Building sustainable and resilient health systems

Organised by

EUPHA Section Health Services Research, in collaboration with HSR Europe, EHMA and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Aim of the pre-conference

Aim of this pre-conference is to provide building blocks for a joint European research programme – ERA-NET in Horizon 2020 – on sustainable and resilient health systems.

Learning from each other’s health systems and service provision is an important help in identifying common solutions for the major challenges that Europe is facing. Especially with the current need for more financial sustainability of health systems, as exemplified through the European Semester, it is more and more important to identify solutions on how to organise health care in an equitable and efficient manner. A key element is whether such innovations are transferable from one setting to the other, e.g. between hospitals in one country and the other. Often, this transferability is hampered by contextual differences, e.g. in the political, cultural and institutional arrangements of health systems. This hampers the direct copying of policy or service arrangements, e.g. because the roles of relevant health professionals differ or because they are financed in a different manner.

Comparative health systems research can help in that respect, among others by means of large scale multi-county studies or in-depth case studies of one or a few countries. It includes questions such as how to redesign the current provision of services, the types of skills and staff needed to help implement biomedical or preventive interventions, or the alignment of incentives to enable and promote the coordination of care across providers. Answers to these questions can help meso and macro level decision makers in identifying suitable and responsive solutions.

Main topics during the day will include:

1. Addressing the need for and sketching the outline of a joint European research programme on sustainable and resilient health systems;
2. Evaluating the transferability of health services from one country to the other;
3. Discussing the focus and content of a joint research programme, building on past roadmapping activities;
4. Learning from past and current ERA-NET programmes which have had a European research programme;
5. And deciding on a strategy how to coordinate and implement international and national programmes for research in this field.

Target audiences include health services and health systems researchers, health funding bodies, health ministries, European Commission and other stakeholders at national and European level.
Provisional programme

09.30 – 10.30 Opening session: 'Building sustainable and resilient health systems'. Jeni Bremner, EHMA, Peter Groenewegen, NIVEL, The Netherlands, Dirk van den Steen, DG Health & Consumers, European Commission, followed by discussion

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30 Transferability of health services and policies. Chair: Jan-Kees Helderman. Speakers: Ellen Nolte, European Observatory / LSE / LSHTM, Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, followed by discussion

12.30 – 13.30 Networking lunch

13.30 – 15.00 Roadmapping session. 'Discussing the priority topics of a joint research programme'. Chair: Enrique Bernal-Delgado, Speaker: Johan Hansen, NIVEL, The Netherlands, followed by subgroup and plenary discussion

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.30 ERA-NET session. 'Learning from past and current ERA-NET programmes'. Chair: Judith de Jong, NIVEL, the Netherlands, Speakers: Barbara Kerstiëns, DG RTD, Henk Garretsen, TRANZO, The Netherlands and chair ERANID*

16.30 – 16.45 Short break


19.30 Social dinner

Registration fee

The registration fee is €120, which includes buffet lunch and refreshments in the morning and afternoon. There is an optional dinner arrangement on which you will be informed after registration.

Contact persons: Judith de Jong, EUPHA Section Health Services Research, Johan Hansen, HSR Europe

Email: hsr_europe@nivel.nl