

Request for an expert opinion: Typology of health policy reforms and framework for evaluating reform effects

Background – Rationale

Many EU Member States have in the recent years responded to the challenges posed by the economic crisis to their health systems by adapting the financing and/or expenditure parameters, as well as, by trying to improve the performance of the system to generate more outputs for the same amount of resources. However, evidence as to the effects of the crisis on health system performance are not secured yet. The proposal would help to systematically categorize types of reforms with a focus on reforms which enhance the sustainability of health systems over the long-term.

Rationale: Strengthening of the evidence-based for best practices and recommendations to Member States regarding health policy reforms.

Purpose

To develop a typology of reforms and a template for screening health policy effects based on the typology to support ex-ante and ex-post evaluation. This should be applicable to all EU countries, accounting for national specificities, to be a basis for guiding policy evaluations and design.

(Where and if possible) to develop a framework for fiscal quantification of reform effects. This could help understanding, which reforms, depending on the level of investment, can be expected to create benefits in terms of the desired health system goals.

Suggested structure

Rationale of a template	<p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limits/advantages of a template in terms of its application • challenges in conducting such an evaluation • which countries use structured evaluations of health reforms? Are the best practice examples from EU MS in terms of health policy evaluations? Can these be generalised to other countries?
Typology: classification of policies based on dimensions of interest	<p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dimensions of time • target of reform • system of financing
Fields of the template: an assessment of which dimensions are useful for an evaluation	<p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which aspects have been implemented and obstacles to implementation • whether an "appropriate" level of resources has been

	<p>invested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distribution of effects on different population groups • distribution of possible fiscal effects (upfront investment versus future savings) • effects on access, quality of health care and its outcomes; • spill overs (guidance on possible effects not taken into account by the specific policy reform) • intermediate outputs to measure when the effects of the policy are medium/long-term
Issues with measuring and monitoring	<p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which of the effects can be monitored using standard international databases? • what is needed on the technical level, such that a standard template for evaluating policy reforms can be applied?
Policy measures	<p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is needed on the policy level (maybe including policy processes and involved stakeholders) to apply this standard template? • which policy conclusions can be drawn from some standard examples of health policy reforms in terms of how and if policy effects are evaluated (properly or at all)?
EU Action	Is there added-value of potential EU action?

Timing
<p>The opinion of the Expert Panel could be finalised in two stages. The first stage should focus on typology and template and should be finalised by end-2015 / beginning-2016. The second stage should focus on the remaining deliverables and should be finalised by mid-2016 / end-2016.</p>