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| Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia  Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia | -12-2024 | No. | (1.1.20E-18)10- |
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**INVITATION TO DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES OF HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE IN THE BALTIC STATES**

In reference to the Resolution of the 42nd Session of the Baltic Assembly, which highlights the need to address the healthcare workforce shortage across the Baltic States, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania invites the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia to join a collaborative effort in establishing a joint working group on this issue.

We propose a meeting to discuss the following key points:

1. agreeing on the frequency and schedule of future meetings;
2. establishing the working group;
3. defining the goals and aspirations of our collaboration;
4. exchanging experiences;
5. expanding the scope of the discussion to include not only the shortage of specialists, but also healthcare workforce policy (such as forecasting, planning, attraction, retention, training, continuous professional development, etc.).

We suggest holding our first meeting on one of the following dates:

* 9 December 2024 at 15:00, or
* 11 December 2024 at 15:00.

The purpose of this initial meeting will be to exchange ideas on the format and intensity of future discussions. We also propose a second meeting on either:

* 16 December 2024 at 15:00, or
* 18 December 2024 at 15:00.

Please provide your feedback by 6 December 2024 by sending an email to [diana.smaliukaite@sam.lt](mailto:diana.smaliukaite@sam.lt).

We look forward to your response and to collaborating on the development of effective solutions for the healthcare workforce challenges in the Baltic States.

Sincerely yours,

Vice-Minister Edgaras Narkevičius

Diana Smaliukaitė, phone: +370 5 219 3314, e-mail: [diana.smaliukaite@sam.lt](mailto:diana.smaliukaite@sam.lt)