



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:

UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: eurocontact@who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Our reference:	CBR/JZW/	Your reference:
Notre référence:	kha	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:		Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Dr Belkania,

Date: 23 July 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

**3rd Partners' meeting on the "Better Labs for Better Health" initiative:
Improving the quality of laboratory services in the WHO European Region
Almaty, Kazakhstan 9-10 October 2018**

I have the honour to inform you that the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe is organizing a 3rd Partners' meeting on the "Better Labs for Better Health" initiative: Improving the quality of laboratory services in the WHO European Region to be held on 9-10 October 2018 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The main objectives of this meeting will be to:

- Disseminate to a wide audience the progress of the Better Labs for Better Health initiative from 2016 to the present and inform on current activities;
- Show progress in national reforms of laboratory systems, national capacity building in the area of laboratory quality and safety and discuss priorities for the establishment of laboratory networks for preparedness and response,;
- Discuss the role of laboratory quality management systems in AMR surveillance;
- Provide a forum for countries to work together to strengthen their laboratory services by sharing expertise, experience and lessons learned including an open discussion on how to enhance countries' involvement and ownership of laboratory reforms.

An outline of the scope and purpose of the meeting is attached.

I have pleasure in inviting you to nominate two participants for this meeting. One participant who is playing a pivotal role in optimizing the diagnostic and public health laboratory system in your country and who is a member of a national laboratory unit or national laboratory working group should it be present in your country; and ideally another participant who is an expert in the field of antimicrobial resistance. Key discussions of the meeting will focus on laboratory systems reform, advocacy and partnership, building capacities through mentorship and external quality assessment needs in the region.

The working languages will be English and Russian and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Travel for participants will be arranged and paid for by this office, and they will also receive a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting in accordance with our travel regulations.

I look forward to receiving your nominations, giving the names, functional titles and addresses of the proposed participants at your earliest convenience and no later than 20 August 2018. We shall then communicate with them directly and provide them with the necessary documentation and administrative information in good time.

Dr Joanna Zwetyenga, Technical Officer, Laboratory Specialist for Better Labs for Better Health, is responsible for this activity. It would be appreciated if you would address your reply to Ms Krystyna Hagebro, Programme Assistant, High Threat Pathogens, (tel: + 45 45336688; e-mail: hagebrok@who.int).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,



Dr. Dorit Nitzan
Coordinator Health Emergencies
Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases

Encls:
Scope and Purpose

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Mailing address: UN House, 9 Eristavi street, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia