

THE PEP Steering Committee, 7th session
Agenda item 5(b)
THE PEP workplan: project proposals and budgetary requirements

THE PEP Partnership: Scope, tasks and organizational arrangements

1. This note was developed by the secretariat as a follow-up to the brainstorming meeting on implementation and financing mechanisms for the Transport Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), held in Rome on 7 July 2009, and the 10th meeting of the Bureau on 7 and 8 July 2009. It intends to provide input and background to the further development of the THE PEP Partnership.
2. The note further expands the document “THE PEP Implementation Mechanisms and Workplan: Project Proposals and Budgetary Requirements (2009–2014)” (doc. ECE/AC.21/SC/2009/4 EUR/09/5088363/4), submitted for discussion to the seventh session of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme, to be held in Geneva on 22-23 October 2009.

Background

3. The establishment of “THE PEP Partnership” (hereinafter “Partnership”) was initially discussed by THE PEP Steering Committee at its 6th session in 2008 (see document ECE/AC.21/SC/2008/9 - EUR/08/5068055/9 – report on the Sixth Session), as part of the preparations for the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, which took place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 22-23 January 2009. In those discussions, the development of the Partnership was seen to serve three main purposes:
 - (a) To provide THE PEP with an effective mechanism to support the implementation of its workplan in aspects related to the development of tools and methods as well as technical capacity to support Member States in the implementation of THE PEP approaches at the national level;
 - (b) To create greater ownership among potential partners (including Member States, as well as IFIs, NGOs, other IGOs and academic and technical institutions of relevance to THE) who would be more closely involved in the work to be carried out under the umbrella of the Partnership; and
 - (c) To provide a more solid and sustainable basis for human and financial resources made available for the implementation of THE PEP workplan at the national and international level, thereby overcoming one of the key weaknesses of THE PEP¹.
4. At the Third High-level Meeting, consensus was achieved in the Amsterdam Declaration to develop THE PEP 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)².

¹ See also: THE Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment: assessment and progress made. UNECE and WHO; Geneva and Copenhagen: United Nations, 2008.
(<http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/publications/THEPEP.assessment.en.pdf>)

Scope and purpose of the Partnership

5. THE PEP Partnership is intended to serve as a central resource and support mechanism to promote integrated policymaking in the areas of transport, health and environment through the development of tools, methods, capacity-building materials and mechanisms and training. It would be established as a consulting facility tasked to support the implementation of THE PEP in WHO/Europe and UNECE Member States.

6. The Partnership could be seen as “THE PEP Factory”, i.e. a facility charged with providing technical assistance in the creation of capacity for the development of NTHEAPs, producing the tools, methods, resources (e.g. for capacity building or economic or health impact assessments) and substantive material supporting the “relay race” that Member States may need in the implementation and evaluation, as well as with the application of the tools developed by THE PEP, e.g. for economic assessments.

Terms of reference

7. The terms of reference of THE PEP Partnership would entail the following main functions:

- (a) Developing guidance, methods, tools and training packages for integrated approaches in transport, health and environment policy making;
- (b) Fostering capacity building and training and the exchange of know-how and expertise, with a focus on the needs of EECCA countries;
- (c) Providing technical assistance at the national and sub-national level for the development, implementation and evaluation of integrated policy approaches and the application of developed guidance, methods and tools;
- (d) Developing supportive material and promoting research and the dissemination of research results in areas addressed by the “relay race”;
- (e) International advocacy and cooperation;
- (f) Information-sharing and dissemination and increased visibility of THE PEP;
- (g) Support to THE PEP Steering Committee and Bureau and to the secretariat.

8. Activities envisaged under the Partnership are based on those set out in the annex of the Amsterdam Declaration. On an initial basis, the following projects have been identified and proposed by the secretariat for consideration by the THE PEP Steering Committee at its seventh session, and are further described in the annex to this note:

- (a) Development of guidance for Member States on NTHEAPs
- (b) Application of THE PEP Toolbox as part of THE PEP Clearing House at the national level
- (c) Economic valuation of health effects from transport, including walking and cycling
- (d) THE PEP-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) targeted outreach on sustainable urban transport in EECCA and SEE

9. Specific products that could be envisaged to be developed by the Partnership under these different projects would for example include:

² <http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/hlm/documents/2009/ece.ac21.2009.2.e.pdf>

- Step-by-step guidance for integrated approaches to THE policy making, based on “Guidance on supportive institutional conditions for policy integration of transport, health and environment” and experiences made with NTHEAPs and other integrated policy instruments
- Step-by-step guidance for national situation analysis and baseline assessment on THE with regard to the development of a NTHEAP
- Practical support services for the application of these guides
- Case study collection and analysis of integrated approaches to THE policy making
- Collection of tools and instruments for the evaluation of NTHEAPs
- Training packages, e.g. on integrated policy making, evaluation, economic assessments, health impact assessments
- Organization of training and information sharing events, such as “THE PEP Summer school”, workshops
- Advocacy events, such as “THE PEP project award” to recognize innovative projects that support the achievement of the goals set out in the Amsterdam Declaration

Operational arrangements

Partners

10. The Partnership could operate flexibly, with a “core group” of key partners, committed to be engaged in the Partnership in its initial pilot phase, and additional “associated” partners, whose interest initially might be limited to certain aspects of the work.

11. An initial core group of at least 3 to 5 Member States (“*The Friends of the Partnership*”) could be formed based on expressions of interest made at the seventh session of the Steering Committee. This would be the necessary minimal basis to start the further development of this implementation mechanism together with the secretariat.

12. A call for joining the Partnership would then be launched shortly after the seventh session of THE PEP Steering Committee, with the purpose of attracting the interest of a range of potential partners, including: further Member States, networks of cities and other sub-national and local authorities (e.g. Regions for Health, Healthy Cities network, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Energie Cities), relevant NGOs (e.g. Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Transport and Environment (T&E), European Cyclists Federation (ECF), ECOFORUM, World Business Council for Sustainable Development)), IFIs (e.g. World Bank, EBRD), and the European Commission (e.g. DG Regio, RELEX, SANCO, TREN, ENV) and academic and technical institutions, such as centres of excellence in the areas addressed by THE PEP.

13. “Core partners” would be members of an advisory group that would be tasked with:

- Guiding and overseeing the establishment of the mechanism and development of a detailed work programme, based on the conclusions of the seventh session of the Steering Committee
- Guiding and overseeing the projects developed under THE PEP Partnership, in line with the decisions taken by THE PEP Steering Committee;
- Contributing financially and/or in-kind to the resources necessary for the operations (e.g. through financial contributions to the Voluntary funds established by the UNECE and WHO)

for THE PEP; the secondment of personnel to the Partnership, the provision of facilities and services, the engagement of centres of excellence that may be under their control), and

- Supporting dissemination activities and resource mobilization efforts.

14. “Associated partners” would support the Partnership (financially and/or in kind) and be involved in the development and implementation of specific activities or projects, in line with the work programme of the Partnership.

Staffing

15. The Partnership would require dedicated staff. This would be additional to the human resources presently available to THE PEP secretariat, which in its present configuration would not be sufficient to undertake all the tasks needed for the functioning of the partnership, namely:

- project development, coordination, monitoring and reporting;
- organization of and participation in events (e.g. training courses, assistance to countries);
- identification and engagement of relevant expertise to implement the projects of the partnership;
- overseeing or implementing specific activities or projects of the Partnership;
- dissemination, advocacy and communication, and
- active engagement in resource mobilization necessary to create an adequate “critical mass” and visibility for the Partnership (this includes the identification of potential funding opportunities and the preparation of project proposals).

16. The core staff of the Partnership would be in a position to develop and sustain networks and rosters of experts, to be identified and engaged including through the partners, as well as to engage academic, and technical institutions and centres of excellence, including WHO Collaborating Centres, that would bring to the Partnership the necessary competence, expertise and man-power. This arrangement would ensure the greatest cost effectiveness, by flexibly engaging the best available expertise according to the needs of project implementation.

17. The core staff for the Partnership could be provided through financial resources made available to a voluntary fund established for THE PEP under the UNECE and WHO/Europe secretariat and/or through secondments of staff with the adequate qualifications to the secretariat. Either way, sustainable functioning of a core staff equipped with sufficient time and resources dedicated to the management of the Partnership and the development and implementation of its activities and projects must be ensured for an effective operation.

Operational set-up

18. A range of different options would be available for the operational set-up of the Partnership, and their ultimate choice will depend on considerations related to cost-effectiveness, lead time, financial sustainability as well as legal and administrative aspects.

- During the initial pilot phase of operations it may be appropriate for the Partnership to be a slim and agile structure, possibly integrated within the UNECE and WHO secretariat. This would allow the development of highly visible products that would help establish the Partnership as an effective and visible mechanism (a “trademark” for action in the area of

transport, environment and health), with the intention of attracting other partners. Under this “light” pilot set-up, additional resources would be necessary.

- Based on the results of the pilot phase, and on the prospective sustainability of a more ambitious project, consideration could be given to the further development of the Partnership. Examples of directions that could be taken by a more “mature” Partnership could be the hosting by a Member State in arrangements similar to those that apply to the Rome and Bonn offices of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health. The Centre is an integral part of the WHO, but its offices are hosted by different Member States and operate under special agreements between the WHO and the host countries.
- Another example of possible arrangements is represented by the WHO European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, which is a multilateral partnership involving the WHO, several countries, regional authorities, academic and financial institutions (see Box 1).

BOX 1: Example of possible model entities for the development of THE PEP Partnership: the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (<http://www.euro.who.int/observatory>)

The Observatory is a partnership between the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, the Governments of Belgium, Finland, Greece, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, the Veneto Region of Italy, the European Investment Bank, the Open Society Institute, the World Bank, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

The Observatory is composed of a Steering Committee (where representatives of partner organizations are represented), core management team, research policy group and staff. The Observatory’s Secretariat is based in Brussels and has offices in London and Berlin.

- Another possible model is the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), which assists developing countries to reduce vehicular air pollution through the promotion of lead-free, low sulphur fuels and cleaner vehicle standards and technologies under the leadership of UNEP (see Box 2).

BOX 2: Example of possible model entities for the development of THE PEP Partnership: the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) (<http://www.unep.org/pcfvl>).

The PCFV was launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. There are 116 partners. The Partnership is open to any government, international organization, industry organization, non-governmental organization or academic institution that supports the Mission Statement of the Partnership.

Organizations may join as full Partners, and individuals with relevant expertise may join as Associate Partners. Associate Partners have all the same rights and responsibilities as Partners except for voting privileges. The PCFV is supported by an Advisory Group and operates a Clearing House hosted by UNEP in Nairobi to support dissemination and exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Donors include Asian Clean Fuels Association (ACFA), USAID, the European Commission (through EuropeAid), Afton Chemicals, Exxon Mobile, the Dutch ministry of environment, UNEP, TNT, Environment Canada, USEPA, the FIA Foundation.

19. The Partnership would be supported through voluntary contributions by its partners. “Core partners” would be committed to support core operations for the pilot phase of the Partnership through financial and in-kind contribution, The core functions would include the necessary number of dedicated staff to coordinate and implement basic activities, including support the development, implementation and evaluation of THE PEP and of NTHEAPs in Member States and the development of project proposals and resources mobilization for ad-hoc activities in line with the mandate and terms of reference of the Partnership. “Associated partners” would be involved in the financial and/or in-kind support of specific elements of the Partnership activities (e.g. a specific event, the production of training material).

20. Similarly, the Partnership would operate through a combination of **core funds**, made available by the core partners and meant to ensure the sustainability of the basic Partnership operations, and through additional **project-specific resources**, that could be raised through the development of project proposals to be submitted to potential donors and through contributions made by associated partners, as well as core partners, if they so wish.

The Steering Committee may wish to:

- Endorse the proposed phased approach to the development of THE PEP Partnership (in line with the Amsterdam Declaration and THE PEP Programme of Work);
- Agree to establish the “Friends of the Partnerships” as an initial step towards the development of the operation aspects of the Partnership;
- Agree to launch a call to all Member States and stakeholders to express their interest in joining the Partnership, based on the work and the proposals to be developed by the Friends of the Partnership
