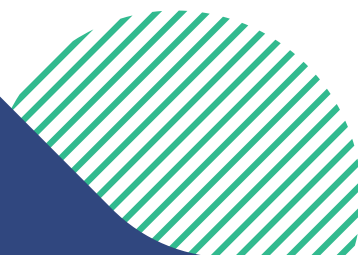




Vision statement on Latvian healthcare

DECEMBER 2019



Predictable and smart policy improvements, inclusiveness of all involved stakeholders and evidence-based decision making are the pillars for sustainable reforms in healthcare benefiting each member of society, while ensuring an attractive business environment.

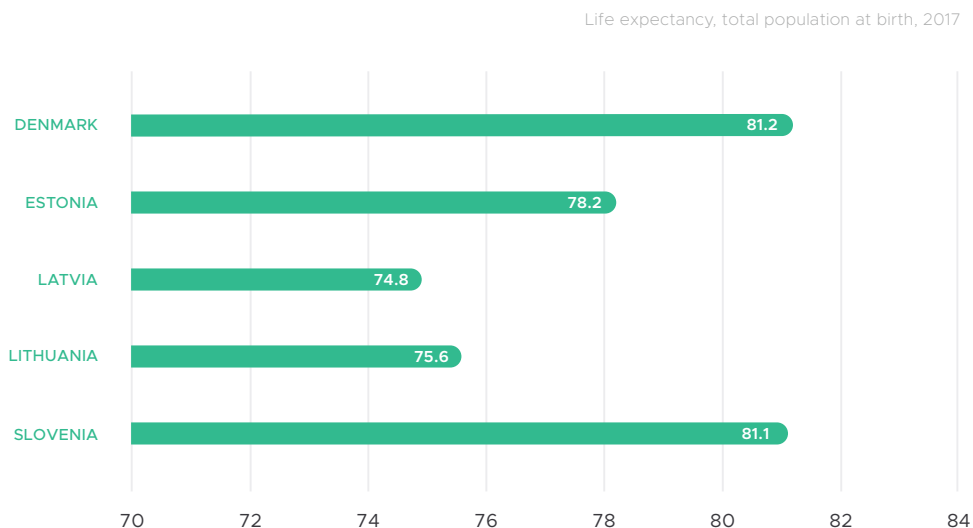
Innovation in health technology – medicines, medical devices, diagnostic technologies, and increasingly, digital health – is transforming the way how healthcare systems are organized.

Healthier population and workforce drive the economic development of the country.

Vision

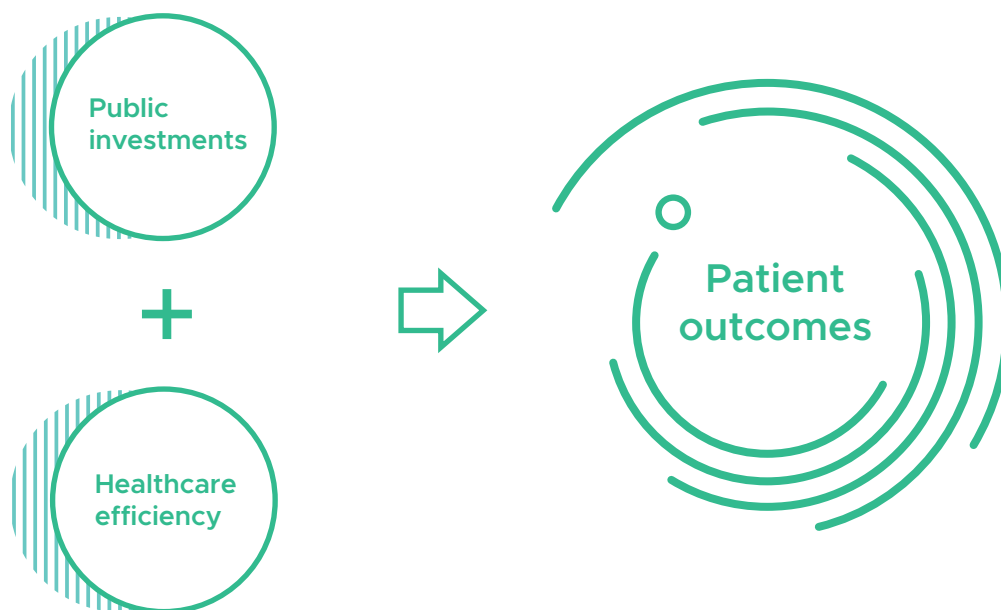
Our shared vision is longer and healthier lives for our society. Better patient outcomes are the ultimate goal of all involved parties, resulting in an enriched and more productive society.

The low life expectancy amidst demographic challenges, increasing prevalence of chronic illnesses and workforce shortages indicate an urgent investment in the availability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare services to minimize the gap vs. other developed countries.

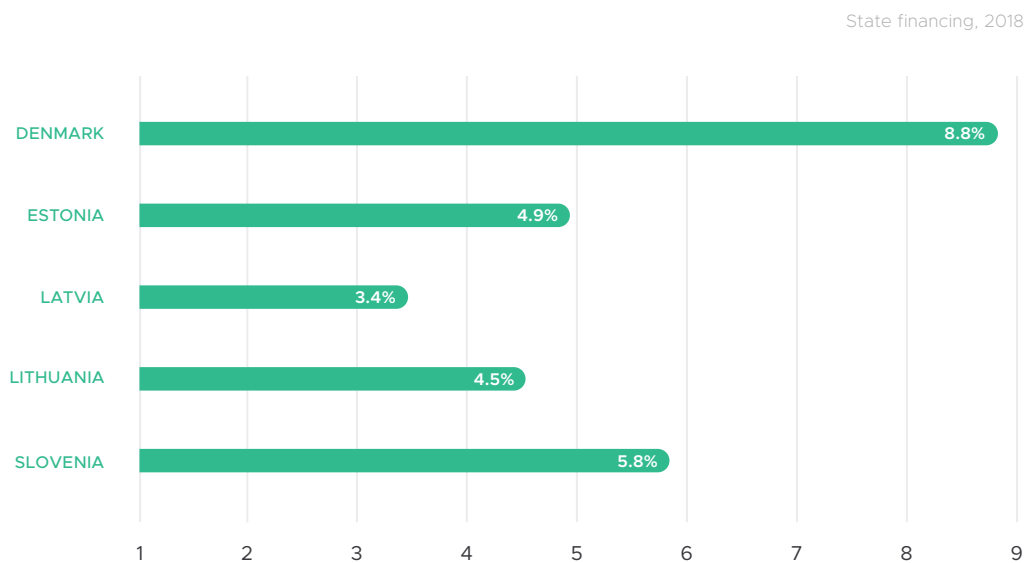


Source: ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Patient outcomes are primarily determined by public investments and cost-effectiveness of the system. Individual lifestyle choices are equally important but cannot be improved without smart policies on prevention, which are sufficiently funded and ensure that vulnerable groups are not left behind.

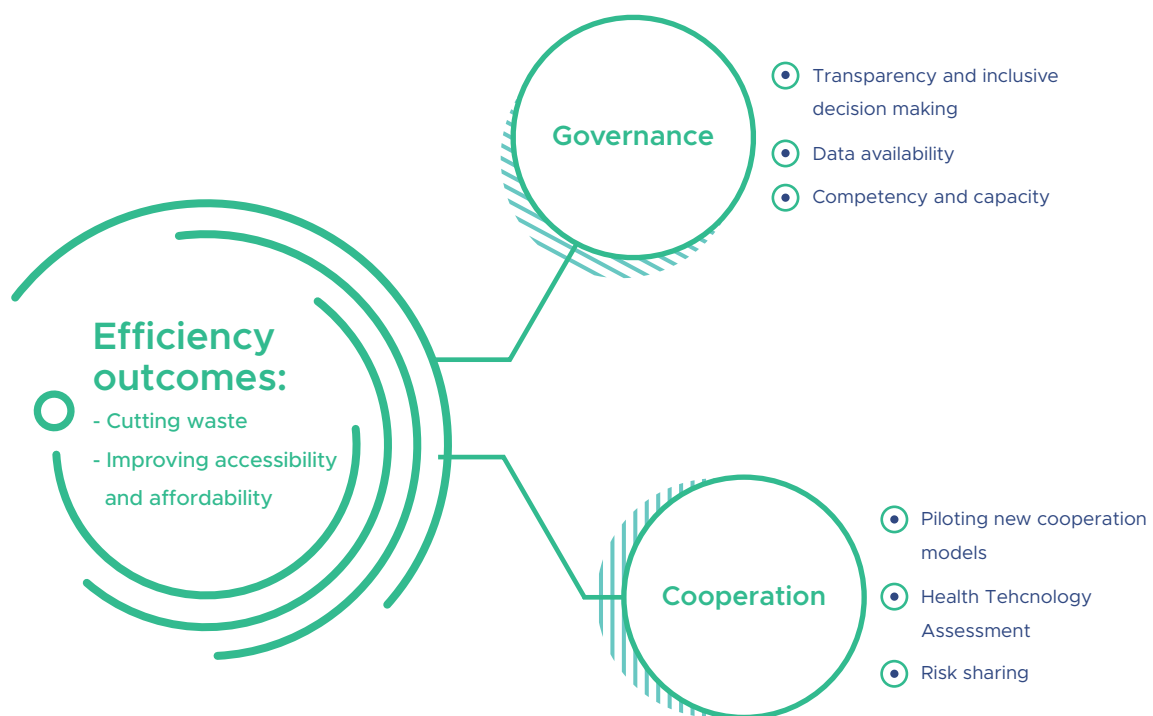


We positively recognize recent ongoing and proposed reforms in healthcare. AmCham notes the development of a positive political discourse on future healthcare investments. At the same time we have identified issues that need to be addressed by policy makers. AmCham through its members are willing to contribute and cooperate with state institutions to improve the quality and efficiency of the healthcare system in Latvia. We support necessary increase for healthcare financing.



Source: ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Low public spending and high out-of-pocket expenditure is a critical issue for Latvia. The OECD Economic Survey Latvia (May 2019) and the EU Council Country Specific Recommendations for Latvia (June 2019) both advise to increase public spending on healthcare to provide accessibility and quality of healthcare services and reduce out-of-pocket payments to ensure equal opportunities, especially for vulnerable social groups. We positively note Health Ministry's direction towards increased governance at regional hospitals to ensure high-tech and high-competence requiring technologies are centralized at excellence centers; thus, leading to efficiencies, equal and standardized approach, and better patient outcomes. Strengthening of primary care while secondary and tertiary care becomes more distant could play an important role in increasing trust and engagement towards the reforms.



In addition to increasing health budget, ensuring proper salaries to the medical personnel, increasing the efficiency of hospitals and improving e-health, some of the issues that need immediate attention include:

- Limited healthcare funding and short-term budgeting issues with unsustainable risk-sharing solutions
- Lack of transparency and consistency in priority setting and decision-making
- Immature data infrastructure and connectivity, need for real world data framework
- Lack of patients/disease registers where epidemiological, disease, treatment and treatment outcomes data would be provided

AmCham Healthcare group has come up with several proposals including specific pilot projects* that could help address some of the identified issues aiming to create more efficient, fair, inclusive and sustainable health care system with improved healthcare outcomes contributing to the development of the Latvian economy and society.

AmCham's Healthcare Working Group

AmCham's Healthcare Working Group is an executive forum for companies and organizations from across various healthcare industries. It brings together international experience and perspective from both domestic and foreign healthcare companies aiming to improve the quality and access of healthcare.

AmCham Healthcare group contribution:

- Support Latvia healthcare policy improvements through an open dialogue with state institutions and other stakeholders;
- Provide local and international perspective and experience to promote increased efficiency, modernization and innovation in the healthcare system.

* The pilot projects can be consulted at the following web address: <https://www.amcham.lv/en/programs/advocacy/healthcare>

AmCham Latvia

Thought leadership hub

AmCham speaks on behalf of more than 150 leading U.S. and international companies in Latvia. It is committed to fostering trade, investment, partnership and friendship between the U.S and Latvia and serving as a business, knowledge, networking and policy forum for its members and partners.

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