

**70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
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Written statement on behalf of AMEE- the Association for Medical Education in Europe

*This statement is submitted in response to
“United action for better health in Europe- European Programme of Work, 2020–2025”*

Recognising the highest importance of three core priorities presented in the new European Programme of Work, the main goal of this statement is to emphasise the role of Health Professions (HP) education and training at undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD levels in supporting the development and sustainability of the European Health Workforce in order to provide the care that’s required by the European population both now and in the future.

To ensure that education proactively responds to these challenges, HP curricula should adapt much faster to constantly changing societal and population health needs. Consequently, we need to identify and develop strategies allowing European medical schools and HP education organisations to cooperate and jointly support the development and sustainability of the European Health Workforce.

We are happy to report that the cooperation between AMEE and WHO Europe focused on the above aims is successfully evolving. At the recent AMEE Virtual Conference, two WHO Europe sessions involving the Director Country Health Policies and Systems and the Special Advisor to the WHO Regional Director for Europe explored the EPW and the importance of building sustainable health workforces, as well as potential areas for AMEE and WHO Europe to deepen engagement and collaboration. This exchange allowed the European community of practice of HP education to discuss options for establishing communication with WHO Europe, hence developing good practice examples of HP curricula sensitive to the WHO Europe core priorities and flagship initiatives.

We should highlight, that all WHO flagship initiatives require specific education and training of the health workforce. European HP education, training and CPD should address the complexities of Digital Health, including the sudden shift towards Digital Health and Digital Education caused by the COVID-19 pandemics, with a yet unassessed educational impact on the knowledge, skills and professional attitudes of the Health Workforce. Consequently, we should focus our educational efforts on developing appropriate professional qualities of the European Health Workforce, including competencies related to patient centredness, communication and intercultural skills.

We acknowledge, that incorporating behavioural and cultural insights into HP formation and CPD is necessary to address the complexities of the European societies and to effectively promote healthier behaviours. This also includes the need to prepare the future and current Health Workforce for implementing the European Immunization Agenda 2030.

Finally, transforming societal attitudes about mental health and eliminating the existing stigma and discrimination requires equipping Health Workforce with competencies necessary to address not only the patients' but also own needs related to mental health and wellbeing. Such professional competences are especially necessary in the difficult new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concluding, AMEE is ready to become a hub for the European community of HP educators, linking this community more closely with WHO Europe, with a special focus on increasing patients', carers' and all societies' active involvement at all levels and phases of HP education, training and CPD aimed at reducing discrimination and inequalities of health-care systems. We are happy to report that we are currently working on the MoU between AMEE and WHO Europe addressing all issues mentioned above, to leave no one behind.

On behalf of AMEE


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