

# MAKING MEDICAL DESERTS BLOOM

A lack of specialist doctors in a municipality. Difficulties to retain general practitioners in a remote area. Barriers to attract midwives to a rural community. Challenges in recruiting young nurses in a poor city. Scarce stock to replace retiring health workers. Lengthy waiting times and long distances when accessing health primary care services. These issues can be condensed in two words “**medical deserts**” and are linked to variables affecting the demand and the supply side of healthcare, such as depopulation linked to ageing, skill mismatches, changing expectations of citizens, and so on.

A number of people in Europe, to varying extents, live these challenges and their consequences on a daily basis. There are territories in Europe where inhabitants lack proper access to healthcare.

While the expression “medical desert” may sound simple, it actually refers to a complex phenomenon, that is yet to be fully investigated and tackled in its scope and modes.

**The OASES project, led by a consortium of European partners, has the ambition to bring research and policies in this field a step further.** The mission of OASES is to represent a source of knowledge on European medical deserts by means of carrying out an analysis of medical desertification in Europe, implementing pilot studies and identifying mitigating measures that can help health authorities address the issue.

## The project will act to:

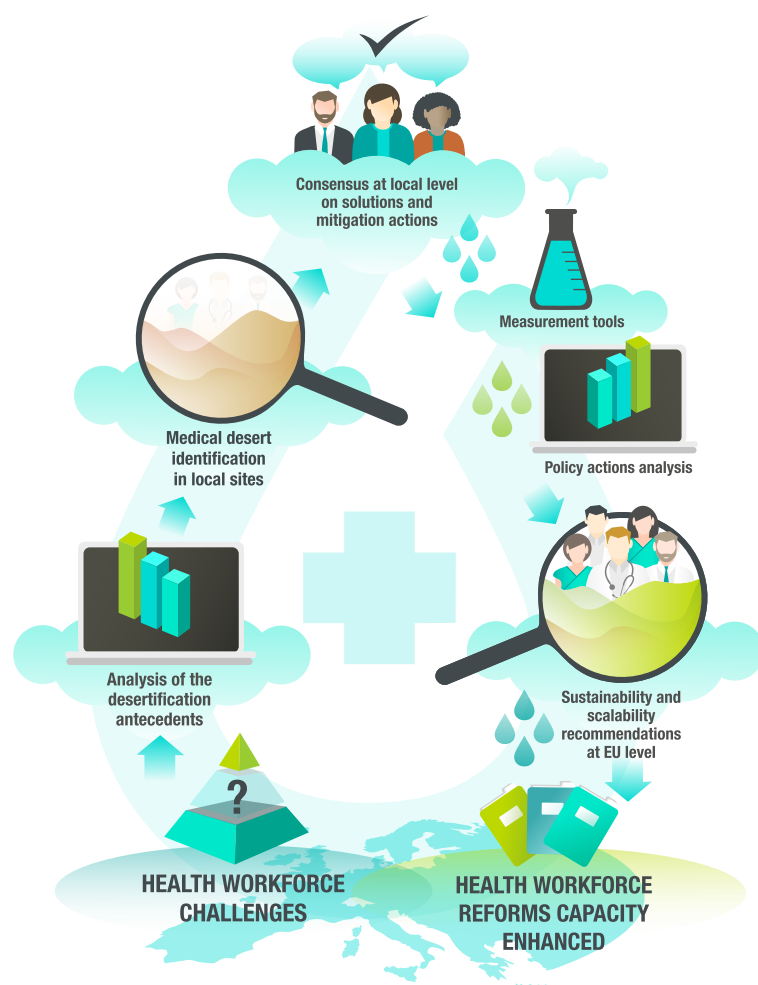
- enhance and share knowledge on medical deserts;
- identify and analyse aspects that are relevant to reforms on medical deserts;
- organise dialogues and events to present lessons learnt;
- provide materials that can be useful for healthcare authorities and providers.

## OASES consortium:

**Coordinator:** Agenzia Nazionale per i Servizi Sanitari Regionali (IT)

## Partners:

- Agentia Nationala Pentru Sanatate Publica (MD)
- Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sante Publique (FR)
- Institut de Recherche et Documentation en Economie de la Sante (FR)
- International Network for Health Workforce Education (CY)
- Terveyden ja Hyvinvoinnin Laitos (FI)
- Semmelweis Egyetem (HU)
- Universitatea Babes Bolyai (RO)



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