

WHO Europe column: Catalyzing change—in search of new approaches

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It is by now broadly recognized that contemporary health challenges are wicked problems, spanning across a broad range of political, institutional and disciplinary boundaries, and to which there is no obvious ‘right answer’. In response, the European Health Policy Health 2020 draws attention to the need for improving leadership and participatory governance for health. The Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries.

With the acknowledgement of the importance of participatory governance and partnerships comes an obligation to innovate on our approaches to catalyzing social innovation. In this context, WHO Europe took the initiative in January 2017 to launch the CoP for Strengthening Public Health Services in the European Region [<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/coalition-of-partners>, last accessed 1 February 2019]. The CoP is inspired by the methods of frontrunners in awareness-based transformational change such as Otto Scharmer and his team at the Presencing Institute [<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/coalition-of-partners>, last accessed 1 February 2019], the Art of Hosting Network [<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/coalition-of-partners>, last accessed 1 February 2019] and Frederik Laloux’ work on transforming organizations [<http://www.reinventingorganizations.com/>, last accessed 1 February 2019]. Beyond a coalition, the CoP also strives to function as a whole systems platform, a community of practice and an incubator for new initiatives. The CoP strives to bring together representatives of the multitude of different stakeholders and disciplines that constitute public health services, including leaders serving in national and sub-national public health services, policy-makers, as well as colleagues serving in a number of international organizations such as WFPHA,



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12th European Public Health Conference 20-23 November 2019, Marseille, France
Marseille 2019 conference is approaching!

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