



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIH LIJEČNIKA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ**

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**VERBAND DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE ÖSTERREICHS
AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
ASSOCIATION AUTRICHIENNE DES MEDECINS DES HOPITAUX**

NATIONAL REPORT 2008

Until 2005, all Medical Doctors (MDs) including dentists were compulsory members of one common Austrian Medical Chamber (AMC).

Since 2006, Dentists are members of their own Austrian Dentist Chamber (ADC).

Actual numbers of MDs: 28447

Self-employed MDs: 15391

MDs in internship: 6596

General practitioners: 12508

Medical specialists: 18661

With the separation of the Dentists, the distribution of employed and self-employed MDs in the former common AMC has changed, hospital (employed) MDs are now representing the majority within the AMC.

After legal adaptation of the Austrian Medical Doctors Law (Österreichisches Ärztegesetz) and elections within the AMC an advantageous change of its structure in favour of the senior hospital physicians (SHP) has taken place. Within the group (Kurie) of the employed MDs, SHP are defined as an own group represented also in the managing board.

Since the federal election in October 2006, no planned reforms of the health sector were yet put into action. Such reforms became necessary especially due to the lack of funds. The total sum amounts to 26 - 30 billion Euros per year, by measures of rationalization saving 3 billion Euros in the intramural sector may be expected.

Since a 0.15% increase of health insurance subscription was ineffective, further increases were not favoured by politicians. The realisation of reform measures are made more difficult by the fact that different aspects and political fields represented by different ministries have to be taken into account: health, medicine, social area, finances and economics.

One indispensable condition for this goal is the preservation of providing a positive medical quality for the patient and a maximum possible reduction of enforced political measures by the government.

Achieving changes is also difficult because the organisation of the health sector underlies the competences of the federal districts / counties representing differing regulations.

As it has been mentioned in previous Austrian National Reports the Austrian General Health Care is laid down in constitutional laws on the federal and regional levels.

With January 2006, the Austrian Health Structure Plan was introduced, dividing Austria in 4 medical supply zones with a total of 32 regions providing complete optimal medical health care for the intra- and extramural areas including rehabilitation and nursing care aiming at the best health care for everybody.

Regional health funds separate strictly between extra- and intramural sectors, federal districts / counties taking care of hospitals; health insurance of the extramural sector. Agreement is only possible within a "sector of cooperation".

On this basis the assessment of relevant data and after discussion during the following months legal decisions by the parliament should bring about legal reforms for the health sector.

E-Card (Electronic Patient Card):

In the extramural area the, E-Card is in general use and well established in the meantime. There are still difficulties of including the E-Card generally in the intramural area of hospitals due to different electronic systems. Uncontrolled use of E-Cards by patients might be a significant cost factor.

ELGA (Electronic Health Record):

The development of an Austrian electronic health record is in progress with a time limit of 2012. It should include important relevant data of patients (hospital admission, surgical procedures, results of examination, medications etc.). It is obvious that various problems have to be solved, e.g. technical / electronic adaptations, legal regulations, data protection.

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