

Photo: Simon Lewin, Eli Anne Tvergrov, Sissel Basso. Collage: ChatGPT

WHO Collaborating Centre for policy making and qualitative evidence

Created in August 2026, the WHO Collaborating Centre for policy making and qualitative evidence at NTNU's Department of Health Sciences in Ålesund supports WHO's development of global guidelines and guides, focusing on the wider use of qualitative evidence. Together with our sister centre, the WHO Collaborating Centre for systematic reviews of qualitative evidence for decision making at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) in Bergen, we aim to support the development and use of a variety of evidence in the decisions that shape global health policies.

What we will do

The new Collaborating Centre will support and build the capacity of WHO HQ and its regional offices to use qualitative evidence in normative decision-making processes like health guidelines.

We will also develop methods to better package and use qualitative evidence in WHO decision-making.

Finally, we will strengthen and widen the partnership between WHO and the networks linked to our Collaborating Centre, with a focus on networks based in the Global South.

What is a WHO Collaborating Centre?

WHO Collaborating Centres are institutions designated by the World Health Organization to support its programmes.

There are over 800 Centres worldwide, including 13 in Norway.

NTNU

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Photo: Leigh Iacobucci

In the next four years, we will develop and publish new guidance to undertake and package systematic reviews of qualitative evidence to support evidence-informed decision-making. We will organize training and mentoring for WHO collaborators from the Global South. We will run workshops and simulation-based learning for WHO staff and their collaborators involved in guideline development. Working with our partners in the Global South, we will bring together experts in qualitative evidence synthesis, WHO, and its regional offices to strengthen evidence-informed decision-making.

Rebekah Thomas

WHO Guidelines Review Committee Secretariat and Technical Counterpart for the Centre

"The most effective health policies are informed not only by what works, but also by how people experience, value, and engage with health interventions. For WHO such insights are indispensable. We are incredibly grateful to the colleagues from NTNU and HVL for this collaboration, which is helping us to advance cutting-edge methods for bringing qualitative evidence into decision-making."

Get involved

Are you interested in evidence-informed decision-making in health and using qualitative evidence? Would you like to explore potential collaborations on the topics targeted by the Collaborating Centre?

Please register your interest by contacting our team.

Website

Contacts

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WHO Collaborating Centres for Qualitative Evidence in Decision-Making

Mailing list