

Pfarrkirchen Declaration

On the Establishment of the Master of Digital Health Alliance (MDHA)

Pfarrkirchen, Germany – 14 November 2025, at International Congress DigiHealthDayS-2025

On 13 November 2025, leaders and representatives from institutions of higher education, professional bodies, and digital health stakeholders from around the world convened – both onsite at the European Campus Rottal-Inn of Deggendorf Institute of Technology, in Pfarrkirchen, Germany, and through virtual participation.

Recalling the accelerating transformation of healthcare systems worldwide and recognizing the need for a workforce capable of responsibly and effectively navigating emerging digital technologies resulted in the following declaration as an outcome of the deliberations:

1. The participants acknowledge the urgent global imperative to rapidly expand the skilled, future-ready workforce equipped to advance digitally enabled health care to strengthen patient safety, quality of care, and equitable access to health services for all, and thus to respond to the evolving needs of health systems, societies, and economies.
2. They affirm that a Master of Digital Health (MDH) degree constitutes a critical academic pathway for developing such expertise and that this degree should be anchored in a coherent, internationally recognizable framework ensuring academic rigor, quality, and global professional relevance.
3. They express their intention to consider establishing a global collaborative platform – hereafter referred to as the Master of Digital Health Alliance (MDHA) – dedicated to developing and promoting a common core of digital health competences that will encourage cross-border mobility of these trained professionals. The formation of a civil law partnership in accordance with the German Civil Code (BGB) is expressly excluded.
4. They deliberated on the foundational scope of the MDHA, including but not limited to:
 - raising awareness about the importance of digital health literacy,
 - the value of a common core competency and curriculum framework reflecting global standards while remaining adaptable to local and sectoral needs, and
 - principles for the delivery, evaluation, and continuous enhancement of digital health education.
5. It is envisaged that options to achieve sustainability, for example through public funding, will be explored. The Alliance organization as a whole is intended to evolve in a phased and inclusive manner, starting as a voluntary and informal community to enable broad participation while allowing the structure to mature organically. The internal governance arrangements are not yet defined and will be established subsequently. This understanding does not create any financial obligations; should such commitments be considered, they would be subject to a separate agreement.

With this Declaration, the participants express their intention to foster international cooperation in digital health education and to encourage the development of MDHA as a credible, globally representative, and academically robust platform.

Adopted in Pfarrkirchen, Germany, on 14 November 2025.

For dissemination to the international community.

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