia Evers Scientific director of the research institute CAPHRI, Maastricht University
11:45 – 12:30	PART 2: Discussion panel <i>What opportunities does the WHO CCs bring to your organization/region?</i> Chair: Prof. dr. Katarzyna Czabanowska – Moderator for online Q&A: Dr. Olga Gershuni Dr. Zsafia Pusztai – WHO Representative for Czech Republic Dr. Brigitte van der Zanden – Former Director euPrevent Dr. Bettina Menne – WHO Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Settings and the Coordinator of the WHO Regions for Health Network Prof. dr. Mary Codd – President-Elect of ASPHER Dr. Nataliia Piven – Unit Lead (Public Health and IHR/Preparedness), WHO Country Office in Ukraine (online) Mrs. Veerle van Zelst-de Vries, MHA – Director 'Prevention and Vitality' Program UM-MUMC+ Questions from the audience

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and networking	
	Afternoon parallel sessions	
13:30 – 16:00	<p>SESSION 1: WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development Prof. dr. Katarzyna Czabanowska & Robert Otok – Managing Director ASPHER</p>	<p>SESSION 2: WHO Collaborating Centre for Regions for Health and Cross-Border Public Health Prof. dr. Christian Hoebe</p>
	<p>13:30-13:45 Introduction Address by <i>Dr. Tomas Zapata</i> Regional Advisor, Health workforce and service delivery, WHO regional office for Europe (online) & <i>Dr. Emilia Aragón de León</i> WHO CC focal point and Technical Officer, Public Health Policy and strategy development, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> <p>Work plan <i>Dr. Matt Commers</i> Associate Professor Dept. of International Health</p> <p>13:45-14:30 Achievements Chair: <i>Prof. dr. Katarzyna Czabanowska & Robert Otok</i></p> <p>"Environmental Health Competency Framework" <i>Dr. Sinaia Netanyahu</i> - WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Centre for Environment and Health <i>Andreas Mertens</i> - Researcher and HPIM Master student</p> <p>"WHO Public Health Leadership Courses" (online) <i>Thanos Myloneros</i> – Public Health Officer, WHO Office on Quality of Care and Patient Safety</p> <p>"Professionalization of the PHW and Capacity Building (Leadership in One Health and Emergency Preparedness)" <i>Olga Aleksandrova</i> - Public Health Services Officer, WHO Country Office in Ukraine</p> <p>"Professionalization of the PHW in Czech Republic focus on Public Health academic education" <i>Eliška Selinger</i> - Charles University, Prague</p> <p>14:30-14:45 Break</p> <p>14:45-15:15 Interactive session <i>Dr. Mark Bakker</i> - Assistant Professor INTHEALTH <i>Martina Parić</i> - Lecturer INTHEALTH <i>Issam Alsamara</i> - Researcher INTHEALTH</p> <p>15:15-16:00 Current work Chair: <i>Prof. dr. Milena Pavlova</i> Dept. of Health Services Research, Maastricht University Vice-director of WHO CC for Public Health Leadership and Workforce</p> <p>"Enumeration of the PHW" <i>Dr. Timo Clemens</i> - Associate Professor Dept. of International Health</p>	<p>13:30-14:30 Presentations Moderator: <i>Dr. Sohel Saikat</i> Senior Advisor, Primary Health Care & Lead, Health System Resilience and Essential Public Health Functions (EPHFs), Special Programme on Primary Health Care, UHL WHO</p> <p>"WHO CC from an infectious disease control perspective" <i>Prof. dr. Christian Hoebe</i> Chair Department of Social Medicine, Maastricht University Program Leader Living Lab Public Health Mosa</p> <p>"Cross-border public health in the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion" <i>Dr. Brigitte van der Zanden</i> Former Director euPrevent</p> <p>"Labor migration case; COVID-19 and cross-border workers" <i>Dr. Alena Kamenshchikova</i> Assistant Professor Department of Health, Ethics and Society Department of Social Medicine Department of Medical Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention</p> <p>"Adolescent substance uses in cross-border regions" <i>Dr. Rianne Reijs</i> Researcher Department of Social Medicine, Maastricht University Medical specialist Youth Health Care, Public Health Services South Limburg</p> <p>14:30-14:50 Break</p> <p>14:50-16:00 Citizen Summit Simulation Chairs: <i>Dr. Alena Kamenshchikova & Dr. Rianne Reijs</i></p> <p>"Co-designing future research agenda for Cross-Border Public Health"</p> <p>Participants will take on different roles in this simulation of a citizen summit.</p>



	<p>"Digital competencies for the PHW" <i>Dr. Rok Hrzic</i> - Assistant Professor Dept. of International Health</p> <p>"Intersection of public health and healthcare professional practice" <i>Prof. dr. Lorena Dini</i> - Head of Working Group Health Policy and Systems Research and Innovation – HPSRI, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin</p> <p>"Economic evaluation competencies for PHW" <i>Prof. dr. Milena Pavlova</i> Department HSR, Maastricht University Vice-director of WHO CC for Public Health Leadership and Workforce</p>	<p>A Citizen Summit is a large event where involvement and feedback is gathered on a topic concerning people's lives and context.</p> <p>By simulating such a summit, participants will learn different perspectives regarding health in a regional setting, prevention and public health.</p>
16:00 – 17:00	Networking	

If you need more information or have questions, please contact:
fhml-whocc@maastrichtuniversity.nl

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