The delivery and organisation of healthcare falls within the remit of Member States. The Commission supports Member States’ efforts to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in line with their commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In June 2022, the Commission presented the Healthier together - EU non-communicable diseases initiative on reducing the burden of NCDs\(^1\). In parallel, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-communicable Diseases advises in the selection of best practices that could be scaled up at European level\(^2\). In this context, Member States can suggest if they prioritise action to reinforce oral health.

Similarly, the competence to reserve access to a profession to holders of certain professional qualifications belongs to Member States. European standards of competences, knowledge and skills can guarantee a certain level of expertise, but do not necessarily lead to the education being organised at the same level. However, in case the current regulatory situation undermines patient safety, a standard could remediate this.

Any profession meeting the requirements of Article 49a of Directive 2005/36/EC\(^3\), for which a Common Training Framework (CTF) could lessen existing barriers in the Single Market, is an interesting candidate for the establishment of a CTF, after a due consultation process with Member States and stakeholders. However, the purpose of a CTF is not to fully harmonise the regulation or education leading to a profession, but to define a minimum level of knowledge, skills, and competences in order to facilitate mobility for establishment purposes.

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