

The high-level conference

# HEALTHCARE HUMAN RESOURCES CRISIS: Small Countries Facing Future Risks

on April 11, 2025.



**Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel & SPA Daugava, Kuģu iela 24, Riga Conference  
**Language:** Latvian and English with interpretation.  
**Date and time:** April 11, 2025, 8:00 - 17:15

## Agenda:

| TIME        | SPEAKER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | TOPIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-9:00   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Registration and coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9:00-9:40   | Prime Minister of Latvia<br><b>Evika Siliņa</b><br>Minister of Health of Latvia<br><b>Hosams Abu Meri</b><br><br>Regional Director for Europe, WHO<br><b>Dr. Hans Kluge</b><br><br>Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia<br><b>Zane Petre</b><br><br>Ambassador of Ukraine to Latvia<br><b>Anatolii Kutsevol</b>                    | Conference Opening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:40-10:40  | Head of the Health Division, OECD<br><b>M.Sc. Francesca Colombo</b><br><br>Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Economics,<br><b>Jurģis Miežainis</b><br><br>President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)<br><b>Dr. Ole Johan Bakke</b>                                                                                        | Employment situation in the healthcare sector in a European context<br><br>Current employment situation and workforce alignment with future labor market needs – healthcare as a strategic priority in national employment policy<br><br>Healthcare deserts and human resources crisis in the European Union |
| 10:40-11:00 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:00-12:00 | President, European Junior Doctors Association<br><b>Dr. Alvaro Cerame</b><br><br>Rector of Riga Stradiņš University<br><b>Prof. Aigars Pētersons</b><br><br>Nurse -<br><b>Gundega Blizņeca</b><br>Junior Doctor-<br><b>Edgars Maļcevs</b><br>Experienced Doctor -<br><b>Edīte Vītola</b>                                                              | Small countries, big challenges: recruitment and retention through Junior Doctors' eyes<br><br>How to successfully attract applicants to medical studies?<br><br>Personal stories: life of healthcare workers                                                                                                |
| 12:00-13:00 | Ministers of Health of Small States or their Delegated Representatives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ministerial panel discussion: Experiences and challenges of small countries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:00-13:10 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Q&A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13:10-14:25 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lunch break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14:25-15:25 | Head of the Health Workforce and Service Delivery Unit, WHO/Europe<br><b>Dr. Tomas Zapata</b><br><br>Latvian Employers' Confederation<br><b>Kaspars Gorkšs</b><br><br>Chairman of Latvian Health and Social Care Workers' Trade Union<br><b>Valdis Keris</b><br><br>Head of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Health<br><b>Kristīne Kļaviņa</b> | Health workforce crisis everywhere - What can we do?<br><br>Employer opportunities, solutions<br><br>Healthcare Human Resources in Latvia – Problems and Solutions<br><br>Health workforce development strategy 2025 - 2029                                                                                  |
| 15:25-15:35 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Q&A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 15:35-16:00 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 16:00-17:00 | Ministers of Health of Countries or their Delegated Representatives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Ministerial panel discussion: Healthcare human resources crisis – what will we do tomorrow?                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 17:00-17:15 | Minister of Health of Latvia<br><b>Hosams Abu Meri</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Closing remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

