

ESTONIA

Priority areas for collaboration during the 2006–2007 and 2008–2009 biennia

2006/2007	2008/2009
1. Strengthening core health system functions	1. Health system strengthening
2. Reducing environmental and life-cycle related risk factors for population health	2. Scaling up surveillance and response to CDs, especially HIV/AIDS and TB
3. Scaling up response to HIV/AIDS and TB	3. Prevention and management of major NCDs
	4. support for improvement of environmental health policies

The WHO Regional Office for Europe conducted an update of evidence-based assessment for the country, which formed the basis for development of the 2008–2009 BCA.

Main results achieved in 2006–2007 with WHO support

- increased capacity of local institutions and better knowledge of health system and public health policies;
- evaluation and policy suggestions for improving the service delivery in primary health care, the hospital sector and service delivery;
- evidence gathered and policy dialogue engaged on health financing and long-term strategies;
- collaboration with neighbouring countries and international organizations strengthened in Baltic Policy Dialogues and technical discussions among health sector specialists in selected areas;
- capacity and information base developed for working with other sectors (macroeconomics and health, health impact assessment (HIA) practices, environment and health); and
- preparedness for various health threats strengthened; IHR implementation.

MDG-related results

- National strategy for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases; and
- HIV/AIDS prevention programme and a GFATM four-year project.

Main products delivered and activities developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in the country in 2006–2007

- support and workshops for health policy development in sharing country examples, best practices and feedback;
- capacity development for health system performance assessment of various public and private agencies in collaboration with University of Tartu;
- training of the public sector and sharing latest practices on health impact assessment;
- launching of a macroeconomics and health report on health system contribution to economic development;
- a situation overview and analysis of service coverage for the uninsured, including policy proposals to improve coverage;

- a technical report analysing health financing in 2000–2006 in out-of-pocket payments, progressivity of health financing and redistribution of financial resources among the population;
- launching of national discussions and sharing of international experience on incentives for performance improvement in the hospital sector in collaboration with the Estonian Health Insurance Fund;
- capacity building for pharmacoeconomic evaluations and reimbursement policies (continuous training among Baltic countries);
- overviews and analyses of medicines reimbursement and pricing policies among EU countries;
- a report on intellectual property rights, international agreements and national strategies to improve access to HIV-related commodities and medicines;
- evidence sharing and support for participation of national experts in meetings on human resource planning and management;
- support for gathering data for cross-country comparisons of health care worker policies;
- capacity-building workshops for hospital supervisory and management board members on governance and facilitating implementation of health policies in 2006;
- support for continuous consolidation of service provision plans and strategies;
- analysis of primary care strategy and its development in 2006;
- situation overviews and follow-up study of primary care performance in managing chronic conditions;
- support for the national network and implementation of the PATH project in the hospital sector;
- coordination of the third Baltic Policy Dialogue (in Riga, 2006) on integrated service delivery; organization of the fourth Baltic Policy Dialogue (in Pärnu, Estonia, 2007) on health system, insurance funds and hospitals governance;
- preparation of the public health services analysis of potential gaps in service delivery, system design and potential needs for regulation updates;
- evidence-sharing on alcohol policies;
- analysis of the implementation of mental health policies and achievements toward the European Declaration on Mental Health targets;
- capacity-building and information on international guidelines and country experiences for cancer strategies;
- assessment of the national strategy for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases;
- sharing national practices in managing HIV/AIDS and TB in regular meetings of Baltic countries and experts;
- collaboration on environmental health indicators and additional expert support for developing a national environmental health monitoring system and facilitating inter-country work;
- discussions on environment and health policies and preparation of performance review;
- support for IHR implementation with a national training workshop in 2006; continuous networking with Health Protection Inspectorate;
- assessment of the national influenza laboratory;
- assessment (with WHO and ECDC collaboration) of national preparedness plans and sharing with national authorities;
- organization of national health-related conferences (annual health promotion conferences in 2006 and 2007; fifteenth anniversary conference of Estonian Health Insurance Fund in 2007) in partnership with national authorities;
- participation in national meetings on health policy, primary care and family medicine, social inequalities in health and health care;
- preparation of the WHO Ministerial Conference “Health Systems, Health and Wealth” in Tallinn in June, 2008 hosted by the government of Estonia;

- organization of the study visits to Estonia for ministers and senior decision-makers from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine; support for study visits organized by other agencies;
- improved collaboration with international agencies and organizations where there are no country offices in Estonia (UNAIDS, UNODC, ILO, ECDC, GFATM);
- expert exchanges in various areas from Estonia to other countries;
- translation and distribution of selected materials;
- distribution of WHO publications; and
- collaboration and materials sharing with national health promotion networks such as Health Promoting Schools, Health Promoting Workplaces; Health Promoting Cities and Health Promoting Hospitals.

MDG-related products and activities

- assessment of national HIV strategy and the short-term transition period after GFATM finalization;
- support for improving TB surveillance systems related to HIV/AIDS;
- an assessment of the financial flow schemes for HIV/AIDS and TB in Estonia;
- support for development of the case management for PLWHA in collaboration with the National Institute for Health Development;
- support for the preparation and distribution of various guidelines for practitioners in managing HIV/AIDS and TB;
- external assessment and report on the national HIV/AIDS prevention strategy and action-plan implementation; and
- a report on financing and service delivery of national HIV/AIDS and TB-related services.

Other relevant aspects of the Regional Office's country presence

- emphasis on increasing the CO's representation and coordination role, streamlining the administration and improving efficiency and transparency;
- launching the CO web site;
- improved involvement of all levels of WHO in the country work; facilitation of discussions between WHO and national authorities on health-related policies; representing WHO on national commissions and upgrading the competences of the staff.

The WHO Country Office in Estonia consists of the head of office, an NPO for health policy and system and one administrative support person.