



**FAO/WHO/WFP Regional Symposium on Sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition for Europe and Central Asia  
in collaboration with UNICEF**

**Preparatory Joint meeting of Symposium's Advisory Panel and  
Technical Task Team**

**Date:** 14 July 2017, 9:00 – 16:00

**Venue:** Budapest, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-REU)

**Address:** Benczur utca 34, H-1068 Budapest, Hungary, tel. +361 461 2000

**Background**

Both ICN2 and UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) feature the role of agriculture and food systems for healthy diets and nutrition. As a follow up to the FAO/WHO International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition, held in Rome at FAO HQ on 1-2 December 2016 (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/sustainable-food-systems-nutrition-symposium/en/>; <https://glopan.org/news/building-momentum-transforming-food-systems-healthy-diets-and-improved-nutrition>), the FAO launched the preparation of regional symposia in all regions, to be held this year in collaboration with other UN agencies. Each regional symposia will be discussing food security and nutrition issues of special concern and interest for respective region and how they can be addressed by food and agriculture sector from food systems perspective and through related policies from other sectors that complement food system approach.

The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is lead organizer, in collaboration with WHO, WFP and UNICEF, of a joint Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition to be implemented as a 2-day region-wide event on 4-5 December 2017, for 200-250 participants from EU countries, non-EU countries in European region and Central Asia, representing various sectors - agriculture, health, social protection, education, finance, academia, research, parliamentarians, private sector, civil society. The Symposium format will consist of plenary lectures, followed by Q/A session, and a number of interactive parallel sessions in the format of expert panel discussion, market places, experiences and good practices exchange spots, open technical areas meant to facilitate extensive interaction among participants.

The recommendations from the Regional Symposium will feed into the FAO Regional Conference 2018 and inform the governing bodies of co-organizing UN Agencies to be considered in regional and country-level work planning, policies, programmes, investments.

A Regional Symposium Advisory Panel (SAP) is set to support symposium's preparation with identifying topics for the symposium's programme, materials to be produced and experience, best practices to be promoted at the symposium, and advising on symposium's recommendations. While the communication with the SAP members will be maintained by e-mail and Skype, a one-day joint physical meeting of the Symposium's Advisory Panel and the Technical Task Team is organized in Budapest.

**Objectives of the meeting:**

- Introduce the FAO regional priorities & initiatives, identify areas of demand for future work related to sustainable food systems and areas of inter-sectoral collaboration complementary to food systems approach;
- Discuss symposium's objectives, expected outcomes, format of the program;
- Scope the symposium's programme considering a range topics for each of four selected thematic areas, including new proposals from participants;
- Discuss materials to be prepared for the symposium and recommend keynote speakers;
- Any other business.