

From scarcity to sustainability: can small nations lead workforce innovations?

Program:

Wellton Riverside Spa Hotel,
11. Novembra krastmala 33 / Riga, Latvia

DAY 1

Understanding the Challenges: Health Security, Demographic Pressures & Workforce Vulnerabilities and addressing the solutions

| TIME | SESSION | SPEAKER |
|--|--|---|
| 08:00-09:00 | Registration and coffee | |
| 09:00-09:30 | <p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Opening remarks setting the scene of the meeting and reflecting on the Second European Programme of Work as a Pathway to Health Security and Sustainability.</p> | <p>Hosams Abu Meri Minister for Health, Latvia</p> <p>Olivér Várhelyi Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, European Commission</p> <p>Karina Zālite Head of the WHO Country Office in Latvia, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> |
| 09:30-09:50 | <p>Keynote address</p> <p>Shifting power, shifting populations: health security and health workforce for small countries in a new global order.</p> <p>The global and regional security landscape; implications for small countries and their health workforce; and vulnerabilities and strategic opportunities.</p> | <p>Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat Director, Division of Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> |
| 09:50-10:30 | Coffee break | |
| The challenges Small Countries face | | |
| 10:30-11:30 | <p>Optimizing the health workforce</p> <p>Setting the scene: why health workforce optimization is essential for resilient, high-quality health-care systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesigning health-care pathways to meet the needs of ageing populations and rising complexity. Integration of health and social care. Expanding roles, including advanced nursing practice, to increase system capacity. Building high-performing multidisciplinary teams that improve quality and efficiency. Strengthening leadership and frontline autonomy to support new models of health care. | <p>Moderator: Margrieta Langins, Nursing and Midwifery Policy Adviser, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> <p>Setting the scene in the WHO European Region: why health workforce optimization is essential for resilient, high-quality health-care systems. Tomas Zapata, Regional Advisor Health Workforce and Service Delivery</p> <p>Setting the scene in Latvia Latvian Junior Doctors Association</p> <p>Country perspectives spotlight: Optimizing Nursing skill mix in Cyprus Neophytos Charalambides, Minister of Health, Cyprus;</p> <p>Panel Anna Laderchi, International Health Relations and Policy Officer, Authority for the Authorization, Accreditation and Quality of Health, Social and Educational Services, San Marino; Blaž Andoljšek, Adviser, Office for cooperation with WHO, Ministry of Health, Slovenia</p> <p>Country perspectives spotlight: Moving forward with a strategy on engaging with digital technologies in North Macedonia Azir Aliu, Minister of Health, North Macedonia;</p> |
| 11:30-12:30 | <p>Digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) for health workforce optimization and capability strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using digital tools to streamline workflows and reduce administrative burden. Applying AI to support decision-making, triage and population health management. Enhancing digital literacy and confidence across the health workforce. Ensuring ethical, safe and human-centred adoption of emerging technologies. | <p>Moderator: Tomas Zapata Regional Adviser, Health Workforce and Service Delivery, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> <p>Panel Karmen Joller, Minister of Social Affairs, Estonia; Alma D. Möller, Minister of Health, Iceland; Martine Deprez, Minister of Health and Social Security, Luxembourg; Azir Aliu, Minister of Health, North Macedonia.</p> |
| 12:30-14:00 | Working lunch | |
| 14:00-15:00 | <p>High-level panel discussion – Securing the future workforce: health security, ageing and health system resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined pressures of ageing populations, workforce shortages and internal migration (interregional and from state to private institutions), and how this is creating structural vulnerabilities in health-care systems. Health security risks are rising as small countries face limited surge capacity due to uneven regional health workforce coverage, geopolitical threats and growing dependence on international labour mobility. Health system resilience is largely dependent on safe supply of health technologies and continued innovation, which can be facilitated by the right incentives, better regulation and digitalization. | <p>Moderator: Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, Director, Division of Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe Agnese Vaļulienē, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Latvia</p> <p>Panel Hosams Abu Meri, Minister for Health, Latvia; Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe; Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, European Commission.</p> |
| 15:00-15:15 | Photo | |
| 15:15-15:30 | <p>Adoption of the Small Countries Statement</p> <p>Member States of the Small Countries Initiative (SCI) will adopt a joint statement committing to address the dual challenges of health security and ageing populations through the implementation of the Second European Programme of Work.</p> | |
| 15:30-16:00 | <p>Press conference</p> <p>Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Cyprus and Latvia</p> | Networking coffee break |
| 16:00-16:55 | <p>Ageing of the health workforce</p> <p>Setting the scene: ageing of the health workforce and its implications for health-care delivery, workforce sustainability and patient outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implications of an ageing health workforce for long-term health labour market dynamics and service sustainability. Integrated health workforce planning approaches that address age structure, skill mix and planning. | <p>Moderator: Stefania Ilinca, Technical Officer, Long-term Care, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> <p>Panel Helena Mas Santuré, Minister of Health, Andorra; Neophytos Charalambides, Minister of Health, Cyprus; Alma D. Möller, Minister of Health, Iceland; Marija Jakubauskienė, Minister of Health, Lithuania.</p> |
| 16:55-17:00 | Closing of Day 1 session | <p>Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat Director, Division of Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe</p> |
| 18:30 | Informal networking dinner (Hosted by the Ministry of Health of Latvia) | Restaurant "Gutenbergs terase". Address: Doma laukums 1, Riga |