

Proposed Activities for THE PEP Academy in 2019–2020

Prepared by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. The Fourth High-level Meeting of THE PEP, held in Paris, France, in April 2014, established 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...”* (ECE/AC.21/2014/3-EUDCE1408105/1.6/4HLM/3).
2. Following the Fourth High-level Meeting, the extended Bureau of THE PEP discussed the modalities for the development of the Academy, which would operate mainly through transferring knowledge and best practices to policy-makers, civil servants, academics, researchers, practitioners, students and post-graduate students, and linking science, policy-making and practice.
3. At its 25th session, THE PEP Bureau discussed an initial set of activities that could be implemented within the scope of THE PEP Academy, as well as the most cost-effective ways of implementing them. In so doing, the Bureau stressed in particular the importance of aspects related to:
 - (a) The desirability of establishing, whenever feasible, strong synergy and co-operation with the activities undertaken within the framework of THE PEP Partnerships and the other implementation mechanisms, as relevant;
 - (b) The necessity to ensure that activities undertaken within THE PEP Academy adhere to the following set of common principles, being:
 - i. in line with and supportive of the implementation of the Paris Declaration Goals, and THE PEP work plan;
 - ii. carried out consistently with the UNECE and WHO policies related to the collaboration with non-state actors, paying particular attention to the potential engagement of actors representing the interests of the private sector, in order to preserve the independence and credibility of THE PEP;
 - iii. coordinated with THE PEP Joint Secretariat, under the oversight of THE PEP Steering Committee and its Bureau;
 - iv. supported by the necessary resources for their implementation.
4. THE PEP Academy, as a platform for sharing and creating knowledge and expertise, could facilitate the implementation of THE PEP Priority Goals and provide important

contribution to the accomplishment of various regional and global commitments. The range of activities that could be undertaken by THE PEP Academy, including in close collaboration with THE PEP Partnerships, as relevant and appropriate, could include:

- Assistance in developing National Transport, Health and Environmental Action Plans (NTHEAPs) by supporting the strengthening of national capacities for NTHEAPs development and implementation to operationalize the NTHEAPs Manual, for example through workshops and policy dialogues;
- Organization of hands-on training addressed to transport and urban planners and practitioners in the field of sustainable transport planning, with a focus on relevant tools developed and/or promoted by THE PEP, 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 on integrated approaches to transport, urban planning, environment and health addressed to civil servants, policy makers and academics at national, sub-national and local level, with a focus on transport and urban planners. These courses could include face-to-face events, as well distance learning courses;
- Participation in bilateral and multilateral research projects in the framework of existing international and national research programs and plans. This could include the support to research and dissemination of good practices and manuals on sustainable urban transport planning;
- Publication of scientific and evidence-based articles in transport, health and environmental journals under the auspices of THE PEP;
- Establishment of a pool of accredited international experts (“Network of Experts”) on the problems under consideration.

5. On the basis of these discussions and directions, the Secretariat proposed a pragmatic and phased approach to the implementation of THE PEP Academy, where the implementation of the activities would be selected taking into account:

- (c) Priorities in the programme of work of THE PEP;
- (d) Focus on supporting Member States in achieving the five goals of THE PEP;
- (e) Availability of tools developed and/or promoted by THE PEP, such as the NTHEAP Manual; HEAT, ForFITS and others; and
- (f) Opportunities to mobilize the human and financial resources and partners necessary to the implementation of the proposed activities.

6. The Twelfth session of THE PEP Steering Committee endorsed the proposed principles for carrying out activities under THE PEP Academy, and its scope; the proposed criteria for the prioritization of activities that could be implemented under THE PEP Academy, and the initial set of activities on which THE PEP Academy could focus.

II. Activities proposed for 2019-2020

7. At its Thirty-six meeting, held in Bonn on 1-2 July 2019, THE PEP Bureau reviewed the activities for THE PEP Academy and welcomed progress achieved so far, in particular, the Bureau noted with appreciation the development of a bilateral collaboration between French and Russian academic institutions within the context of the Partnership on integration of transport, health and environment concerns in spatial and urban planning.

8. The Member States expressed their interest to find ways of accreditation or providing formal certification for those students who participate in the exchange study programmes under THE PEP Academy.

9. In recent years WHO Regional Office for Europe has produced a range of tools, guides and briefs that provided an overview of the most relevant environmental health challenges for European regions and presented solution mechanisms and opportunities for action on assessing and responding to these challenges.

10. To build the capacity on these tools, series of webinars were conducted in collaboration with the WHO Regions for Health Network, the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, and the WHO Environment and Health Process secretariat. The Bureau recommended continuing these activities in 2020 as a means of delivery of the contents developed by THE PEP Academy.

11. Furthermore, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health has established the Bonn Environment and Health (EH) School. The first edition of the Bonn EH School will be conducted in October-November 2019 with the aim of testing a format and structure, and receiving first-hand feedback from participants on future priority areas for such a school.

12. The programme of the school has been designed along important crosscutting and emerging themes in the environment and health arena. In view of the Bonn EH School's strategic goals, THE PEP Academy can have an active role in collaborating with the school for disseminating knowledge and raising awareness of policy platforms and policy tools and instruments promoting sustainable transport systems in the region.

13. The target audience of the EH School will consist of technical experts with duties in advising policy making processes on public health and/or environment matters, preferably operating at the interface of the two sectors.

14. The objectives of the Bonn EH School are:

- illustrating the international context for action on environment and health;
- presenting an overview on current evidence, priorities, needs, tools and policy options concerning specific EH areas;
- presenting an overview of other current important and emerging topics as well as cross-cutting issues in environment and health;
- providing opportunities for networking among participants of different sectors and countries;

- promoting further dissemination of good EH practice in the countries through case studies and real life experiences presented by participants;
- establishing a common understanding of health related issues between environment and health experts.

15. In addition, the WHO has developed an initiative to establish a WHO Academy on the global level. The WHO Academy will provide a state-of-the art campus, based in Lyon that will serve as the flagship campus in health globally, bringing together the best of evidence, adult learning science and learning technologies.

16. The WHO Academy is planning to build the competencies of over 10 million people in health globally by 2023 (the Lyon campus could potentially attract over 12,000 visitors per year). It will strengthen the health and digital economy, support the creation of jobs in the health economy, further progress the development of the WHO digital health strategy and stimulate broader productivity and inclusive growth.

17. Targeted to leaders, managers, researchers and health workers in the public and private sector committed to progressing health related SDGs in and beyond the health sector, the WHO Academy will create one of the world's largest digital learning platforms.

18. It would be recommendable to find opportunities for creating synergy between THE PEP Academy and the WHO Academy.

III. THE PEP Academy and the way forward

19. Over the past years, a lack of financial resources posed a major challenge for the implementation of THE PEP Academy's activities. In fact, only those activities were implemented that related either to the statutory activities of THE PEP (e.g. THE PEP Symposia regularly taking place back to back to the Steering Committee session) or activities to which funding were available from various sources (e.g. development and dissemination of THE PEP tools, establishment of the EH school etc.).

20. New activities and new initiatives could not be implemented, due to a lack of the additional resources, both financial and human.

21. For 2020, it is proposed to retain the same range of activities as in 2019, possibly adding to these the development of a training package to support the implementation of the European Master Plan for cycling promotion being developed under THE PEP partnership on cycling.

22. All in all, the potential of THE PEP Academy is not fully utilised in a way which would enable this implementation mechanism to properly fulfil a role assigned to it for linking science, policy and practice and reinforcing capacities of Member States for integrated policymaking.

23. To achieve this, it is essential to improve resource mobilization capacities and efforts at all levels and to enhance predictability of resource flows, as well to carefully plan specific activities that would be in line with THE PEP work plan for 2020-2025 and THE PEP vision of "clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport for the prosperity and happiness of our citizens".

24. The Steering Committee is invited to discuss next steps for strengthening THE PEP Academy as an important implementation mechanism, including possible efficient ways for resource mobilisation in order to broaden range of activities and to enhance a set of possible good results to be achieved following the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment in 2020.
