

Programme
4th October 2005, Bad Gastein, Salzburg, Austria

Improving Health Care Infrastructure in an Enlarged Europe



The European Coordination Committee
of the Radiological
and Electromedical Industry



Improving health care infrastructure in an enlarged Europe

The case for investment in health infrastructure in the new EU Member States

Programme

Monday, 3 October (19:00 - 22:00)

Welcome evening

Welcome address

Frank Anton, Chairman, European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Medical IT Industries

Key note:

Improving Health Care Infrastructure in an enlarged Europe

Jean-Claude Healy, Director, Office of the ADG, External Relations and Governing Bodies, WHO

Reception

Tuesday, 4 October (09:00 - 17:30)

I. Setting the scene: Investing in health in an enlarged Europe

The health situation in New Member States - Why is investment required

Jenő Rácz, Minister of Health, Hungary

Health Care and its role for European Policy

High-level Representative of the European Commission (tbc)

Health's contribution to European Growth and Competitiveness

Philippe Brunet, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Kyprianou (tbc)

Supporting EU health care infrastructure development: The EU eHealth Action Plan

Gerard Comyn, Head of Unit, Directorate ICT for Citizens and Businesses, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission

II. The benefits of investment in health care

Improving health care - The need for investment

Michèle Barzach, Conseil en Stratégie de Santé, former Minister of Health, France

Improving health care through quality and technology

Martine Durand, Deputy Director, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

Technology use case: Workflow orientation through technology in health care

Rainer Rienmüller, Professor and Head of Department for General Radiological Diagnostics, University Hospital Graz

Case study:

Improving health care quality - Mammography screening

M.A.O. Thijssen, Rijnstate hospital NL

III. Learning from European experiences and exchanging best practice

Investing in health care through EU Structural Funds

Representative from DG REGIO (tba)

Case studies:

Developing a national plan

Hugo Mesquita, Department of Health, Portugal

How to identify and develop a national project for health care investment

Mieczyslaw Pasowicz, Vice-President, European Association of Hospital Managers

IV. Moderated panel discussion:

Improving Health Care Infrastructure in an enlarged Europe

Moderator: Michèle Barzach, Conseil en Stratégie de Santé, former Minister of Health, France

Panelists (in alphabetical order):

Frank Anton, Chairman, European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Medical IT Industries

Mircea Cinteza, Minister of Health, Romania (tbc)

Martine Durand, Deputy Director, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

Jean-Claude Healy, Director, Office of the ADG, External Relations and Governing Bodies, WHO
Mieczyslaw Pasowicz, Vice-President, European Association of Hospital Managers
Representative(s) of the European Commission (tba)

Closing

Booking Information

We provide a variety of services to assist you during your stay. Booking the congress and your accommodation through the International Forum Gastein will ensure that you benefit from the following services: direct shuttle service from Salzburg Airport (75 minutes) or Schwarzach-St. Veit/Bad Gastein railway stations; participation in all sessions and social events for all participants and partners.

For further information and a registration form, please contact the IFG office or visit our homepage at www.healthinvestment.org.

Information on the 8th European Health Forum Gastein (October 5th to 8th) can be found at: www.ehfg.org

All information in this announcement is subject to change.

Congress fees (including 20% VAT)

Standard fee	EUR 250
Company participants*	EUR 1500

* 25% discount available for COCIR members

Accommodation

★★★★★	EUR 142
★★★★deluxe	EUR 126
★★★★	EUR 100
★★★	EUR 84

Accompanying persons (non-participants) staying in the same room pay 60% of the regular hotel rates.

Cancellation fee is 10% of the total amount due until 2nd September 2005, 50% thereafter. Cancellation must be submitted in writing.



The challenges

The Role of Health and Healthcare for Economic Development



With around 8.6% of GDP within the EU-15, the health sector represents one of the largest shares of GDP and employs approximately 10% of the workforce. There is evidence that investing in health brings substantial benefit also for the economy. The WHO concluded that an increase of 10 years in average life expectancy leads to a growth of 0.35% in a country's GDP. On the other hand, ill health is a heavy financial burden. 50% of the growth differential between rich and poor countries is due to ill-health and life expectancy¹.

The Lisbon Strategy: Investing in Human Capital



A change of paradigm is taking place: health expenditure can no longer be considered a burden, but must be seen as an investment in the future of a country.

The European Commission highlights the importance of maintaining a healthy labour force for achieving the goals set in the Lisbon strategy. Good health care is identified as a factor promoting greater participation in the labour market, a longer working life, higher productivity and lower healthcare and social costs. Investment in health infrastructure plays a significant role in developing human capital. The return on investment is people's wellbeing and a healthy workforce.

European Community Strategic Guidelines 2007 - 2013: Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs



Future EU Cohesion policy shall help maintain a healthy labour force and will therefore focus on investment in health infrastructure, particularly in regions where the sector is underdeveloped. Filling the gaps in health infrastructure and the prevention of health risks will be two major lines of action for cohesion policy.

The Investment Situation in the New Member States



The new Member States made considerable progress in preparing their countries for accession to the EU. As healthcare was not part of the conditions for joining and therefore not a very high priority, the health sector in these countries is severely underinvested. Medical equipment, physical conditions in health institutions, as well as the specific health challenges of individual countries require considerable improvement in order to reach levels comparable to those of the EU-15.

¹ "Macroeconomics and health: investing in health for economic development", Report on the Commission on macroeconomics and health, Jeffrey Sachs, WHO, 20 December 2001



Building a Modern Health Infrastructure

This process should focus on the conditions necessary to keep people healthy as well as meeting the needs of people and patients and on curing people in case of illness. The whole process of care, from prevention to early diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and (home) care must be emphasized, as a high-quality health infrastructure is the enabler for a modern and efficient healthcare system.

The EU Regional Policies and Healthcare

Regional policy instruments are foreseen to fund investment in health care from 2007. According to the EU financial outlook a total of around EUR 24 billion per year may be provided for regional development until 2013. All the new Member States will be eligible for support, however, decision-makers in the new Member States will not be familiar with the rules and requirements because investment in healthcare has so far not been a priority for EU structural action.

What can we offer?

The conference will precede the prestigious 8th European Health Forum Gastein (October 5th to 8th) and will provide decision-makers with a platform for exchange with peers about sensible investment strategies, the use of innovative technologies, the possibilities for cross-border cooperation, etc. In addition, the relevant departments need to be informed about the procedures required for applications to the Structural Funds. The relevant projects also need to be introduced to the national allocation plan for help from the Structural Funds.

Target audience

- EU level experts
- Policy-makers from the European Institutions, Ministries of Health, Finance and Economic Affairs, Planning, Infrastructure, and Regional Development
- Government representatives making health investment decisions on national, regional, and local level
- Decision-makers from health authorities, insurance and other funding bodies
- Health service and hospital managers
- Representatives of medical specialities and associations
- Industry



International Forum Gastein
Tauernplatz 1
5630 Bad Hofgastein
Austria

Tel. +43 (6432) 3393 270
Fax +43 (6432) 3393 271
info@healthinvestment.org
www.healthinvestment.org