



**BUILDING ACADEMIC CAPACITY
IN GLOBAL HEALTH IN THE EASTERN
EUROPE - CENTRAL ASIA REGION**



Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Quarterly Bulletin of the Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health Quarter 1, 2023

The Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health was established under the auspices of the project - *Building Academic Capacity in Global Health in the Eastern Europe & Central Asia Regions (BACE)* - supported by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme. In the context of the Alliance - *Eurasia* is defined as a group of countries located in the Baltic Sea, Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and the Central Asia regions.

BACE is implemented by a partnership of eleven academic institutions:

- Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Germany (Coordinator)
- Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan
- Astana Medical University, Kazakhstan
- Batumi State University, Georgia
- Bergen University, Norway
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine
- Tbilisi, Institute of Global Health, Georgia
- Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Ternopil National Medical University, Ukraine
- University of Georgia
- University of Tromsø, Norway

BACE is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Developing curricula and delivering new courses on priority global health topics with specific focus on countries in the Eurasia region;
- Developing curricula and delivering new courses on global health research methods at BACE beneficiary universities;
- Establishing the Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health.

The Alliance serves as a collaborative platform on global health education and research among academic institutions of the Eurasian region. Academic institutions from and outside the region, interested in expanding collaboration on global health education and research, are encouraged to join the Alliance. Information is available on the Alliance's web-page: www.allianceforglobalhealth.net

The Quarterly Bulletin is a dissemination instrument for updates on the Alliance's activities and BACE implementation, as well as various developments in the area of global health.

The Alliance looks forward to welcoming new members and to establishing productive collaboration with interested partners.

Updates from the Alliance

The Alliance is a network of member organizations. It is *not* a formally registered legal entity governed by a particular country's laws and regulations. Alliance's members can be academic institutions - such as universities, other institutions of higher education, research organizations, think-tanks, NGOs, private sector entities and others involved in public/global health, epidemiology, health policy, health economics and other related areas, which share the purpose of the Alliance. Please refer to the Alliance's website for more details: www.allianceforglobalhealth.net

Human rights violation in Ukraine



Associated Press

20 months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the scope of human rights violations and related adverse health outcomes is growing clearer - particularly among civilians and prisoners of war. The impact on civilians, according to the United Nations:

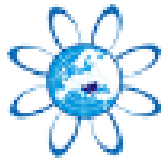
- 5,987 civilian casualties were recorded—but the number is likely far higher.
- At least 21 civilians have been executed by Russian forces; and there are 214 documented cases of forced disappearances—including of children.
- 133 cases of sexual violence have been logged, mostly in Russian-occupied territory.
- Russian strikes on infrastructure have damaged 107 medical facilities and 179 schools.

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1135012>

Interviews with POWs in another [UN report](#) found widespread violations in the last year.

International Partnerships in Global Health



SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE
HEALTH NETWORK

The South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN) is regional intergovernmental organization founded in 2001 with aim to promote collaboration, common values and to encourage mutual efforts towards peace, health and well-being of the people in the SEEHN member states. SEEHN is providing platform for discussion and exchange of best practices in priority areas of main concern between its 9 (nine) member states: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, State of Israel, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania and Republic of Serbia. Seat of the SEEHN Secretariat is in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia.

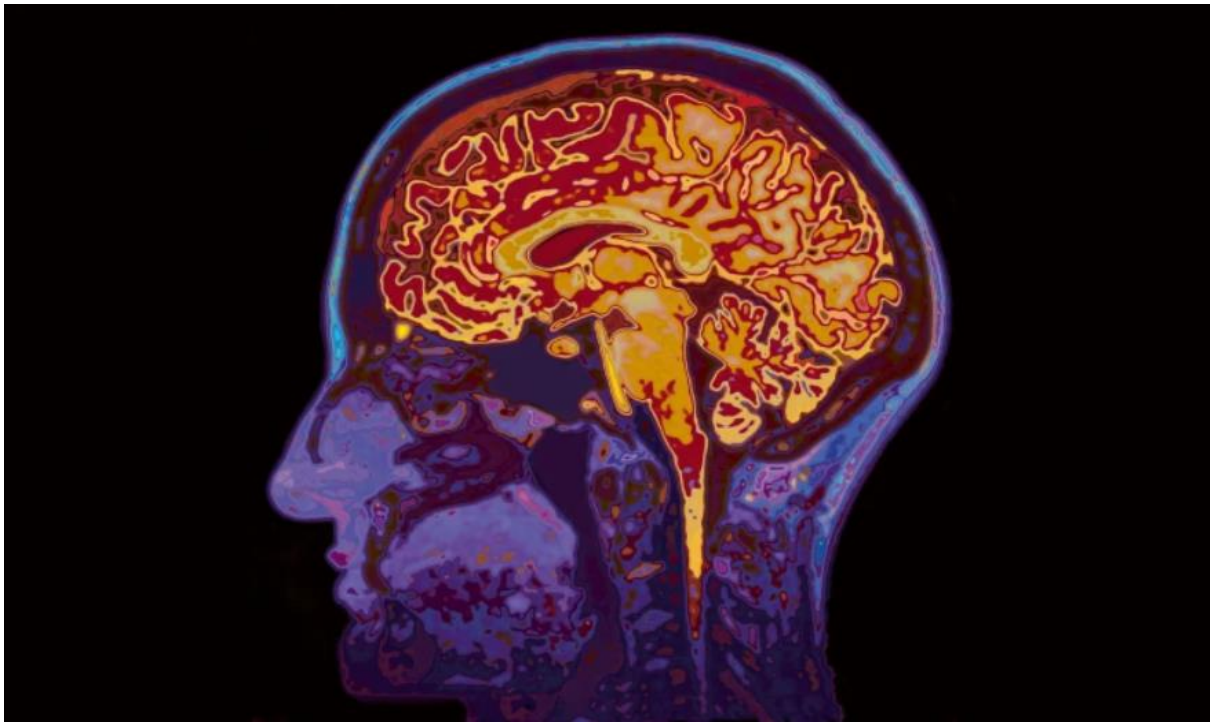
The followings are the main areas of SEEHN work:

- Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement of Health care
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Blood safety
- Communicable diseases surveillance and control
- Human resources for health
- Mental health
- Non- communicable diseases surveillance and prevention
- Public health services
- Sexual and reproductive health

For more information please visit: seehn.org

Innovations in Global Health

11 clinical trials that will shape medicine in 2023



COVID-19 has continued to disrupt nearly all aspects of clinical trial infrastructure, from patient recruitment to supply chains, but despite this, 2023 promises to bring many new readouts from different branches of medicine. Nature Medicine asked leading researchers to name their top clinical trial for 2023, from cervical and prostate cancer screening to new drugs for Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The following is the list of the top trials:

1. A diabetes drug for Parkinson's disease
2. ADC for ovarian cancer
3. CRISPR–Cas9 for muscular dystrophy
4. Cervical cancer screening in the vaccinated
5. The Mediterranean diet for weight loss
6. Safe treatment for sleeping sickness
7. Circulating tumor cells
8. Lecanemab for Alzheimer's disease
9. COVID-19 vaccination and HIV
10. Gene editing for sickle-cell disease
11. Reducing harm from prostate cancer screening

For more information please visit:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-02132-3>

Emerging Challenges of Global Health Importance

World Obesity Atlas 2023

- Global, regional and national estimates for the prevalence of obesity up to 2035 for adults, children and adolescents
- Global, regional and national estimates of the economic impact of overweight and obesity on national GDP projected up to 2035
- 187 country scorecards including ratings of national preparedness to address obesity

March 2023



According to World Obesity Atlas 2023 more than half of the world's population will be overweight or obese by 2035 unless governments take decisive action to curb the growing epidemic of excess weight. About 2.6 billion people globally – 38% of the world population – are already overweight or obese. But on current trends that is expected to rise to more than 4 billion people (51%) in 12 years' time. Without widespread use of tactics such as taxes and limits on the promotion of unhealthy food, the number of people who are clinically obese will increase from one in seven today to one in four by 2035. If that happens, almost 2 billion people worldwide would be living with obesity.

Those with body mass index (BMI) of 25 are judged to be overweight, while people whose BMI is at least 30 are deemed to be obese. Evidence shows that obesity increases someone's risk of cancer, heart disease and other diseases. Obesity among children and young people is on course to increase faster than among adults. By 2035 it is expected to be at least double the rate seen in 2020. It is expected to rise by 100% among boys under 18, leaving 208 million affected, but go up even more sharply – by 125% – among girls the same age, which would see 175 million of them affected.

Please review relevant literature below:

World Obesity Atlas 2023

<https://www.worldobesityday.org/resources/entry/world-obesity-atlas-2023>

WHO European Regional Obesity Report 2022

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/353747/9789289057738-eng.pdf>