Draft concept note on THE PEP Academy

Draft (18 June 2014) prepared by the secretariat

Summary

This document sets out proposed principles and a framework for THE PEP Academy, a new implementation mechanism adopted by the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (14 to 16 April 2014):

“We, the Ministers…Undertake to launch THE PEP Academy, linking science, policy and practice, as a new implementation mechanism that capitalizes on the achievements and experiences of THE PEP. The Academy will be a platform to strengthen capacities for integrated transport, health and environment and spatial planning, facilitating the uptake of new knowledge. It will be targeted to key stakeholders, including policy makers, civil servants, practitioners and academics. THE PEP Clearinghouse will support THE PEP” (ECE/AC.21/2014/3-EUDCE1408105/1.6/4HLM/3, the Paris Declaration, para 9).

The extended Bureau of the Steering Committee, at its 24th meeting, discussed THE PEP Academy and requested the secretariat to draft a concept note on the new implementation mechanism, to be considered by the Bureau at its 25th meeting in June 2014 in Copenhagen and submitted to the Steering Committee at its 12th session in November 2014. (Report of the 24th Meeting of the Extended Bureau of THE PEP, para. 12).

I. THE PEP Academy: background and mandate

1. The Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme has, for many years, noted the importance of drawing on quantitative and qualitative research and academic expertise in its work. It also has noted the need for a platform to build capacity in sustainable and healthy urban transport and mobility, to share knowledge across the UNECE and WHO pan-European Region, and to support Member States by providing hands on training that is both technical and policy-oriented.

2. In 2003, following THE PEP Cyprus Workshop on Sustainable and Healthy Urban Transport and Planning (16-18 November 2003, Nicosia) elements for “Curricula for urban transport planners and public health schools” were developed by the secretariat to support:

   • Learning how transport and urban development can have an impact on social and health determinants and on the environment and

   • Developing a culture of understanding and support to integrated strategies for transport, health and the environment (note by the secretariat following the Cyprus Workshop)

3. In adopting the 2009 Amsterdam Declaration and a five-year workplan for THE PEP (2009-2014), Ministers at the Third Highlevel Meeting called on Governments and THE PEP
Secretariat to work together to “build capacity for better integration of transport, health and environment policy,” and in particular to:

- Support twinning programmes between administrations in countries in western and eastern Europe, the Caucasus, central Asia and south-eastern Europe in transport, health and environment, including the exchange of experts and civil servants, to provide opportunities for cross-fertilization and capacity-building; and to

- Support the development of training packages and capacity-building events (e.g. summer schools, grants, scholarships, distance learning systems) aimed at civil servants and experts from different sectors and countries, to provide opportunities to develop a common understanding of challenges, solutions, and opportunities and means for policy integration and intersectoral collaboration. (ECE/AC.21/4, Annex, THE PEP work plan (2009–2014) to support national action and international cooperation, (section (b)).

4. Following the Third High-level meeting, the Steering Committee, at its seventh session (November 2009), considered the institutional set-up of THE PEP and proposed, as requested by the Bureau, to seek ways to stimulate participation and to more actively engage Member States and other stakeholders in a lively debate on relevant issues involving the three sectors. The Committee agreed that from 2010, beginning with its eighth session, a half-day in depth discussion, known as THE PEP Symposium, would be organized, including speakers from the private sector, academia, government and civil society, to explore specific topics in greater detail (ECE/AC.21/SC/2009/8-EUR/09/5088363/8, paras 45-47).

5. Five THE PEP Symposia were held from 2010-2014 on topics in line with the five priority goals.

6. Building on the experience of THE PEP Symposia and the expressed need for a platform for shared knowledge and academic research, the Fourth High-level Meeting in 2014, in adopting the Paris Declaration, called on Member States, in fulfilling THE PEP vision, through approaches and mechanisms to enable action, to:

“Undertake to launch THE PEP Academy, linking science, policy and practice, as a new implementation mechanism that capitalizes on the achievements and experiences of THE PEP. The Academy will be a platform to strengthen capacities for integrated transport, health and environment and spatial planning, facilitating the uptake of new knowledge. It will be targeted to key stakeholders, including policy makers, civil servants, practitioners and academics. THE PEP Clearinghouse will support THE PEP” (ECE/AC.21/2014/3-EUDCE1408105/1.6/4HLM/3, the Paris Declaration).

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1 For the themes, concepts and results of THE PEP Symposia of 2010-2013, please consult THE PEP Steering Committee reports of the tenth through eleventh sessions. THE PEP 2014 Symposium, on the theme of Goal 5, was held just prior to the 12th session of the Steering Committee on 19 November 2014. The results will be reflected in the final report of the 12th session (ECE/AC.21/SC/2014/7-EUDCE1408105/1.6/SC12/7).
II. Modalities for the development of THE PEP Academy

7. Following the Fourth High-level Meeting, the extended Bureau of THE PEP Steering Committee considered the Paris Declaration and discussed the modalities for the development of THE PEP Academy, which would link science, policy and practice and support capacity-building in sustainable and healthy urban transport policy and planning through training and knowledge sharing among representatives of national and municipal authorities.

8. Several delegations proposed to cooperate in the development of the Academy, including Austria, France, Norway, the Russian Federation and the Regional Environmental Centre Southeast Europe (REC SEE, Szentendre, Hungary). The representative of the REC SEE noted THE PEP Academy could draw on his organization’s experience with the “Sustainability Academy” in Russian-speaking countries and that THE PEP Academy could be seen as a living laboratory, to help build partnerships that are inclusive. Addressing funding aspects for its development would be crucial (Report of the 24th Meeting of the Extended Bureau, Paris, paras. 11-12).

9. THE PEP Academy, as a platform for sharing and creating knowledge and expertise, could facilitate the implementation of the Paris Declaration through the development of an institutional and professional culture of better knowledge and understanding of the interactions between transport, urban planning, environment and health, and their respective relevant policies, thereby strengthening horizontal and vertical policy integration and laying the groundwork for technical and policy improvements in-country, in accordance with the priorities and goals of the national and urban authorities. In addition, by leveraging on its capacity to mobilize policy and technical expertise from different disciplinary fields, the Academy would foster the development of appropriate legislation and regulation at national and municipal levels to achieve sustainable and healthy transport and mobility.

III. Launching THE PEP Academy: Way forward

10. Some examples of activities that could be carried out under THE PEP Academy are contained in a proposal by France and the Russian Federation for a new THE PEP Partnership on the Integration of Transport, Health and Environmental Objectives with Urban and Spatial Planning Policies (Information note no. 10). This proposal envisages THE PEP Academy as a platform for carrying out activities in support, in particular, of Paris Goal 5. THE PEP Academy could be equally relevant to the other four goals as well. The following could be carried out jointly, by the participating countries of the new Partnership, or as separate initiatives under THE PEP Academy:

- Scientific and academic cooperation between research institutes and scientific centers on the challenges of integrating transport and urban planning policies, taking into account the impact on human health and the environment, through studies and detailed analysis of best practices in the field of sustainable urban and transport planning
- Assistance in developing National Transport, Health and Environmental Action Plans (NTHEAPs) and use of the newly published NTHEAPs Manual;
• Bilateral and multilateral research projects in the framework of existing international and national research programs and plans;
• Organization of study courses for experts in the framework of mutual scientific and technical exchange with relevance to participating countries’ specific national problems in sustainable transport and mobility;
• Organization of hands-on training in the field of sustainable transport planning and on relevant tools such as the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) tool and the Health Economic Assessment Tools (HEAT) for walking and cycling;
• Development of curricula and programs for students from graduate and post-graduate courses in transport, health, environment and urban planning, as well as for civil servants and policy makers at national, sub-national and local level;
• Organization of a distance learning system in accordance with medical schools and health and environmental policy programmes from which graduating students could receive a certificate of completion of a “diploma”.
• Organization of international scientific conferences, seminars, round-tables and symposia;
• Joint publication of scientific and evidence-based articles in transport, health and environmental journals.
• Development of methodological recommendations, normative guidelines for city administrations, urban and transport planners (THE PEP workplan, activity 5.1 on the Development of guidelines for the assessment of transport, urban and spatial planning policies and projects in terms of the health and environmental impacts);
• Facilitate the signing of scientific collaborative agreements between the leading technical universities from participating countries;
• Establishment of a pool of accredited international experts (“Network of Experts”) on the problems under consideration.

11. The Bureau and thereafter the Steering Committee may wish to consider which of the above activities, would be priority in launching THE PEP Academy, how to obtain funding for the activities, how to manage the activities and when to initiate THE PEP Academy, e.g. as a training programme beginning in summer 2015 and focused on helping Member States to develop NTHEAPs or to evaluate transport activities and policies through ForFITS, EPRs and/or HEAT, by using relevant manuals and engaging experts as trainers and facilitators. The Bureau may wish to propose other activities or modalities for launching and managing THE PEP Academy.