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DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ  
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΝΗΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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## The Crisis, Hospitals and Healthcare

The financial and economic crisis is hitting European hospitals and healthcare services. Spared at an earlier stage, most of them are now clearly impacted.

HOPE has been looking for the past year at the direct and indirect effects of the crisis on the European health systems. Its results are now available with the publication ***The Crisis, Hospitals and Healthcare***. This comparative report details impacts and measures taken, on hospital and healthcare services, on healthcare professionals and on patients and citizens.

The Crisis, Hospitals and Healthcare (97 pages) can be downloaded here  
[http://www.hope.be/05eventsandpublications/docpublications/86\\_crisis/86\\_HOPE-The\\_Crisis\\_Hospitals\\_Healthcare\\_April\\_2011.pdf](http://www.hope.be/05eventsandpublications/docpublications/86_crisis/86_HOPE-The_Crisis_Hospitals_Healthcare_April_2011.pdf)

Excerpts:

### MEASURES DIRECTLY AFFECTING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The main consequences of the resources restrictions on healthcare professionals are visible in employment policies and retirement reforms adopted by most European Member States.

In several cases, the government fostered policies aimed at firing or at least not replacing staff retiring or implementing restrictive policies on new recruitment and appointment of substitutes.

A further package of measures consisted in cutting wages, a trend common to the entire public sector. Drop of salaries in some countries, up to 25% in one country, further pushed abroad healthcare professionals. On the opposite, others experienced a single positive consequence of the crisis which was renewed flows of doctors and nurses back to healthcare.

***Details per country can be found starting from page 40 in the publication.***

### MEASURES DIRECTLY AFFECTING PATIENTS AND CITIZENS

In order to face the reduced amount of resources available for healthcare, some countries have introduced measures directly affecting patients or the overall population.

Some countries have introduced reforms of health and social insurance, modified the procedure for calculating benefits, reduced the sickness insurance rate and the ceiling for the premium assessment base or reviewed entitlement and limits for the receipt of sickness benefits.

Direct payments by citizen for treatments, visits, hospitalization and health technologies, including drugs, have been the most significant areas of increase. The cost of hospitalization sensitively increased. New out of pocket payments in hospitals have appeared and existing one have risen. Patients' contributions in the payment of some medical and paramedical services have also increased or been introduced.

***Details per country can be found starting from page 46 in the publication.***