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STATE OF PLAY

EU HEALTH POLICIES

In relation with AEMH's focus and activities
Catherine Hartmann



EU role in Health

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- In the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), art. 168
- Principle of subsidiarity, EU's role is mainly to coordinate, facilitate and financially support pan-European projects/activities
- Exceptions and direct actions from EU: in particular medicinal products and devices
- Other fields with direct impact on health: ex. Tobacco Products Directive

EU work on health care (1)

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1. Health workforce (internal market)
2. Cross-border care (public health)
3. Patient safety (public health, industry)
4. eHealth (communication, innovation & technology)

EU work on health care (2)

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1. Health workforce:

- European Working Time Directive (EWTD)– maximum time spent at/for work, patients security, staff shortages,
- Directive 36/2005/EC on automatic recognition of professional qualifications (RPQ)
- Curricula, training and CPD/CME

EU work on health care (3)

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2. Cross-border care:

- Directive 2011/24/EU on **patients' rights in cross-border healthcare** clarifies the rules on access to healthcare in another EU country, including reimbursement.
- Providing clear rules and information to patients regarding access and reimbursement for healthcare received in another EU country. The new "**national contact points**" will do this.
- Patients' expectations : highest quality healthcare, when they seek treatment away from home. National contact points on healthcare quality and patient safety will help them make informed choices before going abroad for healthcare.
- Ensuring EU countries work closer together in the interest of patients.

AEMH 66th Plenary Meeting, Paris/ France, May 2013

EU work on health care (4)

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3. Patient Safety:

- Member States (Council) have adopted recommendations, EC, communications, and numerous projects in this field,
- Most important a: the joint action on Patient Safety and Quality of Care : **EU Network for Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ)** brings together health authorities of the EU Member States, representatives of the European medical community (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, managers of healthcare organizations), patient associations as well as international organizations and the European Commission.

EU work on health care (5)

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4. eHealth

- Part of the Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
- Directive sets up a voluntary **Network of national authorities responsible for eHealth**
- Role of the network: will draw up guidelines in the area of eHealth
- Aim of the network: to enhance interoperability between electronic health systems and continuity of care and to ensure access to safe and quality healthcare
- **eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020** - Innovative healthcare for the 21st century
- Work largely done under the umbrella of DG CONNECT rather than DG SANCO
- **Health technology assessment: (HTA)** part of the Dir. on cross-border HC: voluntary HTA network, and subject of a Joint Action

EU work on specific diseases (1)

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- **Communicable diseases:** in response to the threat of communicable diseases, EU policy has focused on: surveillance, rapid detection, rapid response
- **An EU network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases :** surveillance of communicable diseases, early warning and response coordination
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC:** to assist the EU by identifying and assessing the risk of current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.

EU work on specific diseases (2)

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- **Vaccination:** assisting with the introduction of vaccines against cervical cancer, promoting seasonal flu vaccination for risk groups, helped EU countries develop a vaccination strategy against pandemic H1N1 influenza
- **Chronic diseases:** tackling main risk factors (tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diet and insufficient physical activity: platforms, projects, campaigns and reports
- Strategies: Alzheimer and dementia, Cancer, HIV/AIDS are the object of specific actions from the EU (partnerships)
- EU also is essential for work on **Rare Diseases**

EU & Pharmaceutical products

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- Guarantee the highest possible level of PH and to secure the availability of medicinal products to citizens across the European Union, **all medicinal products for human use have to be authorised either at Member State or Community level** before they can be placed on the EU market
- **Special rules** exist for the authorisation of medicinal products for paediatric use, orphan medicines, traditional herbal medicines, vaccines and clinical trials
- EU has set quality standards = **good manufacturing practice** and compliance with these principles and guidelines is mandatory within the European Economic Area
- EU system of **pharmacovigilance and EMA**

EU & Medical Devices; data collection

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- **MD:** the EU's involvement concerns mainly the regulatory framework for market access, international trade relations and regulatory convergence, all aiming to ensure the highest level of patient safety while promoting the innovation and the competitiveness of this sector
- **Indicators and data:** the EU is best placed to collect EU wide data (through Member States) to produce health indicators and Health reports

EU finances for public health

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- Public health programme – future Health for Growth
- 7th framework programme – future Horizon 2020
- Structural funds
- Projects, joint actions and core-funding

Not related to AEMH work

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... but interesting to know:

- EU acts as a legislator, mediator, facilitator and adviser on **cross-sectoral subjects** such as: active and healthy aging, healthy environment, health & safety at work, anti-microbial resistance, etc.
- Blood, tissues and organs (donation),
- climate change
- Social determinants and health inequalities
- ... and more

Thank you

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