



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 September 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment

Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

Thirteenth session

Geneva, 17–18 November 2015

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

Implementing the Paris Declaration: THE PEP Partnerships

Proposed changes to the terms of reference for THE PEP Partnership

I. Background

1. At its eighth session, the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted terms of reference (ToR) for THE PEP Partnership,¹ which is one of the implementation mechanisms of THE PEP. Since the launch of THE PEP Partnerships in 2009, this mechanism has offered a platform for international collaborative efforts of diverse partners, and was able to mobilize resources and capacities from different disciplines while supporting the achievement of one of the four goals of the Amsterdam Declaration.

2. In 2014 at the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment held in Paris, the ministers in the UNECE-WHO/Europe region adopted the Paris Declaration² in which they agreed to strengthen their commitment to the four existing goals and added a new goal 5. Furthermore, they renewed their commitment to the existing implementation mechanisms of THE PEP for achieving the five priority goals in the period 2014–2019.

3. At its twelfth session, the Steering Committee discussed the procedure proposed by the Bureau for establishing and joining a Partnership. The Committee concluded that the

¹ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/en/committee/documents/2010/ece.ac.21.sc.2010.3.e.pdf.

² www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/documents/Déclaration_de_Paris_EN.pdf.



secretariat should revise the existing ToR for Partnerships and incorporate the procedure for joining/establishing them, as well as the role and responsibilities of the Partners.

4. Following the twenty-seventh meeting of the Bureau of THE PEP, the secretariat revised the terms of reference, including the proposed procedure for establishing and for joining a THE PEP Partnership, as follows below.

5. The Bureau proposed at its twenty-seventh meeting to apply the revised ToR to existing partnerships as follows: all THE PEP partnerships in existence as of 26 June 2015 shall submit a complete Partnership Description form (see below) to the thirteenth Session of the Steering Committee for formal approval. However, signed letters of intent are not required.

6. The Committee may wish to discuss the proposal on the revised ToR of THE PEP Partnerships, and:

- (a) Approve the proposed ToR; and
- (b) Agree on the Bureau's proposal (para. 5, above) regarding existing Partnerships.

II. Terms of Reference

THE PEP Partnership

7. At the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (2009, Amsterdam) consensus was reached in the Amsterdam Declaration to develop THE PEP Partnership (hereafter "the Partnership") as one of the mechanisms for achieving the four priority goals of THE PEP in the period 2009–2014 (ECE/AC.21/2009/2–EUR/09/5086385/2).³ The Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (2014, Paris) carried these forward and adopted a new fifth priority goal in the Paris Declaration.⁴

8. The Partnership would serve three main purposes:

(a) To provide THE PEP with an effective mechanism to support the implementation of its work plan in aspects related to the development of tools and methods as well as to provide technical capacity to support member States in the implementation of THE PEP at national level;

(b) To strengthen ownership among potential partners (including member States, as well as international financial institutions, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and relevant academic and technical institutions) who would be closely involved in the work to be carried out under the umbrella of the Partnership;

(c) To provide a more solid and sustainable basis for human and financial resources made available for the implementation of THE PEP work plan at the national and international level, thereby overcoming one of the key weaknesses of THE PEP.⁵

³ www.unece.org/thepep/en/hlm/documents/2009/ece.ac21.2009.2.e.pdf.

⁴ www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/documents/Déclaration_de_Paris_EN.pdf.

⁵ See also: THE Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment: assessment and progress made. 2008: UNECE and World Health Organization (WHO); Geneva and Copenhagen: United Nations (www.unece.org/thepep/en/publications/THEPEP.assessment.en.pdf).

9. The main activities of the Partnership are:
- (a) Developing guidance, methods, tools and training packages for integrated approaches to policymaking in transport, health and environment;
 - (b) Providing technical assistance at the national and subnational level for the development, implementation and evaluation of integrated policy approaches and the implementation of developed guidance, methods and tools, such as guidance on national transport, health and environment action plans (NTHEAPs), in particular in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and in South-Eastern Europe (SEE);
 - (c) Fostering capacity building, training and the exchange of know-how and expertise, with a focus on the needs of EECCA and SEE countries;
 - (d) Developing supportive material and promoting research and the dissemination of results in areas addressed by the “relay race”;
 - (e) International advocacy and cooperation; and
 - (f) Information-sharing and dissemination and increased visibility of THE PEP.
10. The Partnership coordinates its activities in close contact with other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations represented in the Steering Committee and cooperates with international financial and donor organizations which provide funds for programmes and projects related to the relevant topics for the implementation of THE PEP activities and of the Declarations emanating from THE PEP High-level Meetings.
11. The Partnership encourages partnership between the public and private sectors and their involvement in implementation of activities in line with its programme of work. The Partnership encourages cooperation with educational institutions for enhancing capacity-building activities in areas relevant to the achievement of sustainable and healthy transport.

III. Operational Set-up

A. THE PEP Partners

12. The Partnership would operate flexibly under the auspices and with the guidance of THE PEP Steering Committee and the coordination of and collaboration with THE PEP secretariat. Membership in a THE PEP Partnership is established on a voluntary basis and open to member States, key non-governmental organizations that are members of the Steering Committee, relevant inter-governmental organizations and possibly international financial institutions (“THE PEP Partners”), committed to engage in the Partnership.
13. THE PEP Partners would support the Partnership and be involved in the development and implementation of specific activities or projects, in line with the work programme of THE PEP. Partners will also support dissemination activities and resource mobilization efforts.
14. Activities of the Partnerships will be coordinated by the secretariat, within the framework of an agreed work plan, and the availability of the necessary resources, unless otherwise specified by the Partnership Description (see below). This would allow resources to be concentrated on the development of highly visible products to establish the Partnership as an effective mechanism (a “trademark” for action in the area of transport, environment and health), with the intention of attracting other partners.

15. THE PEP Partners will be invited to actively contribute to the coordination and management of the Partnership and of its substantive work, by either dedicated funds made available to THE PEP secretariat and/or through secondments of staff to THE PEP secretariat. In any case, the functioning of a core staff on a sustainable basis with sufficient time and resources dedicated to the management of the Partnership as requested by the Partners from the Secretariat and the development and implementation of its activities and projects, needs to be ensured for effective operation.

16. Each Partnership will formally report in writing to the Steering Committee on an annual basis on its completed, ongoing and planned activities, new partners as well as any changes to the Partnership description. Interim status updates will be made available to the Bureau at its mid-session meetings.

B. THE PEP Partnership Resource Network

17. THE PEP Partnership Resource Network (hereafter “Resource Network”) would be established through the Partners. It would be a network able to pool technical expertise from academic and public institutions, centres of excellence and WHO Collaborating Centres from areas relevant to THE PEP implementation. The Resource Network would provide technical expertise and could be invited to contribute to the development of training and capacity building material, as well as to assist in dissemination and implementation of this material and providing in-country expertise when needed. The Resource Network would ensure the cost-effectiveness of the Partnership, by engaging the best available expertise according to the needs of the project and would be linked up through THE PEP Toolbox and Clearing House.

C. Procedure for establishing, amending and for joining a THE PEP Partnership

18. THE PEP Partnerships have a clearly defined scope, fill identified gaps in knowledge and practice, are action oriented and targeted at providing member States with high quality products, in the pursuit of the Paris Declaration regional goals. They aim to provide value added through the development of tools, methodological approaches and sharing of good practices. THE PEP Partnerships are open-ended in terms of membership and can benefit from both financial and in-kind contributions.

19. New THE PEP Partnerships can be established by a decision of the Steering Committee. To facilitate such a decision the interested partners in collaboration with the secretariat would prepare a Partnership Description using a form provided by the Secretariat to be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval:

- objective;
- scope and purpose;
- list of initial partners (at least two);
- management arrangements (lead partner(s), coordination mechanism and role of the secretariat);
- target groups;
- an indication of how the proposed Partnership would fit under the existing work plan of THE PEP and contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Paris Declaration goals;

- specific work plan with deliverables for a 2 to 4 year period and potential contributions to the next planned High-level Meeting;
- an indication of how the financial needs of the Partnership will be met; and
- a proposal for monitoring implementation and reporting to the Steering Committee.

20. Additionally, initial partners would confirm their participation by submitting to the secretariat a signed letter of intent expressing interest to join the respective Partnership and indicating the type and level of their expected contribution.

21. Partners interested in joining an already existing THE PEP Partnership are equally welcome to do so by submitting to THE PEP secretariat a signed letter of intent expressing interest in joining a specific Partnership and indicating the type and level of their expected contribution.

22. The Steering Committee may entrust the Bureau to preliminarily approve possible changes to the Partnership Description, as captured in the form submitted to the Steering Committee for initial establishment of the Partnership (see para. 19), in order to not delay the implementation of the Partnership programme of work. The Steering Committee would review and confirm the proposed changes on the occasion of its first session following the change.

D. Financing

23. The Partnership would mainly be supported through voluntary contributions by its partners. Such resources could be made available financially or in kind. THE PEP Partners can provide ad hoc project-specific resources that would be used for concrete time-limited projects. THE PEP Partners are also invited to provide regular funding for secretariat functions to ensure adequate servicing of the Partnership. The secretariat, together with the Resource Network, would carry out the core functions which would include coordination and implementation of core activities, development of project proposals and resources mobilization for ad hoc activities in line with the mandate and terms of reference of the Partnership. The Resource Network creates no additional financial implications for the United Nations.

E. Use of THE PEP logo in activities developed under the Partnership

24. Since THE PEP logo is an authoritative “seal of quality” of the activities and products developed by THE PEP Partnership, and implies an endorsement and responsibility by UNECE and WHO, its use (also for communication purposes) is subject to written approval by the secretariat.

F. Engagement of non-state actors in THE PEP partnership

25. While the engagement of non-state actors (e.g. academic institutions, NGOs, private sector entities and philanthropic foundations) in the implementation of THE PEP Partnerships is welcomed and encouraged, all precautions need to be taken to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest in the design, objectives and outcomes of a Partnership, as well as in its management and governance. This includes aspects such as financing and co-sponsorships of events and publications. For this reason the involvement of non-state actors should be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis, and guidance should be sought from the relevant departments within the UNECE and WHO.