

Who are we?

The Small Countries Initiative is a political, technically informed initiative comprised of 12 countries with 2 million inhabitants or fewer in the WHO European Region (Andorra, Cyprus, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Slovenia).

It started in 2013 as a laboratory for innovation and solutions for health-related needs in Small countries. It is coordinated by the Healthy Settings Programme of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development (Venice, Italy), of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

The Small Countries Initiative

a laboratory for innovation

The Secretariat of the Small Countries Initiative is housed at the WHO European Centre for Investment for Health and Development (Venice, Italy.)
For further information and/or to arrange a telephone call, please contact the SCI Secretariat at: Bettina Menne, Lazar Nikolic - eurosci@who.int
Website: <https://www.who.int/europe/initiatives/small-countries-initiative>
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What are our objectives?

Our objectives are to:

- ◆ place health and well-being high on the key political agendas of small countries;
- ◆ advocate for the needs of small countries at the regional and international levels;
- ◆ promote investment for health and well-being, leaving no one behind;
- ◆ build a solutions platform for better population health and resilient health systems; and
- ◆ measure progress.

What are our priorities for 2024–25



EMERGENCIES

- ▷ COVID-19 response and sustained disease control
- ▷ Government-level preparation for future emergencies



UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

- ▷ Primary health care
- ▷ Human resources for health
- ▷ Health financing
- ▷ Mental health
- ▷ Digital health
- ▷ Access to medicines and vaccines



HEALTHIER POPULATIONS

- ▷ Health and tourism
- ▷ Climate change and environmental risks
- ▷ Noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors
- ▷ Equity, gender and human rights

What do we do?

We cooperate:

- ◆ at the political level, addressing and advocating for the needs of small countries at the national and international level;
- ◆ at the technical level, through knowledge exchange, coalition building, direct public health support and through innovation laboratories; and
- ◆ at the resource level, by communicating successes and experiences, sharing knowledge.

We keep our members connected, through:

- ◆ cooperation among SCI Focal Points;
- ◆ annual meetings, study visits, training, seminars and webinars;
- ◆ joint policy briefs and publications;
- ◆ weekly news outreach; and
- ◆ engagement in WHO technically- and politically-informed activities.

Iceland

Estonia

Latvia

Luxembourg

San Marino

Monaco

Andorra

Montenegro

Malta

Slovenia

North Macedonia

Cyprus

Not applicable
0 500 1000 2000 km

