



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

Regional Committee for Europe

68th session

Rome, Italy, 17–20 September 2018

Provisional agenda items 5(e) and 5(j)

EUR/RC68/19

+ EUR/RC68/Conf.Doc./8 Rev.1

16 September 2018

180570

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**Reaffirming commitment to health systems strengthening
for universal health coverage, better outcomes and
reduced health inequalities**

1. Two major high-level meetings on health systems strengthening were organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2018 with the support of its partners.
2. The high-level regional meeting, Health Systems Respond to NCDs: Experience in the European Region, was held in Sitges, Spain, on 16–18 April 2018. The objectives of the meeting were to present and discuss the health systems vision for responding to NCDs and to reflect on its coherence and comprehensiveness; to highlight the equity and gender dimensions of health system transformation for better NCD outcomes, including for those left behind by traditional mainstream approaches; to explore the possibility of leapfrogging and implementing an accelerated vision of health system transformation for a faster reduction of premature mortality from NCDs; and to ascertain factors that enable implementing successful large-scale health system transformation.
3. The outcome statement of the meeting, which is submitted to the Regional Committee for Europe for consideration at its 68th session (RC68), may be found in document EUR/RC68/Inf.Doc./3.
4. The high-level regional meeting, Health Systems for Prosperity and Solidarity: Leaving No One Behind, was held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 13–14 June 2018. Given the focus on strengthening European health systems for prosperity and solidarity and leaving no one behind, and building on the values of the Tallinn Charter, the meeting was organized around three overarching themes: Include – improving coverage, access and financial protection for everyone; Invest – making the case for investing in health systems; and Innovate – harnessing innovations and systems to meet people’s needs.
5. The meeting served as an opportunity to celebrate the Tallinn Charter, its values and achievements on its 10th anniversary; to share innovations and recent good practices from across the WHO European Region; and to outline a new vision for person-centred and resilient health systems of the 21st century, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and Health 2020, with a stronger commitment to achieving equity.
6. The outcome statement of the meeting, which is also submitted to RC68 for consideration, may be found in document EUR/RC68/Inf.Doc./6.

= = =