

JOINT ACTION HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING AND FORECASTING

Conference on Planning and Educating Health Workforce without borders February 18th - 19th 2016, Varna, Bulgaria

Joint Action Health Workforce Conference Planning and Educating Health Workforce without borders took place on February 18-19 in Varna, Bulgaria. This third and last Joint Action conference concludes the conference trio conducted under the Joint Action auspices reflecting various topics of the health workforce, spanning wide range of mutually intertwined topics of health workforce mobility, changing demography and educational aspect.

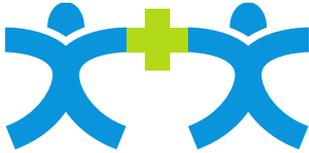
The opening policy forum of the conference provided interesting insights into European Health Workforce challenges, mechanism, tools and expertise used to eliminate the consequences and impact of migration related to labour forces and educational aspects in various EU countries, evenly covering western, central and eastern European regions. Policy representatives from Moldova, Slovakia, Belgium and representatives from European Commission addressed various issues with strong accent on mutual member states cooperation and knowledge sharing.

First day of the conference tackled the topics of Mobility and Education related to health workforce. Session on the Mobility of Health Professionals, both from the data perspective and from the young generation and education perspective aimed at reporting on the recent major progress on collecting and using mobility data on a regular basis, providing an accurate image of the phenomenon and singular mix of opportunities and threats to the health and education systems. The sessions were seeking answers to various questions and tackling the challenges of monitoring of health workforce mobility information, workforce education abroad as well as mobility at the European level related to bilateral cooperation.

Second day was focused on the forecast of new skills that are in support of the health systems in the future, in the most cost efficient and quality effective way, taking into account patients' needs. While the subject is very wide, the mega trends of demographic changes and changes in population needs were brought into spotlight. A mix between global reviews and country level examples were selected to address the future changes.

As to the changing demography on health workforce needs the conference concluded that we need healthcare age - centred and integrated care. Technology can help us but will not replace health workers. The demographic changes and the ageing of our population is a common issue at EU and world level, and of course the growing imbalances between countryside and cities are a long lasting trend.

The connection between the strong EU policies regarding both demographic changes and Health Workforce should be strengthened. The educational system producing upcoming generations of health workers needs planning proposals for addressing these challenges.



Joint Action Health Workforce
Planning and Forecasting



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The conference met its objectives in various aspects and prepared the platform for high attendance, rich networking debates and interactions among different stakeholders. Furthermore, the event provided interesting food for thought for policy makers and contributed to the integration of policies.

Full programme of the conference along with the conclusions are fully available on [Joint Action website](#).

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