



Lomonosov Moscow State University

Eurasian Center for Food Security

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Photo credit: World Bank

We came back from a short break and we hope you all enjoyed your summer!

As the Annual Eurasian Food Security Conference is fast approaching, we would like to remind you that the registration continues.

This issue of the ECFS Newsletter also covers the activities of the regional office for non-communicable diseases of the Moscow office of the World Health Organization.

Register Now for the Annual Eurasian Food Security Conference

The [4th Eurasian Food Security Conference](#) welcomes professionals working in the area of food and nutrition security across the globe to join the event. [Please register here!](#)

As the call for speakers is already closed, we invite you to illustrate your findings during a [Poster Session](#).

We are reminding you that [Armenian National Agrarian University](#) will host this year conference on October 29–31, 2019. ANAU is a dynamic university that is

aimed at becoming a center of regional agro-technological excellence. ECFS visited ANAU this August to learn more about university and to identify next steps for collaboration. You can learn more about the mission by following [link](#) (in Russian or Armenian).

Don't miss your chance to visit the university and participate in the conference to share your experience in addressing food and nutrition security challenges and discuss new policy approaches to ensure food security in the Eurasian region.

Workshop for Centers of Excellence and Experts from the Russian Federation on Innovative Approaches to Combating Noncommunicable Diseases in the European Region

By *Fabrichnova Anastasia*

Experts from more than 20 research centers, medical organizations, including the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation participated in the meeting organized by the European Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on July 3–4, 2019 in Moscow.

The WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (Office for NCDs) was established in 2014 in Moscow with the support of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Moscow office leads WHO work on strengthening national capacity in all 53 countries in the WHO European Region to prevent and control NCDs.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, cancer, obesity, chronic respiratory infections and mental health problems, account for approximately two thirds of premature deaths in the European Region.

The activities of the regional NCDs Office in Moscow include the control of risk factors for NCDs, such as unhealthy diets, inadequate physical activity, alcohol consumption, as well as epidemiological surveillance in connection with NCDs.

During the 2-day of the meeting, more than 40 speakers from various regions of the Russian Federation presented their reports. Participants discussed the implementation of programs conducted in the Russian Federation under the aegis of WHO, exchanged experiences on a wide range of issues.

A significant area supported by the WHO Regional NCDs Office in Moscow and implemented by national institutions is the projects related to improving food security in Eastern



Experts from the leading research centers, Government of the Russian Federation and representatives from academia participated in the WHO workshop in Moscow

Europe and Central Asia. Among which are epidemiological studies on the risk factors for NCDs - STEPwise approach to Surveillance or STEPS survey on the spread of risk factors for NCDs, the Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative or COSI study that measures trends and control of childhood obesity. Initiatives related to healthy eating and physical activity: promoting healthy eating and physical activity, an initiative to eliminate trans-fats, the FEED-cities project on researching food composition and salt intake, monitoring digital marketing of food products, promoting breastfeeding. In addition, are being conducted studies on the data collection of alcohol consumption and diseases associated with chronic alcoholism; the data on mortality in road traffic accidents, the introduction of a new international classification of diseases (ICD-11), and a reduction policy of alcohol and tobacco smoking, etc.

One of the largest and most important UN initiatives is the conduct of epidemiological surveillance of the prevalence of major risk factors for NCDs - STEPS survey.

Results of STEPS survey is one of 10 progress indicators which the WHO Director-General uses to report to the UN General Assembly. The study includes conducting survey research (demographic situation, level of physical activity,

eating habits, alcohol and tobacco use), physical measurements (anthropometry, blood pressure measurement, etc.) and biochemical assessments (level cholesterol, glucose). Standardized protocols allow countries to monitor national trends, allow researchers and policymakers to make comparisons between countries, identify good practices and develop targeted programs to combat NCDs. Between 2011 and 2018, with the assistance of the NCD Office, resources were provided to conduct 14 national representative STEPS surveys in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Thus, the survey was conducted in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, The Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. In some countries, the 2 rounds of such studies have already been carried out and is repeated every 2–3 years. The STEPS survey is expected to

present information on demographics and behavioral risk factors for about 45% of the population of the WHO European Region, or 350 million people.

At the meeting, WHO leaders particularly noted the unprecedented successes of the Russian Federation in reducing the level of tobacco smoking. So, according to WHO, since 2009, the level of tobacco smoking has decreased by 22–23%.

During the meeting, a donor agreement was signed on the further participation of the Russian Federation in the prevention and control of NCDs.

ECFS will continue to investigate this issue and will present research results on nutrition during the upcoming 4th Eurasian Food Security Conference in Yerevan.

Event Calendar 2019

Date	City, Country	Event
September 25–27	Braunschweig, Germany	59th GEWISOLA Annual Conference 2019
October 7–11	Moscow, Russia	AGROPRODMASH 2019 24th International Exhibition for Equipment, Technologies, Raw Materials and Ingredients for the Food Processing Industry
October 9–11	Hannover, Germany	Extreme Events: Building Climate Resilient Societies
October 9–12	Moscow, Russia	21st Russian Agricultural Exhibition “Golden Autumn-2019”
October 29–31	Yerevan, Armenia	The Eurasian Food Security Conference 2019
November 20–21	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Global Forum on Innovations for Marginal Environments 2019

December 2–6	Cape Coast, Ghana	RUFORUM 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
December 5–6	Sochi, Russia	World Soil Day–2019 (conference website will be available later)