

MMI Office

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An: HW4All
Betreff: HW4All/EPHA press release, 9 December 2015: Brussels event

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Health workers for all and all for health workers (HW4All)
European contributions to a sustainable health workforce

Fighting the brain drain: sustainable health systems and policy coherence

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find below a press release related to the event "[Exploring the migration-development nexus. Global health aspects of the implementation of the WHO Code Of Practice](#)" taking place later on today in Brussels. For any related enquiries, please refer to the indicated contact addresses indicated below. Thanks for your attention, and best regards,

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HW4All on Twitter: https://twitter.com/hw4all_eu



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HW4All/EPHA Press release, 9 December:

Fighting the brain drain: sustainable health systems and policy coherence

Health Workers for All (HW4All) in collaboration with the European Public Health Alliance will present and discuss the findings of the HW4All project in support of the 2010 WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel during an event on Wednesday 9th December.

The event, focusing on the 'Migration-Development Nexus', will discuss the crucial importance of policy coherence. The premise is that health workforce migration and mobility contribute to health system sustainability both in workers' countries of origin and in their host countries.

The 'brain drain' of qualified health professionals represents a dangerous problem in many countries around the world, with developing countries in Africa and Asia particularly affected. In addition to that, the recent migration of health workers from Southern and Eastern European Member States to the United Kingdom, Germany, France and elsewhere illustrates that this is also a European problem.

“European policies have a dramatic impact on other countries, especially on poorer countries struggling to retain health workers in whose training they have invested.” stated Sascha Marschang, EPHA Policy Manager. “While migration of individuals is a right, migration of health workers has specificities compared to other professional sectors: politicians must pay particular attention to safeguarding health in countries of origin. Some health workers feel forced to leave for other countries by poor conditions at home. Creating good working conditions is of vital importance to give them the choice to stay where their local expertise and system knowledge is badly needed”.

HW4All Coordinator Linda Mans added “Development, migration, health and employment policies are not mutually exclusive. Achieving sustainability in this area is a complex mission which can only be tackled through a structured, intersectoral approach which should be supported by the EU. The Ebola crisis in West Africa has demonstrated that the loss of qualified health workers generates profound consequences for countries’ ability to cope with health emergencies.”.

The HW4All Call to Action is a reminder that much remains to be done. It is vital that European Institutions create synergies between the relevant policy areas and set an example for other parts of the world in the very near future.

EPHA supports the HW4All Call to Action and calls on the European Commission to continue its collaboration with WHO and civil society on the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice.

THE EVENT

‘Exploring the Migration-Development Nexus: Global Health Aspects of the Implementation of the WHO Code of Practice’. For further information, please see <http://www.eph.org/a/6450>

CONTEXT

Although the [WHO Global Code](#) is a non-binding document, its integration into the European Commission’s own Action Plan for the European Health Workforce has helped to elevate it at EU level and encouraged further research as part of the Joint Action on Health Workforce. Civil society’s backing was key in this process, including HW4All’s Call to Action to European Policymakers, which has been signed by over 170 organisations (and several Members of the European Parliament) requesting further action to achieve sustainable health workforces in Europe and worldwide.

This is particularly important with a view to achieving Universal Access to Healthcare as foreseen in the Sustainable Development Goals. Since the current EU Action Plan is coming to an end in 2016, and the economic and political situation in many countries around the world remains fragile, this is as vital now as it was five years ago.

Therefore, the application of principles of ethical recruitment, coupled with the dissemination of international best practices, is important since anything else would undermine the European values of solidarity, equality and access to healthcare.

[HW4All’s Call to European Policymakers](#) contains five key recommendations:

1. Plan long term and train self-sustainable health workforces
2. Invest in the health workforce
3. Respect the rights of migrant health workers
4. Think and act coherently at national, regional and global level
5. Play your part in Code implementation

For an overview of the SDGs, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

See also the report of the EPHA-EPSU-HW4All event organised at the European Parliament on 5 May 2015, <http://www.eph.org/a/6358>

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