

RHN 2014 annual meeting: improving individual and community health 20–22 October 2014, Florence, Tuscany, Italy

Evidence shows that addressing overall health and well-being at the community level is essential to improve the health of the individual. The WHO Regional Office for Europe supports European regions in this work through its Regions for Health Network (RHN).

2014 annual meeting

The annual meeting is the major RHN event of the year. RHN members and other stakeholders come together to discuss important issues in public health and share how their regional contributions address them. RHN member Tuscany Region will host the meeting in Florence, Italy.

An unprecedented number of participants – around 90 professionals representing 25 regions from 20 countries across the WHO European Region – will come together during this three-day event. The discussions will be enriched by the great diversity of the participants: from politicians and policy-makers to technical experts and staff from several United Nations agencies.

The meeting will consist of two subevents:

- a high-level capacity-building event focusing on:
 - intersectoral action;
 - participatory approaches;
 - coproduction of health; and
 - the life-course approach.
- RHN business meetings defining future key activities in areas such as:
 - whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;
 - scaling projects up or down;
 - communication; or
 - health and migration.

Implementing Health 2020 at regional level

This is the second annual meeting to be held after RHN entered its new phase of development, characterized by the adoption and implementation of the policy framework Health 2020. When RHN embraced Health 2020, Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe, stated that the importance of RHN lies in its key role “to develop know-how; to exchange effective practices for promoting health and reducing health inequities; to build strategic delivery alliances; and to advocate and implement action that improves the health of Europeans.”

The meeting represents a key moment for the future of RHN, as its new terms of reference and know-how areas, aligned to the Health 2020 values and principles will be revised.