

AHEAD



ACTION FOR HEALTH AND EQUITY
ADDRESSING MEDICAL DESERTS

Addressing medical desertification in Europe: a call to action

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Room ASP 3H1 | European Parliament, Brussels

SPEAKERS' LIST

Beatrice Covassi



Beatrice Covassi is a Member of the European Parliament. She sits as a full member in the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy and as a substitute member in the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food safety. She is a Member of the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, of the EU-China Delegation and of the delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament. She co-chairs the “Sustainable, long-term investments and competitive European industry” Parliamentary Intergroup. She joined the EP in December 2022 from London where she was working as Minister Counsellor at the newly established EU Delegation to the UK. Between 2016 and 2019 Beatrice worked as Head of the European Commission Representation to Italy.

Marina Royo de Blas



Marina Royo de Blas is currently working in DG AGRI, in the implementation of the Long Term Vision for EU's Rural Areas, more specifically in the topic related to social policy and evidence and data. She has had a trajectory working with regions in Brussels and with rural development programmes after specialising in European studies with a MA in "European Political and Governance Studies" from the College of Europe. Marina has a background in the history of international relationships with a Master's from the University of Montpellier and a bachelor's degree in Geography and History, from the university of her natal region, La Rioja, Spain.

Corinne Hinlopen



Corinne Hinlopen is a sociologist by background who later specialized as Master of Public Health. After working in public health in different capacities abroad as well as in The Netherlands, she joined Wemos in 2014. Corinne is currently leading two European projects: the AHEAD project on medical deserts, and the Pillars of Health project on the uneven availability of health and care workers across the European region, including health worker mobility and migration in the context of a free European internal labour market.

Anna Lisa Mandorino



Anna Lisa Mandorino is, since 2021, the Secretary General of Cittadinanzattiva. With a master's degree in Literature, she specialised in European Public Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. At Cittadinanzattiva she was first in charge of Communication, then of General Management through the coordination of activities and projects for the promotion of civic activism and participation. She works with particular attention to public policies on health, services, education and training, human and civil rights, in order to affirm new forms of civic action and governance of public processes, especially related to the empowerment of local communities, stakeholder involvement and institutional dialogue. In addition to other roles, in 2022 she was also appointed as member of the National Ethics Committee for clinical trials related to ATMPs at AIFA (Italian Medicines Agency).

Paolo Michelutti



Paolo Michelutti is a consultant and project manager for several Italian public health bodies (Age.Na.S., Ministry of Health, local health authorities and public hospitals) on HR management, performance appraisal, health workforce planning, organisation of health services. He has been part of health workforce projects and initiatives at European level for several years, currently leader of the EU Joint Action on Health Workforce for Health Challenges (HEROES).

Katarzyna Ptak-Bufkens



Katarzyna Ptak Bufkens is the policy officer in the Unit in charge of Performance of National Health Systems in the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety. She works on access to healthcare, healthcare workforce and contributes to the Unit's work on the European Semester and knowledge building on health systems for Luxembourg and Spain.

Aysel Rahimli



Aysel is the project coordinator at Wemos. Before joining Wemos, Aysel worked in the health workforce development department of the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Eastern Mediterranean, with the scope of 22 countries. Prior to that, Aysel worked in the governmental and private sectors, including for the National Health Service in the UK. She has a degree in Biomedical Sciences from Essex University and a Public Health Masters from Imperial College London. She also obtained a certificate on human resources for health from the KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam. Aysel works with the Corinne on the European projects at Wemos.

Dorota Tomalak



Dorota Tomalak is the Deputy Head of Unit at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). She holds master degrees from the Institute for Political Studies in Strasbourg and the University of Wroclaw as well as the diploma of the College of Europe in Bruges. Her responsibility is to lead on the Committee's work on public health policy matters, advise local and regional politicians, analyse policy trends and developments and build bridges between local expertise and European policy-making. Before joining the CoR in 2012, she worked for an UK based association of public sector directors and in the EU-funded research project of University of Konstanz. Dorota Tomalak is active in many EU platforms and expert groups and is the lead contact for the CoR-UNWHO relations.

John Wynn-Jones



Dr John Wynn-Jones has been a rural GP in Wales for over 30 years. He has now retired from his clinical practice but maintains his academic roles. He founded the UK Institute of Rural Health and the Welsh Rural Postgraduate Unit in 1997 and was instrumental in creating the European Rural and Isolated Practitioner's Association (EURIPA) and remained its president until 2012. John was one of the founding members of the Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice. He is currently the Senior Lecturer in Rural and Global Health at Keele Medical School, board member of the English Centre for Rural Health and Care and Visiting Professor International Institute for Rural Health and Lincoln University. He is also a board member of the English National Centre for Rural Health and Care.

Mariam Zaidi



Mariam Zaidi is an international news presenter, reporter and expert on the EU. Also specialising in politics and foreign affairs she has more recently steered coverage on the Ukraine war and the energy crisis for Euronews. As a seasoned moderator and master of ceremonies for Euractiv, EU institutions and global corporate clients she is a master of many trades. A law grad with an MA in Journalism she has worked for the BBC, ITV, CGTN, APTN and CNBC.

Tomas Zapata



Dr Tomas Zapata leads the Health Workforce and Service Delivery Unit in the WHO Regional Office for Europe based in Copenhagen. He has with more than 13 years of experience in policy advice, research and programme implementation, in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Dr Tomas Zapata is a medical doctor specialized in Family Medicine in Spain. He holds a Master's degree in Health Policy, Planning and Financing from LSHTM and LSE and a specialised short course on Human Resources for Health by Harvard School of Public Health.

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