

# **Statement from the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Visegrad Group**

**Budapest, 20 of February – 23 of February 2018**

We, the Health Ministers of the V4 countries hereby would like to confirm our commitment to actively participate in combating noncommunicable diseases, in particular addressing nutritional risk factors and all forms of malnutrition.

We believe it is important to continue our efforts to halt the increasing trend of childhood obesity in our countries by taking appropriate interventions and providing the allocation of the necessary resources to achieve a more favourable trend in the prevalence of obesity in the region. These actions should focus not only on obesity prevention measures, but also strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the health care systems providing obesity care for both children and adults.

General practitioners have a significant role in the health care system. The countries of the Visegrad group, just like many European countries share a human resource problem in general practice (GP). Building capacity for GP, and extension of primary health care is an urgent challenge for which action should be taken regarding several European countries, as well as regarding the Visegrad region.

Pressure on primary care caused by the clear tendencies in morbidity and population's aging seen in developed countries such as the countries of the V4 region, calls for changes in the structure and the organization of the primary care system. The development procedure of the primary care system should focus on its financing methods, and quality, outcome and other items should be taken into account as well.

We find it of the utmost importance, as a result of previous meetings, to hold well and ahead of time prepared expert meetings in the framework of particular V4 presidency with the aim to find common solutions and proposals for the analogous problems arising in the general practice of the V4 countries.

We should consider taking collective action to strengthen essential public health services and capacities across the region. We should search for mechanism that strengthen community of practice for learning, innovating and strengthening management practices within public health services; and new solutions, tools and projects to support the delivery of essential public health operations with aims to significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities and strengthen public health.

Signed in Budapest, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018, in English language.



For the Ministry of Health  
of the Czech Republic



For the Ministry of Health  
of the Republic of Poland



For the Ministry of Human Capacities  
of Hungary



For the Ministry of Health  
of the Slovak Republic