

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
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COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE DES
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ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

TRANSPORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME
THE PEP

**40th Meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee
of the Transport, Health and Environment
Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)**

23 June 2022, Online meeting

ENGLISH ONLY
2 August 2022

REPORT OF THE MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The fortieth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was convened online, at the request of the Bureau members.
2. The Bureau meeting was attended by its members from the following member States: Austria, France, Georgia, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland.
3. THE PEP Secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Ms. Virginia Fusé and Ms. Amy Choi (UNECE Environment Division), Mr. Francesco Dionori (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), and Mr. Massimo Cozzone, Ms. Nino Sharashidze and Ms. Jovana Dodos (WHO/Europe). Mr. Thomas Scalway from Lushomo¹ company, who is supporting THE PEP with the development of the communication strategy and the survey, also attended the meeting for the agenda item on the communications strategy.
4. Ms. Vigdis Rønning (Norway), Chair of the Bureau, opened and chaired the meeting.
5. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat.
6. The Bureau further:
 - Adopted the report of its thirty-ninth meeting (online, 1 March 2022);
 - Noted that the report of the nineteenth session of THE PEP Steering Committee (ECE/AC.21/SC/2021/2–EUCHP2018924/4.1/2) had been translated in the three UNECE official languages ready for adoption by the Steering Committee at its twentieth session (Geneva, 17–19 October 2022).

II. PREPARATION OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE

7. The secretariat presented draft versions of documents that were to be submitted officially for the twentieth session of THE PEP Steering Committee.
Draft annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth session
8. The secretariat presented the draft annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Steering Committee, highlighting only those elements that were not going to be further discussed in subsequent agenda items in the Bureau meeting.

¹ Reference to a commercial company does not imply endorsement by the United Nations or its Member States.

9. In particular, the secretariat highlighted a session on “Transport, Health and Environment: including a gender perspective” that would promote discussions on practical tools and good practices to address the challenges of and policy needs for gender in transport, health and environment. Discussions in the session would consider the results of a two-question survey to focal points on issues faced and good practices. Bureau members welcomed the topic selected for the session, as it was also part of the Workplan for 2021–2025. The Bureau member from Serbia informed the Bureau that she would circulate experiences from her country in gender mainstreaming in transport, health and environment, which could be useful for the session.
10. The Bureau member from the Republic of Moldova asked the secretariat to add his name in the annex of the draft annotated agenda.

Programme of work for 2022–2023

11. The secretariat presented the draft Programme of work for 2022–2023 highlighting past and future activities under the Programme. As requested by the Steering Committee at its nineteenth session, the secretariat included dates of Partnership meetings in the document, where known. Some dates were still provisional. Should there be updates before the deadline to submit the document, the secretariat would include them.
12. The Bureau member from the Russian Federation asked that a conference to take place on 31 October 2022 in St. Petersburg on urban mobility and how to improve the quality of life be included in the draft Programme of work and be organized in cooperation with THE PEP.
13. The Bureau agreed to provide comments to the draft Programme of work by 15 July 2022. Further, it requested the secretariat to investigate changing the timeline of future programmes of work to correspond to the period between sessions of the Steering Committee.

Status of the trust fund of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

14. The secretariat presented the status of the trust funds managed by WHO and UNECE. WHO side of the secretariat underlined the low amount of funds currently available in their trust fund that made it necessary to utilize some of the resources from the Bonn Office, in particular for finalizing THE PEP publications, developing THE PEP Survey and updating the HEAT. The WHO side of the secretariat also informed the Bureau that in 2023 most of the resources available would be directed to the preparation of the Environment and Health Ministerial Conference. The secretariat encouraged member States to consider financial support for THE PEP. Updated information would be presented in an official document at the Steering Committee.
15. The Bureau noted with concern that the level of funds was constantly decreasing and that, if no corrective action would be taken, the trust funds would soon be exhausted.

Revised workplan for 2021–2025

16. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the revised workplan for 2021–2025 had been finalized and ready for submission to the upcoming session of the Steering Committee. The Fifth High-level Meeting (Vienna, 17–18 May 2021) had asked the Steering Committee to develop it further and monitor the workplan’s implementation. The Steering Committee had mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to update the document and resubmit it in the three official languages for approval by the Steering Committee at its twentieth session.

Outcome of the meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

17. The Bureau member from France presented the document prepared on the outcome of the meeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of THE PEP (Paris, 13–14 January 2022). He informed the Bureau that the document was to be submitted officially for the twentieth session of the Steering Committee.
18. The secretariat recalled that if leaders of the Partnerships wished to submit informal documents to the Steering Committee, they were to inform the secretariat as soon as possible and provide the documents in time so that they could be shared with focal points at least two weeks before the session of the Steering Committee.
19. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the next session of the Steering Committee would take place in a hybrid mode, in Geneva and online.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA DECLARATION

Strategy on transport, health and the environment

20. The Chair recalled the mandate received from the Fifth High-level Meeting to develop a comprehensive pan-European strategy on transport, health and the environment, for adoption in 2023. She also recalled that the Steering Committee had established an ad-hoc working group to lead the preparatory work.
21. The secretariat summarized the content of the outline of the strategy drafted by the ad-hoc working groups at its first two online meetings, on 29 March and 31 May 2022. The terms of reference for a consultant to support the work of the ad-hoc working group were ready for posting on the United Nations careers website. The secretariat was to circulate the vacancy announcement among Bureau members as soon as it had been posted.
22. The Bureau member from the Russian Federation suggested that the Steering Committee consider a timeline for the strategy that would go beyond 2030. Thanks to the support of the consultant, the strategy could also include a more comprehensive and innovative way of conceiving transport and mobility for future years. The reports of the two meetings of the ad-hoc working groups were to be translated officially and made available to the Steering Committee at its upcoming session in the three UNECE official languages.

Options for possible legal instruments

23. The secretariat recalled that the Steering Committee, at its nineteenth session, decided that work on the strategy and on proposals for legal instruments should be coherent and consistent. To that end, the same group would deal with both issues. Work on the strategy would start in 2022, while work on possible legal instruments could start once a preliminary assessment on the status of transport, health and environment under the strategy had been completed, so that the work under the possible legal instruments could benefit from it.

THE PEP survey

24. The secretariat presented updates on the preparations for a survey on transport, health and environment. The document included comments received from Steering Committee members, and members of THE PEP Partnership on Active Mobility. The secretariat had hired a company to convert the questionnaire into an online survey and a pilot survey was to take place over the summer. Norway, France, Serbia and Republic of Moldova agreed to participate in the pilot survey.
25. Bureau members requested the secretariat to:
 - Reformulate question number eight of the questionnaire;
 - Include more questions covering other modes of transport than walking and cycling;
 - Add the possibility of including additional information, to allow member States to share best practices among each other and reply even when the situation in their country would not fit the options indicated.
26. The secretariat clarified that the questionnaire had been shared with the Bureau members several times during the period October 2021 – June 2022, and the comments had been integrated. In addition, it was clarified that one of the main recommendations from the member States was minimizing the number of open-ended questions to make it easier to complete the questionnaire as well as to better analyze the results. The Bureau agreed to provide any additional concrete suggestions to the secretariat by 5 July 2022 to allow the official submission of the document.
27. The Bureau also discussed modalities to carry out the survey. It decided that the questionnaire would be sent to the relevant ministries through permanent missions and to focal points, to raise the probability of completion and of coordinated replies. The replies were to be sent to the secretariat through THE PEP Focal Points of the lead ministries.

Communication strategy for THE PEP

28. The secretariat recalled the mandate to prepare a communication strategy for THE PEP and informed the Bureau that a consultancy company was selected to support the development of the strategy. A representative of the company made a brief presentation about the strategy development process, including the strategy objectives, stakeholders' analysis, outcomes and outputs, etc. He noted that in this process a close collaboration with the Bureau members would be important.
29. The Bureau considered that:
 - It would be preferable that the communication strategy be ready by the end of 2022;
 - The outcome of the work would need to comprise practical material to be used by the secretariat and Bureau members to make the work of THE PEP and its achievements more visible;

- Target groups should be clearly identified as member States in the UNECE/WHO region, together with international organizations and non-governmental organizations working on relevant issues;
 - Social media has proven to be one of the most effective means of delivering messages and its use should be intensified. One of the outcomes of the work on the communication strategy should be slogans or short text to advertise THE PEP.
30. The Bureau requested the secretariat to review the preparation of the communication strategy in line with the above points and to consider whether it was feasible to complete it by the end of 2022.

Updates on THE PEP Partnerships

31. The Bureau member from Austria, lead country of the Partnership on Active Mobility, of the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility, and of the Partnership on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility, summarized outcomes of recent work and meetings under them. He encouraged member States to take part in the work of the Partnerships and to advertise them in their authorities. Presentations had been posted on the website of the meeting.²
32. The Bureau appreciated the activities under the Partnerships, included those newly established and:
- Highlighted the need, when promoting walking, to encourage people already walking to continue;
 - Supported the need for coordination among the Partnerships and welcomed the joint meeting between two of them to be hosted by the Netherlands in December 2022 or January 2023;
 - Requested the secretariat to inform the Bureau whether experts in the UNECE Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) were participating in meetings of the Partnership on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility;
 - Agreed that the Guidelines for National Eco-driving Initiatives be translated officially in the three UNECE official languages for the upcoming session of the Steering Committee.

Updates on THE PEP publications

33. The secretariat presented THE PEP publications that had recently been completed: the publication of the Vienna Declaration, THE PEP brochure and the publication on “Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice”. The last of these, launched at a meeting on the occasion of the World Bicycle Day 2022, counted already nearly one thousands downloads in less than a month.
34. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the publications were being translated and would be presented to the Steering Committee session in all four WHO/Euro languages.

III. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

35. The secretariat updated the Bureau on the Bonn Dialogue on walking and cycling, organized on the World Bicycle Day 2022 under the Environment and Health Process, in cooperation with THE PEP. The event was held online and attracted more than 200 participants.
36. The secretariat informed the Bureau of the possibility to organize a side event at the margins of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022). The event, entitled “Sustainable mobility for sustainable tourism”, was in line with one of the two themes of the Conference “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism” and could be a good occasion to promote the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility.
37. The side event was to have speakers from Cyprus, Czechia, Serbia and Switzerland. The Bureau considered supporting the secretariat in identifying additional speakers and resources to cover the cost of interpretation and catering for the event.
38. The secretariat also informed the Bureau that the Seventh Environment and Health Ministerial Conference was to take place in Budapest on 5–7 July 2023. The conference agenda would be organized around the triple crisis due to environmental themes of air pollution, climate change and the link between land degradation coupled with biodiversity loss, its impact on health. The conference outcomes should address how to fill the gap with the

² <https://thepep.unece.org/events/40th-meeting-pep-bureau>

perspective of shifting from policies to actions. The secretariat was to provide more information on how THE PEP could contribute to the conference and side events at a later stage.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

39. The secretariat recalled the following meetings to be organized under the Partnerships and the ad-hoc Working Group on the strategy:
 - A meeting of the Partnership on Active Mobility – meeting on walking – Dublin, 19–23 September 2022, back-to-back with the Walk21 Conference;
 - The third meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategy and Possible Legal Instruments, online, 28 September 2022;
 - A meeting of the Partnership on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility, Lisbon, 29–30 September 2022;
 - A joint meeting of the Partnership on Active Mobility – meeting on walking and cycling – and the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility, the Netherlands, December 2022 or January 2023.

V. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

40. The Chair summarized the discussions and decisions of the meeting and closed the meeting.