



European Commission, DG REFORM

Technical Support for Health reforms

Enhancing the resilience and sustainability of health systems is a key objective of structural reforms. The Commission provides technical support¹ to public administrations on reforms in health service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to healthcare and access to essential medicines, financing, leadership/governance and health systems performance assessment.

The wider implementation of health reforms (e.g. infrastructure, staff) is financed with national and EU funds including Recovery and Resilience facility, structural funds and EIB loans.

Digital transformation of healthcare systems – Flagship on Digital skills for digital transformation of health and care systems TSI 2022

Digitalisation of healthcare is one of the priorities for health system transformation. Citizens should have secure access to their health data, also across borders. Citizens should be empowered to use digital tools to look after their health, stimulate prevention and enable feedback and interaction with the healthcare providers. Technical Support is building the capacity of the public administration to design and implement the change management process surrounding the digitalisation of the health systems by developing national strategies, new governance models, solving interoperability issues, providing technical specifications for the e-infrastructure or enhancing the digital skills of the healthcare workforce.

Policy links: EU Health Data Space, National Recovery and Resilience Plans, National Operational Programs

Examples of technical support

Support for the establishment of a National eHealth Centre in Czechia delivered a design and plan to establish the National eHealth Center (NeHC), the governance model of the eHealth ecosystem and a National eHealth Interoperability Framework (NeHIF). and resources are being allocated to it. Following the implementation of the project, the Ministry of Health established NeHC as a department of the Ministry and a National eHealth Board for further strategic development of the eHealth ecosystem.

eHealth for a healthier society supports the Ministry of Health of Slovenia to develop an eHealth strategy and an investment plan for 2022-27, to develop a way forward to implement a unified electronic health care record, to design a national telemedicine framework, and to review of related legislation to enable better oversight of the eHealth system and smooth data flows. This should ultimately lead to better patient care.

Improving digital competence of the health workforce in Spain and Estonia will support the Catalan health authorities to adopt a digital skills framework for health professionals and an accreditation procedure across health sectors and professions. In Estonia, the technical support will cover both higher education (university and higher education schools) curricula and continuous education and training programmes. It will provide recommendations for the improvement of the health workforce curricula; create appropriate and sustainable training programs for the health workforce educators and pilot them.



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Healthcare workforce

The health workforce is a key contributor to health system performance. The growing demand for person-centred health services and personalized care necessitates better health workforce strategies. New models of care coordinating prevention, curative services, rehabilitation and social care along with the reinforcement of primary care will involve the reallocation of tasks and responsibilities among healthcare professionals, leading to the creation of new roles with relevant skillsets.

In addition, one of the most important motivation factors for the health workforce is the access to continuous professional trainings, which equip them with necessary skills to improve health outcomes. Among others, digital skills are particularly important in the healthcare environment, which evolves rapidly and makes an increasing use of digital tools.

Policy links: Care Strategy, EU Pact for Skills, National Recovery and Resilience Plans.

Examples of technical support

Support to improve the distribution of healthcare professionals and develop a competence assessment framework for healthcare workers in Lithuania will focus on two aspects, namely the development of a model to identify, monitor and manage health professionals' skills, and the development of a strategy to attract healthcare professionals to healthcare institutions in need, hence improving the overall distribution of the healthcare workforce. With regard to the first aspect, in the current system, healthcare professionals only undergo a *formal evaluation*, which does not ensure a meaningful professional development pathway, which actually meets their professional development needs.

Health workforce strategy in Latvia will provide capacity building for the Ministry of Health and provide key inputs for the drafting of a human resources strategy for the health sector. This will be achieved through analyzing the existing health workforce and training system, providing technical specifications for an integrated database on health professionals, a health workforce planning model and an action plan on health workforce training and skills development.

Health and Social Care Workforce Planning in Ireland will provide the Department of Health with the necessary tools, processes and technical capacity in order to produce rolling health and social care workforce planning action plans and implement targeted policy measures for health and social care workforce reform. This will be achieved through providing a Health and Social Care Workforce Planning Strategy and Action Plan, a planning model and initial projections and gap analyses, international exchange of expertise and recommendations for health and social care workforce reforms.

Contact: REFORM-B4-HEALTH@ec.europa.eu