

THE PEP Academy in 2020–2021

Prepared by the Secretariat

Background

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.*” (ECE/AC.21/2014/3-EUDCE1408105/1.6/4HLM/3).

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.

In recent years’ various activities were implemented within the scope of THE PEP Academy, however, the Seventeenth session of THE PEP Steering Committee noted that the potential of THE PEP Academy was 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.

This document was prepared by the secretariat to review the activities of THE PEP Academy and propose the way forward.

I. Introduction

1. THE PEP Academy was established as a platform for sharing and creating knowledge and expertise to 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 implemented by THE PEP Academy, including by establishing synergy and co-operation with the activities undertaken within the framework of THE PEP Partnerships and the other implementation mechanisms, could include:

- a. Developing the training packages and capacity-building events 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 inter-sectoral collaboration;
- b. Supporting twinning programmes, including the exchange of experts and civil servants, to provide opportunities for capacity-building;
- c. 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 Health Economic Assessment Tools (HEAT) for walking and cycling;

- d. 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;
- e. 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.

2. THE PEP Steering Committee endorsed the criteria for the prioritization of activities that could be implemented under THE PEP Academy, in particular:

- 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 PEP Priority 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.

II. Activities implemented under THE PEP Academy

3. The Seventeenth session of THE PEP Steering Committee reviewed the activities for THE PEP Academy and welcomed progress achieved so far. In particular, the Committee 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.

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

5. With the aim of building the capacity on these tools, a series of webinars was 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.
6. In this context, the city of Moscow requested WHO European Centre for Environment and Health to organize a series of on-line trainings (masterclasses) for professionals of relevant executive bodies of the city of Moscow and research institutes of the Russian Federation with the aim of introducing the WHO main Environment and Health (EH) tools, such as the AirQ+ software, CarbonH and the HEAT. The masterclasses are planned for December 2020.
7. Furthermore, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health established the Bonn Environment and Health (EH) School. The first edition of the Bonn EH School was 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.
8. The programme of the school was designed along important crosscutting and emerging themes in the environment and health arena. The school presented an overview on current evidence, priorities, needs, tools and policy options concerning specific Environment and Health areas and promoted establishing a common understanding of health related issues between environment and health experts.
9. One of the modules of the EH school was “*Integrating health and environment into sectoral policies: the transport case*” presented by THE PEP. The module discussed the complexity and interdependence of the effects that sectoral policies have on health and the environment. The course looked at transport as a sectoral policy domain, where the integration of health and environmental consideration could result in policy options, which enabled maximizing health gains and environmental protection while ensuring safe and equitable access to services, goods, amenities, jobs and education.
10. The Steering Committee underlined the importance of broadening the target audience of the EH School by engaging technical experts with duties in advising policy making processes on public health, environment, transport and urban planning.
11. In addition, the WHO has developed an initiative to establish a WHO Academy on the global level. The WHO Academy is planning to build the competencies of millions of people in health globally. 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 is planning to create one of the world’s largest digital learning platforms.
12. The Steering Committee recommended to find opportunities for creating synergy between THE PEP Academy and the WHO Academy.

III. THE PEP Academy and the way forward

13. Over the past years, a lack of financial and human resources posed a major challenge for the implementation of THE PEP Academy’s activities. In order to better utilise this implementation mechanism after the Fifth High-level Meeting (5HLM) it is essential to improve resource mobilization capacities and efforts at all levels, to enhance predictability of resource flows, increase human resources to support the planning and organization of activities of THE PEP Academy as well to carefully plan specific activities that would be in line with THE PEP work plan for 2021-2026.

14. After the 5HLM it is proposed to plan and implement new activities and new initiatives addressing the intersectoral collaboration. One of the important issues is to further clarify the role of health and environment in developing transport policies, given the impact that transport systems have on these sectors and given the recent experience from the pandemic crisis, when the role of healthy, affordable, and clean transport was essential to keep urban areas liveable and resilient.

15. It is proposed to develop training and capacity building courses for professionals working on environment and health, transport and urban planning, road traffic injury prevention, physical activity promotion, health emergency and disaster risk management. Such capacity building trainings will bring closer together different professionals to share knowledge, skills and tools in order to foster collaboration and to effectively leverage healthy transport systems.

16. In addition to these general courses on benefits and challenges of transport systems, the range of activities implemented under THE PEP Academy can cover the following areas:

- a. a training package to support the implementation of the European Master Plan for cycling promotion
- b. a series of webinars on various themes aiming at supporting safe, sustainable and resilient mobility and transport in the region
- c. analytical work for better understanding of the environment and health impact of micro mobility
- d. new modules of HEAT

17. Furthermore, THE PEP Academy can have an active role in collaborating with the WHO Academy, Bonn Environment and Health School and other relevant processes with the aim of disseminating knowledge and raising awareness of policy platforms and policy tools and instruments to promote sustainable transport systems in the region.

18. The Steering Committee is invited to discuss the proposed activities as well as next steps for strengthening THE PEP Academy as an important implementation mechanism, including possible efficient ways for resource mobilisation in order to plan new activities and initiatives that would be in line with THE PEP work plan for 2021-2026 and to enhance a set of possible good results to be achieved following the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment.
