

What **Boost skills, embrace transformation: regions for green and digital skilling in healthcare.**

When and Where **11 October 2023, Brussels, Belgium**

Main relevant speakers **George Valiotis – Representative, European Health Management Association**
Henriette Hansen - EU consultant and EU project manager in the South Denmark European Office
Birgitta Sacredeus – Councillor Region Dalarna

Objective European health and care systems have increasingly been transitioning towards greener, more digital solutions. Skills are key factors in supporting this transformation, empowering the healthcare workforce, and creating more sustainable ecosystems. The session will explore the role of regions in spearheading green and digital up- and re-skilling, as part of a strategic blueprint for sectoral cooperation across Europe and within the EU Pact for Skills and the Year of Skills.

Main outputs **George Valiotis** started talking about the challenge of BeWell project. It aims at preparing the health and care workforce and ecosystem to tackle existing and future challenges, adapt to ever-evolving societal challenges, and be more competitive in a highly demanding and rapidly changing labour market. Upskilling and Reskilling are important to support human capital development in Europe overall. He described the BeWell structure with four main elements which are: developing skills intelligence on the digital and green skills, establishing the first Blueprint Alliance for the health ecosystem to create a skills strategy to implement at local, regional, and national level, launching a large-scale skills partnership under the Pact for Skills initiative, and implementing a pilot training programme on digital and green skills in the healthcare sector and for emerging occupational profiles. The strategy purpose is to act as a roadmap that advocates life-long learning and continuing professional development. It focuses on the advantages of the uptake of digital and green upskilling and reskilling. There are calls on policymakers to integrate the needs of the health and care workforce into the design and implementation of policies at local/regional, national, and ultimately, European levels.

The action points are to commit (to make upskilling and reskilling a priority), to involve (communities and workforce), to secure financing (through public investment and European-funded opportunities) and implement the skills strategy (based on the specificities of their communities).

The next steps are a consultation between consortium partners and their members to submit their input by December 2023. Then the Pact for Skills, where partners will join dedicated workshops, and the Public Consultation where the wider healthcare ecosystem will be consulted online in 8 European languages.

Henriette Hansen introduced the EUVECA project, which addresses six megatrends which are aging population, chronic disease and co-morbidity, digitalisation, personalised care and prevention, modern health consumer, and playing an active climate role. To address these megatrends, skills such as creativity, leadership, communication are all seen as important and as in need of being promoted.

Each region is working to establish a hub, which objective is to create collaboration and coordination between healthcare providers. The objective is to think outside of the box and create new ways of learning. Moreover, breaking down the silos through internships, apprenticeships, and common innovation activities. The aims are to create a more *real world* of learning opportunities, and to create more *mobility*.

On the European level, they are preparing a European Platform for VET excellence in Healthcare, with the aim to develop all kind of training that focus on the six megatrends. European meetings will be organised, and users can find interesting webinars that can also be used in their education programs.

Birgitta Sacredeus addressed what are the challenges induces by workforce shortage. She stated that as politician the aim is to keep the population healthy. She stated that one investment has been done with associations that promote sport. She also addressed the importance of digitalisation. For instance, Sweden really benefited from digitalised tools and systems, since areas that are scarcely populated can be more easily managed with medical buses that travel around to do check-ups. This is also very useful for people that do not have mobility impediments. Continuing on digital tools, she stated that thanks to digital tool it is possible to provide mental therapy or assistance, for example to youngsters, who are more familiar with computers and mobile phones.

In addition to this she said that digital tools are also useful for training and education. She talked about an online course that provides basic guides and training to people that want to become nurse. Furthermore, for cases of hearth attack, there is an app that can be downloaded on the mobile phones, that informs you when someone near you is in need for assistance in case of heart

attack and provides you with a guide on how to help the person, while the ambulance arrives.

In conclusion, she said that another important step should be made with AI, since it could really help with future issues, but could already help us find modern solutions.

What's in it for EUREGHA?

This event, organised by EUREGHA, could be of interest since it delved into new and emerging topics and challenges of the healthcare sector. The identification of new skills, the presentation of projects that address the modern issues, are essential to the promotion of cooperation and coordination among EUREGHA members.

Want to know more?

<https://bewell-project.eu/>

<https://euveca.eu/>

<https://www.euregha.net/news/highlights-euregha-session-at-ewrc-boost-skills-embrace-transformation-regions-for-green-and-digital-skilling-in-healthcare/>