



Meeting of European Parliamentary Interest Group on Innovation in Health and Social Care

European Parliament, Brussels, 28.11.2017

Innovative health systems reform: Boosting workforce to meet new demands in healthcare systems

The technological (r)evolution in healthcare provision goes on and leads to new ways of thinking about healthcare. Up till now, the focus has primarily laid on the realisation of separate healthcare performances, patients being transferred from one healthcare professional to another, but this system is costly and not patient-friendly. The future is for integrated healthcare, healthcare professionals working as a team and patients receiving healthcare at home, with the help of technological equipment.

A special meeting on the role to be played by healthcare staff in a new, more patient-friendly environment, was organised by HFE's European Parliament Interest Group on Innovation in Health and Social Care on 28th November 2017 in the European Parliament.



Jan De Maeseneer, Karin Kadenbach, Bert Van Caelenberg, Aurélien Perez, Matthias Wismar

Key speakers were Prof. **Jan De Maeseneer**, Chair of the Expert Panel on Effective ways of Investing in Health, Dr. **Aurélien Perez**, Policy Officer, Performance of National Health Systems Unit, DG SANTE, and Dr. **Matthias Wismar**, Senior Health Policy Analyst at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

The accompanying debate was co-moderated by **Karin Kadenbach** (MEP, Austria) and **Bert Van Caelenberg**, vice-president of HFE, secretary general of Eurofedop.

The overall unemployment rate in the EU was 7.5 % in August 2017, but according to forecasts the need for healthcare staff will be substantial in 2020.

Too much too easily the treatment of patients is centralised in hospitals and this is a costly business. There is a need for rethinking healthcare and changing the focus from hospital care to care in the community. More and more the element of well-being has to be integrated into healthcare. The trust in primary care has to be reinforced.



To close down beds is one way. But when healthcare shifts towards community care without closing down beds, there will be no financial gain.

An important contribution to subjects related to health workforce planning and policy was made by Dr. Aurélien Perez, when he spoke about SEPEN (Support for the Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting Expert Network).

SEPEN is a new EU action plan which will focus on building an expert network on health workforce planning and forecasting. Apart from the exchange of information on good practices and policies as developed by the EU member states, an analysis will be made of the skills which will be required in the sector in the future.

The project will run from 2017 to 2020 and relevant information can be found on the [website](#) of EU Health Workforce.

For more info on the meeting which took place on 28.11.2017, see the report with relevant links on HFE's [website](#).

Extra information online:

- [Civil society and health: Contributions and potential](#)
- [How can structured cooperation between countries address health workforce challenges related to highly specialized health care?](#)
- [High commendation](#), BMA Medical Book Awards: [Strengthening Health System Governance: Better policies, stronger performance](#)