



FAO/WHO/WFP Regional Symposium on Sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition for Europe and Central Asia in collaboration with UNICEF

Preparatory Joint meeting of Symposium's Advisory Panel and Technical Task Team

Date: 14 July 2017, 9:00 – 16:00

Venue: Budapest, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-REU)

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Background

Both ICN2 and UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) feature the role of agriculture and food systems for healthy diets and nutrition. As a follow up to the FAO/WHO International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition, held in Rome at FAO HQ on 1-2 December 2016 (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/sustainable-food-systems-nutrition-symposium/en/>; <https://glopan.org/news/building-momentum-transforming-food-systems-healthy-diets-and-improved-nutrition>), the FAO launched the preparation of regional symposia in all regions, to be held this year in collaboration with other UN agencies. Each regional symposia will be discussing food security and nutrition issues of special concern and interest for respective region and how they can be addressed by food and agriculture sector from food systems perspective and through related policies from other sectors that complement food system approach.

The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is lead organizer, in collaboration with WHO, WFP and UNICEF, of a joint Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition to be implemented as a 2-day region-wide event on 4-5 December 2017, for 200-250 participants from EU countries, non-EU countries in European region and Central Asia, representing various sectors - agriculture, health, social protection, education, finance, academia, research, parliamentarians, private sector, civil society. The Symposium format will consist of plenary lectures, followed by Q/A session, and a number of interactive parallel sessions in the format of expert panel discussion, market places, experiences and good practices exchange spots, open technical areas meant to facilitate extensive interaction among participants.

The recommendations from the Regional Symposium will feed into the FAO Regional Conference 2018 and inform the governing bodies of co-organizing UN Agencies to be considered in regional and country-level work planning, policies, programmes, investments.

A Regional Symposium Advisory Panel (SAP) is set to support symposium's preparation with identifying topics for the symposium's programme, materials to be produced and experience, best practices to be promoted at the symposium, and advising on symposium's recommendations. While the communication with the SAP members will be maintained by e-mail and Skype, a one-day joint physical meeting of the Symposium's Advisory Panel and the Technical Task Team is organized in Budapest.

Objectives of the meeting:

- Introduce the FAO regional priorities & initiatives, identify areas of demand for future work related to sustainable food systems and areas of inter-sectoral collaboration complementary to food systems approach;
- Discuss symposium's objectives, expected outcomes, format of the program;
- Scope the symposium's programme considering a range topics for each of four selected thematic areas, including new proposals from participants;
- Discuss materials to be prepared for the symposium and recommend keynote speakers;
- Any other business.

Preliminary Programme

9:00 - 9:10	Opening: <i>Vladimir Rakhmanin</i> Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia
9.10-9.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction of meeting objectives and participants · Food insecurity and malnutrition in the Region of Europe and Central Asia <i>Eleonora Dupouy</i> , REU Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer, SP1 Focal Point
9.20-9.30	FAO priorities in the Region of Europe and Central Asia. Mandate of the FAO European Regional Conference <i>Goran Stavrik</i> , ERC Acting Secretary, REU Senior Field Programme Officer a.i.
9.30-10.00	<p>Presentation of three Regional Initiatives in the Region of Europe and Central Asia:</p> <p>RI1: Empowering smallholders and family farms for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction (Presenter: <i>Katalin Ludvig</i>)</p> <p>RI2: Improving Agrifood Trade and Market Integration (Presenter: <i>Pavel Kiparisov</i>)</p> <p>RI3: Sustainable Natural Resource Management under a changing climate (Presenter: <i>Reuben Sessa</i>, REU Climate Change Officer, SP5 Focal Point)</p>
10.00-10.10	Health policies and actions on nutrition complementary to food system approach <i>Ledia Lazeri</i> , WHO
10.10-10.20	WFP actions on improving nutrition <i>Yana Manyuk</i> , Programme and Policy Officer/ Nutrition Sensitive and Behavior Change World Food Programme RBC Regional Bureau
10.20-10.30	UNICEF work on strengthening governance and accountability in CIS countries <i>Amirhossein Yarparvar</i> , Regional Health and Nutrition Specialist, Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and CIS (CEE/CIS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
10.30-10.50	Coffee break (REU)

10.50-11.00	Taking actions on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition: FAO/WHO International Symposium on sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition & Regional symposia <i>Denise Costa Coitinho Delmue</i> , International Symposium Coordinator and Regional Symposia support person, Senior Consultant, Office of the Director, FAO Food and Nutrition Division (ESND), Rome
11.00-11.10	Introduction of the Concept Note of Regional Symposium for Europe and Central Asia <i>Mirjana Gurinovic</i> , REU Symposium Coordinator, Nutrition Consultant
11:10 -12:00	<p>Facilitated discussion of topics related to symposium’s thematic area “Food supply”</p> <p>Topics to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems (production, processing, storage, distribution, retail, food losses), agri-food trade, local markets, food environment · smallholders and family farmers, women empowerment, value chains development, rural-urban links for sustainable diets · Climate change, agroecology, sustainable food and agriculture · Urban food systems, food waste, informal food markets · Food quality and safety, One Health, AMR, food fraud · Food reformulation, private sector for improved nutrition · Policy recommendations (what, who, when, how) for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition · Emerging themes relevant for the region
12:00 - 13:00	Group photo & Lunch (Benczur Hotel)
13:00-13:40	<p>Facilitated discussion of topics related to symposium’s thematic area “Food demand”</p> <p>Topics to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Food labeling for informed food choices of consumers · Food reformulation for healthier foods, food modeling · Nutritional education for consumers’ and professionals · Food fortification · Food marketing and advertising for children · Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) considering sustainability and environmental impact · Food composition data bases (FCDB) · Policy recommendations for ECA region (what, who, when, how) · Emerging themes relevant for the region
13:40 – 14:20	<p>Facilitated discussion of topics related to symposium’s thematic area “Improving nutrition of vulnerable groups”</p> <p>Topics to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Practices and policies for improving nutrition of preschool & school children, adults, women, elderly, rural-urban migrants, low income · Food prices · Food banks (food recovery and re-distribution) · School food and nutrition policies · Local procurement policies · Nutrition-sensitive social protection

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nutrition in emergency situations · Emerging themes relevant for the region
14.20-15.00	<p>Facilitated discussion on strengthening inter-sectoral collaboration, governance and accountability for nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Intersectoral collaboration, nutrition governance & accountability · Platforms for exchange of knowledge, experience, good practices · Data on malnutrition and evidence-based policy actions · Budget reallocation · Research infrastructure, innovations · Emerging themes relevant for the region · Recommendation for strengthened nutrition governance and accountability in ECA region
15.00-15.20	Coffee break (REU)
15.20-16.00	Discussion of symposium materials (<i>background papers, country fact sheets, country's experiences and best practices to be collected through e-consultations and other tools</i>)
16:00 - 16:10	Wrap up, next steps

Contact persons:

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