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JOINT OECD AND WHO MEETING ON FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF HEALTH SYSTEMS IN CENTRAL, EASTERN, AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (CESEE)

AGENDA

Tallinn, Estonia,
28-29 June 2012

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The issue of sustainability of health spending across Europe is pressing. In most countries of Eastern Europe health expenditures are rising whilst the revenue base for sustaining health spending is declining due to decrease in the population in the workforce. Health systems in CESEE countries share many common institutional characteristics. Almost all of the countries in the region have some type of social insurance system, where responsibility is split between Ministries of Health, Health Insurance Funds and Ministries of Finance. This presents a complex challenge of co-ordination in order to achieve sustainability, but also an opportunity for countries with similar challenges and systems to compare experiences and to learn from one another.

In order to maximize impact and exploit synergies, the OECD and the WHO Regional Office for Europe joined forces for this meeting of on the Financial Sustainability of Health Systems. This allows bringing together health and finance officials as well as key international organisations. Our technical meeting is held in conjunction with OECD's **Senior Budget Officials (SBO) Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern European Network meeting**, and on the afternoon of 29 June, participants of the two meetings will join for a plenary session to share findings and to discuss the role of the Budget Office in maintaining the fiscal sustainability of health systems.

Day 1 - June 28th

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:00 **Introduction**

- **Geert Van Maanen,** Secretary General, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, **Netherlands**: Introduction to the Joint Network on the Financial Sustainability of Health Systems.
- **Hans Kluge,** Director, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, **World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe**: Bringing together health and finance perspectives to address the issue of financial sustainability of health systems.
- **Edwin Lau** and **Tamás Evetovits**: Introduction to the agenda.

10:00-11:30 **Session 1 - Estonian case study: Roundtable discussion on how institutions can work together to ensure financial sustainability**

- **Ivi Normet,** Deputy Secretary General for Health, **Ministry of Social Affairs**.
- **Hannes Danilov,** Head of Management Board, **Estonian Health Insurance Fund**.
- **Ivar Sikk,** Deputy Secretary General, **Ministry of Finance**.
- Introduction and discussion facilitated by **Sarah Thomson,** Senior Research Fellow, **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies**.

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:15 **Session 2 - Challenges of financial sustainability of health systems**

- **Tamás Evetovits,** Senior Health Financing Specialist, Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening, **World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe**: The response to the economic crisis in Europe.
- **Edwin Lau**, **OECD**: OECD experience on fiscal sustainability
- **Owen Smith,** Senior Health Economist, Europe and Central Asia Region, **World Bank**: Lessons for last decade of reform.

Discussion facilitated by **Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Office for Europe.**

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:00 **<u>Session 3</u> - Securing stable revenue for health: earmarking and/or counter-cyclical policies. Priority to health in government budget allocation**

- **Anita Charlesworth, Nuffield Trust:** Securing stable revenue for health without earmarking – The UK experience.
- Country presentations
  - Czech Republic
  - Netherlands
  - Lithuania
  - Moldova

Roundtable discussion facilitated by **Michael Borowitz, OECD Secretariat**.

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:15 **<u>Session 4</u> - Hungarian Case study on the challenges to securing stable financing for health**

- Introduction to the case and discussion facilitated by **Tamás Evetovits, WHO Europe**.

17:15-17:45 **Summary of key messages of the day for the joint meeting (Sarah Thomson, European Observatory)**

19:30 Evening programme hosted by the Estonian authorities. Busses will leave from the Swissôtel at 19:00.

Day 2 - June 29th

9:00-10:15 **Session 5 - Hard and soft budget constraint: successes and failures**

- **Patrick Jeurissen**, Co-ordinator, Strategy and knowledge management group, Economic Affairs and Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, **Netherlands:** Budget constraints for hospitals in a multi-payer system.
- **Invited interventions:** Budget constraints for hospitals and pharmaceuticals in single and multi-payer systems.
  - Latvia
  - Slovakia
  - UK

  Discussion facilitated by **Edwin Lau**, **OECD**.

10:15-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00 **Session 6 - Projections of health spending and discussion on how Ministries of Finance and Health can work together**

- **Michael Borowitz, OECD:** OECD experience on health spending projections.
- Discussant: **Anita Charlesworth, Nuffield Trust**.
- **Edwin Lau, OECD:** Findings on arrangements between Ministries of Health, Ministries of Finance, and Health Insurance Funds in managing health expenditure.

Discussion facilitated by **Michael Borowitz**, **OECD**.

12:00-12:30 **Summary of key messages for the joint meeting**

12:30-14:00 Lunch

Plenary Session with Senior Budget Officials' CESEE Regional Network

14:00-15:30 **The role of the Budget Office in maintaining the financial sustainability of health systems**

- Introduction by meeting Chairs, **Geert van Maanen** and **Ivana Jakir Bajo**.
- **Hanno Pevkur,** Minister of Social Affairs, **Estonia**: Sustainability of Health Financing in Estonia.
- **Tamás Evetovits,** Senior Health Financing Specialist, Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening, **WHO Regional Office for Europe**: Financial sustainability in the context of economic crisis.
- **Edwin Lau**, **OECD Secretariat**: What is the role of the Budget Office for managing the financial sustainability of health systems?

15:30-16:00 **Concluding comments**

- **OECD Secretariat**
- **Hans Kluge,** Director, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, **World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe**.
- **Ivana Jakir Bajo,** Director, State Budget Execution, Ministry of Finance, **Croatia**.