

Marius-Ionuț Ungureanu, MD, PhD

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Profile

Marius-Ionuț Ungureanu is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (www.publichealth.ro). He is also Founding Director and Senior Fellow for Policy and Strategy of the university's Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. He serves on the editorial boards of *Health Policy* and *Human Resources for Health*.

He earned his MD and his PhD in Medicine (Public Health) from "Iuliu Hațieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca. He also holds a BA in Management from Babeș-Bolyai University and a master's degree in Healthcare Management from Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu. He was a Fogarty International Scholar at the University of Iowa and the University of California, Berkeley, and a visiting scholar at UCLA.

His research covers health workforce planning, policy and governance; medical deserts and access to care in rural areas; community health workers; health service management education; patient safety and the second victim phenomenon; informal payments in health care; and quality management in health services.

He has served as Deputy Minister of Health in Romania, and as Chief of Staff and Advisor to the Health Minister. He has consulted for the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF, the OECD and the World Bank on health workforce and health systems reform.

He teaches graduate courses at the Cluj School of Public Health on health systems; healthcare organization, delivery and financing; healthcare management; and public health leadership. At Johns Hopkins, he coordinates the Global Health Established Field Placement program in Romania and co-teaches the summer school course on Prospective Policy Analysis.

Potential areas of collaboration

1. Research, innovation and capacity building at the Department of Public Health. The department offers a broad base for joint research, development, innovation and capacity building.

Research topics

- health workforce planning, policy and governance
- health systems and health policy analysis
- healthcare management and quality of care
- access to care, medical deserts and rural health
- primary, community and school health services
- patient safety
- health promotion and disease prevention
- maternal and child health
- digital health

Capacity building

- bachelor's and master's programmes in public health and in health policy and management
- tailored professional training for health managers, policymakers and practitioners

- summer schools
- international academic placements and research internships for students and early-career researchers

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2. Gateway to European professional networks. He can facilitate collaboration with the leading European associations in public health and health management:

- the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), where he is President of the Health and Care Workforce Section, a Governing Board member and a member of the Advisory Board of the EUPHA President
- the European Health Management Association (EHMA), where he served on the Board of Directors from 2024 to 2026
- the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)

<https://eupha.org> | <https://ehma.org> | <https://www.aspher.org>

3. EU-funded projects on access to care. He has extensive experience developing and implementing projects under EU4Health and its predecessor, Horizon Europe and Erasmus+. In OASES, he led the pilot studies and coordinated the Babeş-Bolyai team. The project tackled medical deserts through skill mix, task shifting, e-health, and recruitment and retention policies for rural and underserved areas.

<https://oasesproject.eu>

4. EU-funded projects on workforce skills. In BeWell, he coordinates the Babeş-Bolyai team within a 24-partner alliance across 11 countries. The alliance is building a European strategy, curricula and training on digital and green skills for the health and care workforce.

<https://bewell-project.eu>

5. Horizon Europe partnerships on health system transformation. He coordinates Babeş-Bolyai's participation in the European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS). The partnership addresses ageing populations, workforce shortages and the sustainability of health and care systems, challenges closely shared with Japan.

<https://www.thcspartnership.eu>

6. Health innovation and entrepreneurship. He is co-founder of Healthbase, a startup that turns public health and health systems expertise into practical innovation.

<https://healthbase.tech/>