



Dear Colleagues!

We are sure you continue to working hard helping members under these challenging circumstances, and we wanted to share with you an update from the WHO EURO office that relates to a number of joint initiatives and WHO efforts in supporting members-states and health systems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the occasion of the *International Day of the Midwife* on 5 May and *International Nurses Day* on 12 May in this *International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife* you might have seen that we at the WHO Regional Office for Europe have been celebrating the days with a range of publications and stories on: [Website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and on our [visual storytelling](#) page. In parallel with this, the reoriented focus to support Member States in their response to the pandemic, including preparing technical guidance specific to the workforce and health systems, developing decision making aids and working across the organization to provide direct country support, have also led to a range of recent Covid-19 related publications.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the publications and activities in the WHO European Region but also some key initiatives happening on the global scene, and hope that you will find them useful.

1. MIDWIFERY ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR EDUCATION (MATE)

On the International Day of the Midwife - WHO/Europe published the *Midwifery Assessment Tool for Education (MATE)* that will help countries identify the steps required to reinforce the creation and development of an educated, competent and skilled midwifery workforce. The MATE publication has been developed together with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Midwifery Development at the School of Healthcare Sciences, College of Biomedical and Life Sciences

at Cardiff University. It is designed to be used at the early stages of planning, to identify the status, needs and the future direction of a country's midwifery education and will be a key resource for countries to assess the midwifery workforce. The tool also provides links to useful resources.

Link: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery/publications/2020/midwifery-assessment-tool-for-education-mate-2020>

2. COMPETENCIES FOR NURSES WORKING IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

As we know that primary health care remains the most cost-effective way to address comprehensive health needs close to people's homes and communities and is a cornerstone to progress towards universal health coverage, on International Nurses Day, WHO/Europe published *the Competencies for nurses working in primary health care*. The purpose of the publication is to provide guidance and inspiration for policy-makers, instructors, managers and clinicians who are seeking to develop and strengthen competencies among their nursing workforce in primary care, The competencies are divided into five clusters:

- Patient advocacy and education
- Effective communication
- Team-work and leadership
- People-centered care and clinical practice
- Continuous learning and research

Link: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery/news/news/2020/5/new-who-resource-on-enhancing-competencies-of-primary-care-nurses>

3. CASE STUDIES

On International Nurses Day, WHO/Europe also published what is the beginning in a series of case studies to support policy-makers, instructors, managers and clinicians in achieving their primary care goals. The first installment consists of three case studies showcasing how nurses' roles have been scaled up in Ireland, Poland and Slovenia to

broaden their responsibilities and further their contributions to primary care in addressing the changing population health needs, as they work with patients and their families to address their immediate and long-term health needs and not only treat specific diseases and conditions but also consider broader determinants of health that influence people's physical, mental, and social well-being.

Link: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/nursing-and-midwifery/case-studies>

4. MEETING REPORT 2018 ATHENS

The Meeting of Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers, WHO collaborating centres and the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations in the WHO European Region Athens, Greece, 3–4 October 2018 are now published.

Link:

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/442651/Nursing-and-midwifery-meeting-report-eng.pdf?ua=1

5. STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH SYSTEM RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Our team is involved in the larger organizational response to COVID-19, and have been contributing to the development of guidance and tools that are being used to support Member States health systems response to Covid-19. These can be found under EURO Health Systems.

Link: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/pages/strengthening-the-health-system-response-to-covid-19>

We have also contributed to the range of guidance available on the [WHO HQ website](#), and been involved in developing guidance for transition into a post pandemic reality. The latter work was [presented](#) by the EURO Regional Director, and the strategy developed can be found [here](#). Please also find other key publications and updates on the WHO Europe COVID outbreak page: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19>

6. WHO ACADEMY App

Kindly also know that the WHO Academy App has been launched and is now available. It targets health workers and is a one-stop-shop on Covid-19, updated in real-time with all WHO guidance, technical tools, learning centre (including existing courses, new courses, new virtual learning events etc). A peer/expert community and Q&A function will be developed in the next version. It is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

If you have any comments to the App, they are highly appreciated.

You can find it on the apple app store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873?ls=1>

Or Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA>

