

WHO BARCELONA COURSE ON HEALTH FINANCING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

23–27 NOVEMBER 2026, BARCELONA, SPAIN



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COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual WHO Barcelona course on health financing for universal health coverage will be held on 23–27 November 2026 – an intensive training program offered by the WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Financing, part of the Division of Health Systems of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, with the financial assistance of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia, Spain.

COURSE CONTENT

The course reviews policy instruments that are effective in improving health system performance through better health financing policy. It focuses on sustaining and strengthening affordable access to health care and addressing financial sustainability challenges related to population ageing, slower economic growth and the increasing cost of service delivery. The course is built around the following modules:

Coordinating health system reform: aligning policy instruments with policy objectives

Financial protection: securing affordable access to health care

Raising and pooling revenues: getting more money for health

Purchasing health care: getting more health for the money

Aligning financial incentives and service delivery modalities: improving care coordination and patient health outcomes

TARGET GROUPS

The course is designed for participants from the WHO European Region:

- policy-makers in the health sector,
- policy-makers in charge of social policy,
- senior managers of health insurance funds and purchaser agencies,
- senior managers of service provider organizations, and
- experts involved in health system reform.

Candidates should have prior training in health systems and extensive work experience. The course is delivered in English.



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VENUE

The course will be held in Casa de Convalecència, a splendid example of late modernist architecture. The building was originally designed for and used as a hospital facility. Since 1969 it has belonged to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and has hosted many high-profile academic events.

VISA

Accepted applicants are responsible for obtaining a visa, if one is needed. WHO will provide formal invitation letters on request. Please note that obtaining a visa may take several weeks, so early application is advised.

REGISTRATION FEE

Accepted applicants will be charged a registration fee of €100 to secure participation in the course. The registration fee is payable upon acceptance of the application. Once paid, this payment is non-refundable in case of cancellation. The registration fee is waived for applicants from Catalonia, Spain.

OTHER COSTS

WHO covers the cost of tuition, course materials, coffee breaks and lunches on all five days of the course, plus one dinner reception. Participants (or their funding agency) will be responsible for covering the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence while in Barcelona. Special rates will be arranged at hotels close to the venue.

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DEADLINE

Interested applicants must submit a completed application form by 23 September 2026. Participants will be selected based on the relevance of course topics to the applicant's work functions, level of previous training in health systems strengthening, and language abilities. Space is limited.

Acceptance decisions will be communicated by 7 October 2026 (or earlier in case a visa application is required). Accepted applicants will be asked to confirm their participation and show proof of payment of the registration fee (if applicable) to secure a place on the course.

APPLICATION

To secure a place, applicants are invited to submit a completed online application form available at: <https://bit.ly/whobarcelonacourse>

Scan the code:

