

## WHS Academic Alliance Working Groups

Working Groups (WG) of the WHS Academic Alliance (Alliance) are a mechanism for members of the Alliance to cooperate in addressing relevant Global Health related topics in all areas of their activities ranging from research to education and implementation, and from management to societal outreach and advocacy. They use and increase the expertise and competence of the Alliance members and leverage synergies of collaboration.

All WG's must work to enhance the mission of the Alliance and be consistent with the goals of the Alliance.

### (1) Conditions and Options

- a. WGs are established based on the initiative of one or more Alliance member institutions who provide the ExCo with a corresponding proposal, which has been approved by the ExCo.
- b. WGs should aim to include representation from at least three Alliance institutions. WGs can have different scopes, internal structures, and compositions.
- c. WGs are open for all member institutions of the Alliance to participate. In accordance with the scope of a WG, related to its operation and the general aims and code on conduct of the Alliance, external partners can be included upon approval of the ExCo. Participation of Alliance members is prioritized over participation of external partners.
- d. The participating Alliance member institutions plus the external partner institutions form the WG consortium.
- e. Details about the aims and structures of a WG are described in the respective proposal provided by the initiators.
- f. Accredited WGs are named "WHS Academic Alliance Working Group on XXX"
- g. The maximum number of WGs running in parallel is defined by the ExCo in order to safeguard proper oversight and integration in Alliance activities.

### (2) Initiation

#### a. Initiative

- I. A proposal for a WG is sent to the Executive Committee (ExCo) via [alliance@worldhealthsummit.org](mailto:alliance@worldhealthsummit.org)
- II. The pitch must define:

- Overall topic, goals or aims with relation to the mission of the Alliance
- Initiating Alliance member institutions
- Contributing Alliance institutions
- External partner institutions
- Initial Working Group Lead (one person and/or team at one or more Alliance institution)
- Operational structure, governance and financing

**b. Inclusion**

All members of the Alliance are informed about the initiative. If they are interested in participating, the members contact the WG lead and define their mode of participation.

**c. Evaluation**

The proposal is evaluated by the ExCo, based on criteria including

- I. Relevance for the Alliance and its mission
- II. Feasibility and potential for output,
- III. Representation/Interest of Alliance Members to participate in the WG,
- IV. Risks for the Alliance, including reputation,
- V. Consistency with the ethical and value base of the Alliance.

**d. Approval**

- I. Upon evaluation, the decision on approval of a WH proposals is taken by the ExCo.
- II. If not decided otherwise, approval is given for a period of two years term.
- III. Re-approval on the basis of a progress report and a strategic outlook for the next two years is possible.

**e. Announcement**

Upon establishment of the WG lead (Alliance member institutions and partners), the establishment of the WG is announced via the channels of the WHS, the Alliance member institutions, and the partners.

**f. Start**

According to the mechanisms of the WG as described in the proposal, its activity is started.

**(3) Rights**

The outputs of WGs (news, approaches, findings, publications, meetings, etc.) can be communicated over the WHS channels and website, coordinated through the Alliance secretariat and the WHS Communications department.

WGs can use the WHS Academic Alliance brand identification (logo, etc.) for their own external communication according to the Communication Guidelines and in liaison with the WHS Communications department.

WGs can be supported (depending on available resources) by the Alliance Secretariat, e.g. for meeting coordination and logistics, liaison with potential partners and communication.

In-person meetings of the WG can be hosted in conjunction with the Alliance Assembly at the WHS in Berlin and at WHS Regional Meetings in accordance with the local organizers.

Working Groups can submit proposals to the World Health Summit program within the WHS Academic Alliance track via their Alliance member institutions.

#### **(4) Duties**

WGs must comply with the overall humanitarian and scientific foundations, values and principles of the WHS Family.

WGs provide progress reports and other communication as agreed with the ExCo – at least once a year. WG hosts and leadership will inform the Alliance Assembly and ExCo about their activities and use the respective Alliance mechanisms for proposals.

WGs must adhere to the overall description of their activities given in the proposal and application process. This specifically includes topic, governance, financing (if applicable) and partners. Changes in the scope and operation mode of a WG require accreditation by the ExCo.

WGs are responsible for their internal operations and financing.

WGs are expected to use their official denomination and WHS affiliation in their communication as agreed with the WHS communications department.

If the ExCo sees a significant problem in the activities of a WG, it can revoke the accreditation as an official Alliance Working Group.

#### **(5) Development clause**

The ExCo in agreement with the Alliance Assembly has the right to adapt the regulations for composition and activity of WGs according to developing boundary conditions and

necessities. For existing WGs application of new conditions will be a matter of discussion and depend on feasibility.

**Approvals:**

Document approved by the ExCO: August 27, 2025