

Towards a sustainable workforce in the European region: a framework for action

Joint EUPHA, EHMA and ASPHER Statement at the 67th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Budapest, Hungary, 11–14 September 2017

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the European Health Management Association (EHMA), and the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) congratulate the WHO Regional Office for Europe on the development of the new framework for action 'Towards a sustainable workforce in the European region'. The Framework will help countries to transform healthcare systems and organisations and promote sustainable development of a health workforce that is responsive to the needs of the population. We support the guiding principles, vision, goals and objectives of the Framework, which are consistent with the aims and activities of our associations and with a public health and people-centred approach. Investment in the health workforce is essential to ensure universal access to safe and high quality services and improved health.

Both EUPHA and EHMA have established health workforce groups and contributed to major European research projects, creating networks for sharing experience and establishing a joint research agenda for building a future health workforce in Europe.

We call on European member states to:

- align health workforce policy and planning with the needs of health systems;
- build capacity for policy implementation, knowledge dissemination and leadership on the health workforce,
- build health workforce as an independent, interdisciplinary and multi-professional field.

EUPHA, EHMA, and ASPHER offer their full support for making the vision of the action plan a reality.

