



## WHS Academic Alliance Publication Guideline

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#### **(1) Aims and Rationale**

The WHS Academic Alliance represents a network of renowned academic institutions dedicated to advancing public health through research, collaboration, innovation, and implementation. Strategic and academic collaborations between the members of the Alliance can drive scientific advancements, highlight relevant global health challenges, and stimulate coordinated efforts for health globally. Here, the Alliance and its members carry a specific responsibility derived from their shared mission towards fostering global health.

Both in strategic communications and in academic projects, there are mutual benefits from joint approaches. Collaborations between Alliance members benefit from the vast expertise which the Alliance harbors, as well as from the standing and reputation of the entire group and the WHS family at large. This can lead to a widening of funding options, an increased relevance of the generated output, and easier access to high impact publication and communication platforms. In turn, successful joint projects will increase the visibility and impact of the Alliance.

These guidelines provide a framework for joint activities of the Alliance both with respect to strategic communications (statements and declarations) as well as to all types of academic scientific activities.

## **(2) Approach**

The content of WHS Academic Alliance publications and joint research should reflect a global, inclusive and impactful viewpoint. The scientific work of the WHS Academic Alliance is based on several principles:

### **Trust and Transparency**

The Alliance aims to foster trust in science by adhering to the highest scientific and publication standards. In addition to the scientific expert communication, outcomes should also be reported in a way that is understandable to the general public.

### **Diversity and Global Cooperation**

The global network of WHS Academic Alliance offers the unique opportunity to incorporate a wide array of academic perspectives. The work of the WHS Academic Alliance is further committed to reducing inequalities, ensuring health as a human right, and fostering global cooperation to achieve better health for all.

### **Inclusion**

Publishing in the name of the WHS Academic Alliance requires the inclusion of eligible experts from the Alliance members to collaborate in a given project or publication.

## **(3). Rules**

### **a. WHS Academic Alliance Statements and Declarations**

- a. WHS Academic Alliance Statements and Declarations can include opinion pieces, white papers, comments and editorials. These publications of the Alliance are designed to

shape the global health discussion and agenda by at the same time leveraging the academic reputation of the Alliance and its global representation.

- b. Initiatives for Statements and Declarations of the WHS Academic Alliance can be put forward to the ExCo by individuals of all WHS Academic Alliance delegations of member institutions or by members of the ExCo.
- c. The ExCo decides about the suitability of the proposal and is in charge of the process of generating, approving and publishing Statements and Declarations.
- d. This decision is based on a number of criteria, including
  - I. relation to the aims and objectives of the Alliance
  - II. relation to activities of the Alliance
  - III. quality and relevance of the proposed content
  - IV. participation of Alliance member institutions
- e. In this context, the ExCo considers mechanisms of coordination, authorship and approval. The standard procedure is to
  - I. consider participation of additional alliance members
  - II. prepare a draft text by a writing group defined by the ExCo
  - III. discuss and finalize the text in the ExCo
  - IV. communicate the text with the heads of delegations of member institutions to the Alliance and invite them to contribute and participate.

If the urgency and time constraints for a given communication are extremely tight, the ExCo can decide to issue a Statement from the ExCo on behalf of the WHS Academic Alliance.

- f. Statements / Declarations of the WHS Academic Alliance are authored by members of the Executive Committee of the Alliance and by delegation members of Alliance institutions.
- g. If considered adequate and necessary by the ExCo, additional experts may be included as authors.
- h. Statements / Declarations of the WHS Academic Alliance are approved by the governing bodies of the Academic Alliance, i.e. its Executive Committee (ExCo) or the Academic Alliance Assembly.
- i. WHS Academic Alliance Statements and Declarations are not authorized by its member Institutions and the member institutions bear no formal or legal responsibility for its content.
- j. The ExCo decides about suitable publication pathways for WHS Academic Alliance Statements and Declarations.

## **b. WHS Academic Alliance Scientific Publications**

- a. WHS Academic Alliance scientific publications result from original research such as observational studies, trials, reviews or meta-analyses.
- b. They are based on collaborative academic and research projects of members of the Academic Alliance including those of Alliance Working Groups.
- c. For scientific initiatives outside of official Working Groups, the ExCo decides about approval as academic projects of the Academic Alliance upon application. This may happen before or after the initiation of the scientific work.
- d. Scientific publications of the WHS Academic Alliance are authored by members of the respective Working Group or collaborative project according to general good practice rules for scientific authorship.
- e. If adequate, researchers from external partners may be included as authors.
- f. The leaders of scientific initiatives in coordination with the ExCo decide about suitable publication pathways for WHS Academic Alliance scientific publications.
- g. Publications need to be clearly labelled to identify them as activities of the WHS Academic Alliance. The exact phrasing is decided in coordination with the ExCo.
- h. Approved academic activities of the Alliance are supported by the WHS by featuring them on the different available communication platforms and channels.

### **Approvals:**

This document was approved by the ExCo: September 24, 2025

This version dated 25.07, 2025 was approved by the WHS Academic Assembly on: #####  
2025