



## **Biennial Collaborative Agreement**

**between**

**the Portuguese Ministry of Health**

**and**

**the Regional Office for Europe  
of the World Health Organization**

**2006/2007**

*Signed by:*

*For the Portuguese Ministry of Health*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

António Fernando Correia de Campos

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Minister of Health

*For the WHO Regional Office for Europe*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

Marc Danzon, M.D.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Regional Director

## Introduction

The WHO Regional Office for Europe's country strategy "Matching services to new needs", (document EUR/RC50/10), adopted by the Regional Committee at its fiftieth session, responded to repeated requests from Member States and WHO's governing bodies to focus on country work in order to meet countries' health needs and make WHO's country programmes more effective.

In that context, this document constitutes the Biennial Collaborative Agreement (BCA) between the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and the Portuguese Ministry of Health for the biennium 2006-2007. It has been elaborated through successive stages of negotiation between the national health authorities and the WHO/EURO.

Country health priorities, as presented by the Portuguese Ministry of Health, have been the starting point of the process leading to the present document. In parallel, the WHO Secretariat has formulated WHO's priorities for cooperation with the country for the biennium 2006-2007, taking into account the Organization's global priorities and policy directions, contributions in the country by other partners, as well as WHO's own capacity. These priorities for cooperation have been further reflected in WHO's European regional priorities. Joint priorities for cooperation have then been reviewed with the Portuguese Ministry of Health, and consensus was achieved on presenting them in this Biennial Collaborative Agreement.

This document is in two parts:

1. The first part sets out the agreed joint priorities for cooperation in Portugal (i.e. the strategic objectives to be achieved through the joint efforts of the Portuguese Ministry of Health and WHO/EURO) for the biennium 2006-2007. For each priority, one or more country expected results to be achieved during the biennium have been defined. It should be reiterated that, in this agreement with the Portuguese Ministry of Health, WHO/EURO cannot provide any financial assistance for the implementation of the activities in Portugal.
2. The second part summarises the support of the Portuguese Ministry of Health to the WHO Regional Office for Europe activities during the biennium 2006-2007.

The overall coordination and management of the country programme is the responsibility of:

- for Portugal, the Directorate-General for Health;
- for the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Division of Country Health Services and the Helpdesk for European countries.

This Biennial Collaborative Agreement is to be regarded as a framework that may be amended by mutual agreement between WHO/EURO and Portugal as a result of, for instance, changes in the country's health situation, specific needs emerging during the biennium or in the light of increased activities.

## Part 1: Joint priorities for cooperation in Portugal

After the above-mentioned negotiations between the Portuguese Ministry of Health and WHO/EURO, the following thematic areas are considered to be priority areas for collaboration:

1. National Health Strategy
2. Non Communicable Diseases (NCD)
3. Health and Migration
4. Environment and Health / Housing and Health
5. Health Systems

The detailed priorities are as follows:

### **Priority 1: Implementation of the National Health Strategy (NHS)**

In support of this, and in line with Portugal's priorities for collaboration for 2006-2007, we have defined the following expected results to be delivered during 2006-2007:

- a) Contribution to a review of the implementation of the national health strategy by Portuguese experts, WHO/EURO and a WHO/EURO-appointed international policy panel.
- b) Report on the Portugal-WHO Round Table discussions, including recommendations for (potential) revisions in the national health strategy and its implementation strategy.

### **Priority 2: Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD)**

In support of this, and in line with Portugal's priorities for collaboration for 2006-2007, we have defined the following expected results to be delivered during 2006-2007:

- a) Guidance on NCD prevention and control.
- b) Strengthened capacity for NCD prevention and control.

### **Priority 3: Health and Migration**

In support of this, and in line with Portugal's priorities for collaboration for 2006-2007, we have defined the following expected results to be delivered during 2006-2007:

- a) Support by WHO/EURO and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies during Portugal's EU presidency for the chosen health priority issue "Health and Migration".
- b) Contribution in the field of "Health and Migration" to the annual meeting of the European Forum of Medical Associations and WHO (EFMA/WHO).
- c) Contribution to the international symposium on Health Workforce (October 2007) by providing country case studies on health and migration as well as consultancy.

### **Priority 4: Environment and Health / Housing and Health**

In support of this and in line with Portugal's priorities for collaboration for 2006-2007, we have defined the following expected results to be delivered during 2006-2007:

- a) Strengthen the Portuguese National Programme on Housing and Health by supporting the development of local housing and health action plans (LHHAPs): LHHAP guidance document including guidelines on data collection, data analysis, identification of priorities, formulation of conclusions and recommendations; LHHAP for three municipalities.
- b) Support in implementing the commitments taken at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to ensure that health and environmental dimensions are placed at the core of all housing policies and that healthy conditions are ensured and maintained in the existing housing stock.
- c) Strengthen the importance of housing within the National Environment and Health Action Plans (NEHAP).

## **PART 2. Support of the Portuguese Ministry of Health to WHO/EURO activities**

In line with negotiations between WHO/EURO and the Portuguese Ministry of Health, the following areas of possible support have been proposed:

### **1. Strengthening Health Systems and Policies**

In support of this and in line with Portugal's priorities for collaboration for 2006/7, we have defined the following expected results to be delivered during 2006-07:

- a) WHO/EURO and the Portuguese Ministry of Health will closely collaborate on pre-conference and conference related activities for the 2008 Ministerial conference on Health Systems. Details are to be determined.

### **2. Secondment of Staff (OPTIONAL - before the end of 2007)**

One possible option for enhancement of collaboration would be the mutual exchange of staff. This would entail a limited mutual secondment of ministerial staff or alternatively staff from the Portuguese Ministry of Health to the WHO Regional Office for Europe for a pre-determined period of time. The purpose is for health ministerial staff to familiarise with WHO's working procedures, and for WHO staff to familiarise with working procedures of the Portuguese Ministry of Health. This mechanism will enable a better knowledge of institutions, professional networks and technical work being produced. This mechanism is subject to review and approval of each institutional administration and legal office. Details and possible agreement are to be further discussed.