



**Early Career Researchers Net (ECR Net) –
WHO/Europe Special Initiative on NCDs and Innovation
event series on public health and NCDs**

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Scope and purpose

Enthusiastic about providing additional learning opportunities and building capacity on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) among early career researchers and young public health professionals in the WHO European Region, the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (WHO NCD Office), held a capacity building workshop as part of the expert meeting on *Innovative Approaches to Counteract NCDs in the WHO European Region* in 2019. This workshop has resulted in closer cooperation with talented young public health experts in projects of WHO/Europe.

Building on this success, the WHO NCD Office's Seminar Series for Early Career Researchers was established in early 2020. The seminars resulted in over 400 committed early career professionals from the WHO European Region and beyond joining the network. Through the series of eleven virtual meetings organized from July 2020 to June 2021, the participants had an opportunity to connect with prominent public health experts and explore the topics:

- health literacy, behavioural and cultural insights;
- gambling and drinking;
- corporate political activity as a commercial determinant of health;
- career development in global health, and other diverse critical and novel issues related to NCDs that can be found [here](#).

Recognizing the early career researchers need to continue professional development and growing professional network, the WHO/Europe Special Initiative on NCDs and Innovation is introducing *Early Career Researchers Net (ECR Net)*. Through the series of interactive events, this platform will enable networking opportunities and learning about cutting-edge projects and research, meeting collaborators and sharing ideas with colleagues.

With this new format, we aspire to bring together WHO staff members, world-renowned experts in public health and keen early career researchers and public health professionals to network and synergistically address the main priorities and emerging issues in tackling NCDs. Moreover, the representatives of key stakeholder organizations across the WHO European Region will be invited to each of the events to introduce the scope of their work, current project activities and plans, which will allow the participants to map potential educational and career opportunities in the field of public health.

The ECR Net is thus a series of online monthly events aimed at building a thriving community of early career professionals within five years of graduation from their postgraduate degree. Participants will be encouraged to actively take part in activities, engage in the discussions and present their own areas of interest and research. Therefore, the ECR Net events will enable the environment for professional networking and empower specialists in the beginning of their careers to ensure the future of vital research and united action to improve health and prevent NCDs across the Region.