

**69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
Copenhagen, Denmark, 16–19 September 2019**

**Statement of AMEE- the Association for Medical Education in Europe
Statement supported by EMSA and IFMSA**

Re:

**EUR/RC69/13 Accelerating primary health care in the WHO European Region:
organizational and technological innovation in the context of the Declaration of
Astana**

While analysing the challenges to achieving universal health coverage identified in the EUR/RC69/13 progress report and the suggested 10 evidence-based policy accelerators for strengthening primary health care in the WHO European Region, it is clearly seen that to overcome the existing obstacles, implement the accelerators and achieve the expected outcomes we need to bring to this discussion the strong focus on strengthening and development of the European Health Professions (HP) education.

The main goal of this statement is to emphasise the fundamental role of HP education in preparing the European HP graduates for providing the holistic, patient-centred care. The discourse on expectations regarding the contemporary and future health professionals should include all stakeholders of the process of undergraduate and postgraduate education, as well as CPD, with a special focus on increasing patients', carers' and all societies' active involvement at all levels and phases of medical education aimed at reducing discrimination and inequalities of health-care systems.

Obviously, the effective, patient-centred care requires cooperation of all members of the interprofessional teams. Consequently, the effective interprofessional practice needs to be built on strong foundations of interprofessional education. The need for practical implementation of interprofessional education has been recently emphasised both by the curriculum planners, researchers and higher-level institutions and organisation.

Current phase of implementation of interprofessional, patient-centred care and education definitely requires further developments both in the area of the content (knowledge and skills) and innovative methods of education. International cooperation is needed for building the interprofessional curricula tailored to the European needs and taking into account increasing migration of patients and health professionals, globalisation, and the other socio-economic and political complexities.

Multiple paragraphs of the EUR/RC69/13 progress report addressing European priorities clearly indicate the need for reframing the perspective at interprofessional practice and consequently, interprofessional education. Especially now, with the paradigmatic change towards the concept of One Health including the wellbeing of people, animals and ecosystems, there is a strong need for widening the approach to interprofessional practice and education and for inviting the representatives of the other than health professions to effectively cooperate in the area of education. To achieve the universal health coverage for the European region, we need to jointly develop the interprofessional European curriculum ensuring that all, complex health needs of the European society are covered by the collectively exhaustive and mutually complementing competencies of the health professions.

From our perspective, the WHO RC for Europe with its focus on international public health, sustainable development and the European health and well-being is the key stakeholder of the European HP education. Moreover, the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, bringing together both the representatives of the member states and the non-State Actors creates the unique opportunity for cooperation in addressing the educational needs of the future and current European health professionals.

Being the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) regional association for Europe, AMEE both as the pool of international experts in HP education and the community of practice in this field is committed to actively collaborate with the WHO RC for Europe, the member states and non-State Actors to constantly improve the European health and well-being.

The above statement while issued directly in response to the document EUR/RC69/13, has additionally strong links to:

- *EUR/RC69/8: Progress report on the roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being*
- *EUR/RC69/Inf.Doc./5 Summary of the draft global strategy on digital health*
- *EUR/RC69/Inf.Doc./6 Development of a proposal for a decade of healthy ageing 2020–2030*

On behalf of AMEE

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31 August 2019