Importance of health system performance measurement in the European Union

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Structure of the presentation:

1) Why Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) in the EU?
2) What's there on HSPA in the EU?
3) Who deals with HSPA in the EU?
4) Main challenges.
5) The way forward.
Why Health Systems Performance Assessment in the EU?

Council conclusions on the sustainability of public finances in the light of ageing populations

Brussels, 15 May 2012

Annual Growth Survey 2013
Brussels, 28.11.2012
COM(2012) 750 final

Investing in Health
Brussels, 20.2.2013
SWD(2013) 43 final

The problems caused by the economic crisis, coupled with more structural changes in demography and the types of diseases affecting populations in Europe, reinforce the necessity to reform and modernise those systems. The EU can help Member States do so, to improve cost-efficiency through sound innovation and contribute to a better assessment of the performance of health systems.

1.4. Developing tools to better assess the efficiency of health systems
1. Health at glance EU

1.5. Infant health: low birth weight

Low birth weight—defined as a weight at birth of less than 2.5 kg—is an important indicator of infant health because of the close relationship between birth weight and infant mortality and morbidity. Rates of low birth weight in Europe are relatively high, and these rates have varied significantly over the years. Factors influencing low birth weight include various maternal and fetal conditions, and there is a strong relationship between low birth weight and other adverse health outcomes, such as infant mortality, childhood morbidity, and the risk of developing chronic disease later in life.

In the European Union in 2019, the prevalence of low birth weight infants was 7.5% (8.4% in the EU-28). This figure has been stable over recent years, with rates varying between countries. The highest rates were observed in Malta, Portugal, and Spain, while the lowest rates were seen in the Netherlands and Ireland. Low birth weight rates are higher in the Southern and Eastern regions of the EU compared to the Northern and Western regions.

Deficiency and comparability

Low birth weight is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the weight of a live-born infant at birth of less than 2.5 kg. Other factors that may influence the rate of low birth weight include maternal health, nutrition, and access to prenatal care. Low birth weight can also be influenced by social and economic factors, such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare. Despite these challenges, efforts to improve maternal health and reduce low birth weight are ongoing in many countries.
What's there on HSPA in the EU?

2. Heidi data tool
What’s there on HSPA in the EU?

3. Joint report on health systems

Joint Report on Health Systems

prepared by the European Commission and the Economic Policy Committee (AWG)
What's there on HSPA in the EU?
4. Research projects
Who deals with HSPA in the EU?

**European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**
- Surveillance
- Health communication

**Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)**
- Management of the health programme
- Grants, studies, joint actions, ...

**Council Senior Level Working Party**
- Reflection process
- Sub group on HSPA

**DG SANCO - C2 "Health information"**
- ECHI Indicators
- Heidi Data Tool
- Health at a glance EU

**DG SANCO - D2 "Healthcare systems"**
- Reflection process
- European Semester / MoUs
- Studies and analysis

**DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**
- Joint Assessment Framework
- Social Protection Performance Monitor
- Peer Reviews

**DG Research and Innovation**
- EuroBEACH project
- EuroHOPE project
- ECHO project

**Eurostat**
- Statistics on income and living conditions (SILC)
- System of health accounts (SHA)
- European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS)
- Classification of the functions of government (COFOG)
- European health information survey (EHIS)
- European health examination survey (EHES)

**European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (EUROFOUND)**
- Surveys
- Comparative reports

**Health and Consumers**
- Joint report on health systems (with EPC)
- Work on health systems sustainability
- Cost-containment in pharmaceuticals
HSPA in the EU: Main challenges.

1) No established tradition
2) No policy-making orientation
3) Absence of continuity
4) Incomplete data sets, sometimes out of date
5) Inconsistency and data duplication
6) Incomparability of data
HSPA in the EU: The way forward.

1) Agreement on definition and methodologies
2) Useful support to policy-making
3) Continuity of information
4) Complete and timely data sets
5) Coherent and harmonised data
6) Comparable data
Useful links:


• The European Semester: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/index_en.htm


• Heidi data tool: http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/indicators/index_en.htm


Thank you.

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