



Veselības ministrija

*Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia*

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Rīga

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**Riina Sikkut**  
**Minister of Health**  
**of the Republic of Estonia**

*Invitation to High-level Conference:  
"Healthcare Workforce Crisis:  
Small Countries Facing Future Risks"  
on April 11, 2025*

Dear Minister,

I have the pleasure of cordially inviting you to Riga for the High-level Conference: "**Healthcare Workforce Crisis: Small Countries Facing Future Risks**" on April 11, 2025.

The Ministry of Health of Latvia intends to use the conference to highlight the importance of human resources in the health sector and advocate for its prioritization in national investment planning to address the significant human resources crisis in the healthcare system.

The conference will feature high-level panel discussions with participation from **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** officials, alongside leading representatives from the national and international health sectors. While participation from Baltic health ministers and other key officials remains a strategic priority, strong emphasis will be placed on gathering **high level health officials from the Baltic States and other small European countries**, whose perspectives and active engagement are highly valued in enriching the discussions.

Discussions will centre on the current state of healthcare human resources, global challenges, workforce aging, and strategies for retention and attraction —keeping in mind the principles of the **WHO Bucharest Declaration**, the **WHO Regional Office for Europe's Report: *Health and Care Workforce in Europe: Time to Act*** and **Latvia's Human Resources Strategy**. These collectively emphasize the critical need for strategic workforce planning, investment in education and retention, and the protection and enhancement of working conditions to ensure resilient healthcare systems.

Your participation is essential in addressing shared challenges and fostering meaningful cooperation across the regions, paving the way for actionable solutions. The conference aims to facilitate collaboration, the sharing of best practices, and the development of tangible solutions — potentially including a resolution or actionable measures — to strengthen healthcare systems.

I am inviting you to save the date. More detailed information will follow in the coming weeks.

For any inquiries regarding the conference, please feel free to contact **Senior Expert of the Sectoral Human Resources Development Division, Laura Vanaga** ([laura.vanaga@vm.gov.lv](mailto:laura.vanaga@vm.gov.lv)), or **Deputy Director of the Department of European Affairs and International Cooperation, Aleksandrs Takašovs** ([es@vm.gov.lv](mailto:es@vm.gov.lv)).

Minister of Health

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