



Twelfth Meeting of the Small Countries Initiative
High Level Meeting

From Scarcity to Sustainability: Can Small Nations Lead Workforce Innovations?

Wellton Riverside Spa Hotel, 11. Novembra krastmala 33, Riga, Latvia

4 – 5 June, 2026

High level Preliminary Programme

DAY 1 — Understanding the Challenges: Health Security, Demographic Pressures & Workforce Vulnerabilities and addressing the solutions

Time	Session
08:00-09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00-09:30	Welcome Address Minister for Health, Latvia
	Opening Remarks Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe
09:30-09:50	Keynote Address <i>Shifting Power, Shifting Populations: Health Security and Health Workforce for Small Countries in a New Global Order</i>
<i>The challenges Small Countries face</i>	
09:50-10:50	High level panel discussion Panelists: Minister of Health, Latvia; WHO Europe Regional Director; High level panelist (TBC) <i>Securing the Future Workforce: Health Security, Ageing, and Health System Resilience</i>

10:50–11:15	Networking Coffee Break
11:15-11:30	Adoption of the Small Countries Statement
11:30– 11:50	Press conference
The solutions - <i>Small Countries taking the initiative forward</i>	
11:30–11:40	1) Optimizing the health workforce
11:40–12:45	Optimizing the health workforce: service redesign, skills mix and multidisciplinary teams – <i>panel discussion</i>
12:45–12:50	Family photo
12:50–14:05	Working lunch
14:05–15:15	Leveraging Digital Technology & AI for Health Workforce Optimization and Capability Strengthening - <i>panel discussion</i>
15:15–15:45	Networking Coffee Break
15:45–16:00	2) Ageing of the health workforce
16:00–16:50	<i>Panel discussion</i>
16:50-17:00	Closing of day 1 session
18:30	Informal Networking Dinner (Hosted by the Ministry of Health of Latvia)

DAY 2 — Advancing the Solutions

Time	Session
09:00 – 9:10	Recap & Day 2 Overview
09:10 – 09:25	3) Retaining health workforce
09:25 – 10:20	Sustaining those who sustain us: Strengthening Mental Health & Wellbeing in the Health Workforce - <i>panel discussion</i>
10:20 – 10:50	Networking Coffee Break
10:50 -12:15	Retaining and attracting health workers in the public sector and in rural areas – <i>panel discussion</i>
12:15 – 12:45	Closing reflections and statements of SCI members
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch