

AHEAD



ACTION FOR HEALTH AND EQUITY
ADDRESSING MEDICAL DESERTS

What is AHEAD?

The project Action for Health and Equity: Addressing medical Deserts – or AHEAD - aims to reduce health inequalities by addressing the challenge of medical deserts and medical desertification in Europe. The goal is to achieve better access to health services, especially in underserved areas, and more equitable access to sufficient, skilled and motivated health workers, starting with the countries involved in the project: Italy, Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania and Serbia. The AHEAD partner organisations aim to do this by building knowledge, encouraging (digital) innovation in health service delivery, and applying a participatory approach to public health policy making.

Our goals and activities

This project will provide knowledge and tools to a group of relevant policymakers in Member States of the EU and neighbouring countries. These tools can be used to define, design and implement evidence-based reforms in the health workforce field that specifically aim to counteract medical deserts.

The AHEAD partners will do this by

- Generating evidence on the manifestation of medical deserts
- Building consensus on various policy measures enabling countries to counteract medical deserts
- Discussing policy options

Throughout the project lifecycle, we will share knowledge and evidence around medical deserts, possible policy solutions, and lessons learnt. We believe that policy makers will be inspired to take action once they 1) are aware of the need to address medical deserts to ensure equitable access to health services, and 2) have knowledge about viable policy solutions to tackle medical desertification. Both in their own countries as well as at EU level. Taking the right actions at the right policy level will benefit affected populations and ultimately, the country as a whole. By spreading knowledge and good practices, we also hope to inspire policy makers outside the AHEAD project countries.

Generate evidence

The first step in finding solutions to the problem is to generate evidence about medical deserts in all their different manifestations in the AHEAD project countries. This research will contribute to the development of a new, more detailed definition of the concept of medical deserts and the development of an interactive tool that can be used to diagnose and monitor medical deserts in the project countries and beyond.

Build consensus

Consensus building is an important element of policy development. It ensures that the perspectives of different groups are included in public policy development. This part of the project will consist of the development of a participatory method and phased 'consensus building sessions', both at local and national level.

Discuss policy options

Once locally relevant policy options are ready, we will facilitate policy discussions. In this phase, we will engage relevant national and EU level key stakeholders and decision makers to ensure joint reflection on effective, feasible and acceptable policy measures that aim to counteract medical deserts.



Project countries:

Italy
Moldova
the Netherlands
Romania
Serbia

AHEAD TIMELINE

1 GENERATE EVIDENCE

April 2021 - May 2022

2 BUILD CONSENSUS

May 2022 - October 2022

3 DISCUSS POLICY OPTIONS

October 2022 - April 2023



Co-funded by the
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.AHEAD.health

Meet the AHEAD partners:

Cittadinanzattiva (Italy)

www.cittadinanzattiva.it



Cittadinanzattiva's main objectives are the promotion of civic participation and the protection of citizens' rights in Italy and in Europe thanks to its European branch Active Citizenship Network. It considers citizens as a fundamental resource for democracy, playing an active role in society with an opportunity to participate in everyday policy-making.

NSPHM (Moldova)

www.sph.md



National School of Public Health Management (NSPHM) is an organization oriented towards national and European values, public health and management. NSPHM's mission is to promote standards, methods, educational technologies and modern management in order to improve the quality, efficiency and performance of the public health system in Moldova

VU Athena Institute (the Netherlands)

www.vu.nl



Athena Institute
Connecting science and society
for a better tomorrow

VU Athena Institute believes that science should contribute to a healthy, inclusive and sustainable world. We aim to do so by analysing and integrating diverse stakeholder perspectives and enabling joint action.

Wemos (the Netherlands)

www.wemos.nl



As an independent civil society organisation, Wemos seeks to improve public health worldwide, through evidence-building, coalition-building and advocacy activities. Wemos works with (inter)national networks of civil society organisations to reinforce joint messages.

CHPS (Romania)

www.cpss.ro



The Foundation Center for Health Policies and Services (CHPS) activity focuses on the improvement of the health system functions and outcomes, the encouragement of social dialogue and community participation, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and patient empowerment.

MEC (Serbia)

www.mediaeducationcentre.eu



The mission of the Media Education Centre is to promote the role of the Media and Information Literacy in the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life.

Expected results

The AHEAD partners will deliver these products and results:

- policy briefs;
- a set of contextualized and feasible policy solutions to address medical deserts in the project countries;
- an improved definition and taxonomy of medical deserts;
- a medical deserts diagnostic monitoring tool;
- a tested and replicable approach for participatory health policymaking;
- Medical Deserts Network.

AHEAD is a member of: EU Health Policy Platform

An interactive platform to boost discussions about public health concerns, share knowledge and best practices.



Health Workforce Projects Cluster

The aim of this network is to provide supporting tools, practical guidelines and to improve sharing of best practices that can help the Member States to design and implement their policies related to health workforce retention, task-shifting and regional medical deserts.



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