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Roundtable jointly organised by Health First Europe and TO-REACH

European Parliament, Brussels, 29 January 2018

Identifying and transferring innovation in comparative health services and systems research

Health First Europe is an alliance of various stakeholders in the field of health care provision, from patient and staff organisations to the academic world and the medical technology industry, aiming at promoting the implementation of innovative solutions in patient treatment.

TO-REACH is a project in which several health care institutions from European countries participate and which aims at performing research on how to make health care services and systems more resilient, effective, equitable, accessible, sustainable and comprehensive through innovation. It receives funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.



The moderator of the roundtable was John Bowis, President of HFE.
Bert Van Caelenberg participated in the event on behalf of Eurofedop.

The discussion showed that the collection of data often creates problems for the performance of appropriate research, but the lack of correct information on the workforce also makes research difficult.



Reference was made to big differences which exist between countries as regards health care spending. Thus Germany spends 11 % of its GDP on health care, while Romania reserves 5.1 % of its GDP for this purpose.

Moreover, it became clear that the EU's 2020 strategy on themes such as security, migration, economic growth, innovation and employment all have an influence on health.

We on the part of Eurofedop are of the view that it is important to perform research on the implementation of innovation in health services and systems, but insist that patient organisations and health care staff should be given a stronger position in the debate.