



## D2.1: Project Leaflet

<b>Project title</b>	A Roadmap OUT of mEdical deserts into supportive Health WorkForce initiatives and policies		
<b>Acronym</b>	ROUTE-HWF		
<b>Grant agreement number</b>	101018379		
<b>Call identifier</b>	HP-PJ-2020-2		
<b>Topic</b>	PJ-01-2020-2 Support to reforms in health workforce field - Initiatives on medical deserts (Heading 1.2.1.1 of the AWP 2020)		
<b>Starting date</b>	01/03/2021	<b>Duration in months</b>	36
<b>Work package</b>	WP2 - Dissemination of the project		
<b>Submission date</b>	30/04/2021	<b>Dissemination level</b>	Public



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

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# ROUTE-HWF

A Roadmap OUT of mEdical deserts  
into supportive Health WorkForce  
initiatives and policies

ROUTE-HWF aims to help EU Member States to improve timely access to high-quality healthcare across all EU regions, thus reducing disparities in population health



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[route-hwf.eu](http://route-hwf.eu)

## Objectives

- To provide a *definition* and *taxonomy* of the concept of medical deserts
- To develop *guidelines* on how EU Member States can monitor and measure medical deserts at national and subnational levels
- To analyse the *factors* that drive medical “desertification” and assess health workforce policy responses and approaches to medical deserts
- To provide an *optimal mix* of policy responses and approaches to medical deserts depending on the type of medical desert
- To develop a *roadmap* to help EU Member States in designing and implementing health workforce policies that address medical deserts

## Activities

- A *literature review* and *database search* of available material on definitions, characteristics, mapping and influencing factors of medical deserts along with approaches to mitigate or eliminate them
- A *survey* across 33 European countries on characteristics, measurement and influencing factors of medical deserts along with policy responses
- Five national *stakeholder workshops* to discuss and evaluate the taxonomy and guidelines to measure and monitor medical deserts, feeding into the roadmap
- Six in-depth *case studies* to further assess the applicability and usability of the taxonomy and guidelines and refine the roadmap
- A final European *expert workshop* to discuss the optimal mix of policy responses and approaches to medical deserts

## Expected results

- Increased *awareness* and *understanding* of medical deserts among public authorities, health professionals and other stakeholders
- Improved *capacity* on and better *informed management* of medical deserts by public authorities, healthcare bodies and other relevant stakeholders
- Incorporation of ROUTE-HWF outputs (incl. roadmap) into *decision making infrastructure* at national and subnational levels
- Enhanced understanding of the required data infrastructure and *monitoring* and *measurement frameworks* of medical deserts
- Strengthening national and subnational *data collection procedures* with the help of the ROUTE-HWF taxonomy and guidelines

## ROUTE-HWF in brief

DURATION:  
01.03.2021–  
28.02.2024

33  
European countries  
surveyed

6  
in-depth  
case studies

5  
national  
workshops

1.5  
day consensus  
building workshop

1  
final  
roadmap

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- *Participate* in the European online *survey* on medical deserts
- *Take part* in national *stakeholder workshops* in the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Poland and Croatia
- *Participate* in an in-depth national *case study* of medical deserts
- *Take part* in joint *research* on medical deserts
- *Contribute* to an European *expert workshop* to discuss the ROUTE-HWF roadmap
- *Check out* the ROUTE-HWF *website* to stay connected to our activities and outputs
- *Listen* to our *thematic webinars* to learn about our results
- *Sign up* for the ROUTE-HWF *newsletter*
- *Follow* ROUTE-HWF on *Twitter* and *LinkedIn*



### Contact information

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