



**EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY
EFFECTS OF OUT-OF-POCKET
PAYMENTS IN EUROPE**

*FINAL PROJECT CONFERENCE
3-4 December 2012*

PROGRAMME

FINAL PROJECT CONFERENCE

**EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY EFFECTS OF
OUT-OF-POCKET PAYMENTS IN EUROPE**

Monday – Tuesday, 3-4 December 2012

Best Western Hotel, Konstitucijos pr. 14, LT-09308 Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel: +370 52 739595

Hosting organisation:

Public Enterprise “MTVC” (training, research and development centre)
Antakalnio str. 22B, LT-10305 Vilnius, Lithuania

The conference is organised by Project ASSPRO CEE 2007. www.assprocee2007.com

Project full title: *“Assessment of patient payment policies and projection of their efficiency, equity and quality effects: The case of Central and Eastern Europe”*

Funded by the European Commission under FP7-SSH-2007 (GA no. 217431).

The objective of the conference is to discuss project results and policy issues on patient payments, and to establish an informal network of researchers and policy makers.

Keynote speakers:

Bernd RECHEL – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Paul VINCKE – European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network

María del Pilar GONZÁLEZ PANTALEÓN – European Commission

Wim GROOT – Professor at Maastricht University; Council for Public Health and Health Care, the Netherlands

Peter GAAL – Dean of the Faculty of Health and Public Services, Semmelweis University, Hungary

Tengiz VERULAVA – Dean of the Business Faculty, Ilia State University, Georgia

Other participants and guests:

Researchers and policy makers from the participating partners' countries:

Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the Netherlands

WHY THIS CONFERENCE?

Equity in health care financing and equity in access to health care have been long established as guiding principles in Europe. Although European patients are accustomed to pay for health care commodities, such as pharmaceuticals, extensive patient charges for public health care services are uncommon. Free-of-charge access to essential health care services is even seen as a patient's right in some countries. Nevertheless, the scarcity of public resources, combined with the global economic crises, puts pressure on European governments to set new priorities. As a result, charges for public health care services are being extended in Europe as a means to shift health care costs to consumers and to reduce the need of government funding. Such reforms are expected to limit deficits in the state budget but also to provide incentives to consumers for efficient health care use and a healthier life-style. In view of this, European policy-makers face a major challenge in designing efficient and equitable patient payments mechanisms that maintain a high quality of care for all citizens.

This conference presents the key findings of project ASSPRO CEE 2007 (funded by the European Commission under FP7 Social-Sciences and Humanities theme). The project addresses the need of new, improved and more appropriate indicators for the evaluation of patient payment policies. The research activities within the project are specifically focused on the equity and efficiency effects of out-of-pocket patient payments in Central and Eastern European countries. There is a concern that official patient charges in this region impose a double financial burden to consumers since they are implemented in a context of persistent informal payments. Are patients able to cope with new or increased formal charges? Taking this question as a perspective, the conference presents evidence on the affordability of health care in Central and Eastern Europe, and the future challenges related to the introduction or increase of patient charges. In addition, the conference invites broader discussions on the role and effects of patient charges in Europe.

*Milena Pavlova, Wim Groot and Godefridus G. van Merode
Project coordinators – Maastricht University, The Netherlands*

Key project results can be found in the special issue of *Society and Economy*, Volume 34, Number 2/June 2012
<http://www.akademai.com/content/k323652v41h8/?p=ab5a7831ff444c90ba2616e79c679f70&pi=1>

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Programme may be subject to change

Monday, 3-December: Conference day 1

9:00 – 9:15	Participants gather at the meeting location
9:15 – 9:25	Welcoming addresses from the host institution Liubove MURAUŠKIENE – Public Enterprise “MTVC”, Lithuania
9:25 – 9:35	Welcoming address from the project coordinators Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
9:35 – 9:45	Welcoming address from the European Commission María del Pilar GONZÁLEZ PANTALEÓN – EC Project Officer
9:45 – 10:45	SESSION 1: The role of formal co-payments in the public health care sector Chaired by: Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands “Public coverage in times of crisis” Bernd RECHEL – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies “Stakeholders’ opinion on formal co-payments for health care services: evidence from six CEE countries” Marzena TAMBOR – Uniwersytet Jagiellonski Collegium Medicum, Poland “From competition to non-competition and out-of-pocket payments in the Georgian insurance system” Tengiz VERULAVA – Ilia State University, Georgia
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/tea

- 11:00 – 12:00 **SESSION 2: Out-of-pocket payments and health system reforms**
 Chaired by: Bernd RECHEL – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
 “Health system reforms, austerity measures and out-of-pocket payments: the case of Greece”
 Paul VINCKE – European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network
 “Out-of-pocket payments in Lithuania: experience and policy challenges”
 Liubove MURAUŠKIENE – Public Enterprise “MTVC”, Lithuania
 “Equity in out-of-pocket payments during the period of health care reforms: evidence from Hungary”
 Petra BAJI – Center for Public Affairs Studies Foundation, Hungary
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:30 **SESSION 3: Out-of-pocket payments as an incentive for efficiency and healthy life style**
 Chaired by: Liubove MURAUŠKIENE – Public Enterprise “MTVC”, Lithuania
 “Limits to lifestyle solidarity”
 Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
 “The impact of out-of-pocket payments on prevention and health-related life style”
 Reza REZAYATMAND – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- 14:30 – 14:45 Coffee/tea
- 14:45 – 16:00 **SESSION 4: Informal patient payments in CEE countries**
 Chaired by: Paul VINCKE – European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network
 “Patterns of informal patient payments in six CEE countries”
 Tetiana STEPURKO – School of Public Health, Ukraine
 “Informal payments for health care in Bulgaria – their significance after 10 years of co-payments”
 Elka ATANASOVA – Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria
 “The role of informal patient payments in the delivery of maternity care in Serbia”
 Jelena ARSENIJEVIC – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
 “Current attempts to eliminate informal payments in Hungary”
 Peter GAAL – Semmelweis University, Hungary
- 16:00 – 16:15 Closure day 1
- 19:00 – 22:00 **CONFERENCE COME TOGETHER**
 Informal discussions with food and drinks. Location: to be announced

Tuesday, 4-December: Conference day 2

- 9:00 – 9:15 Participants gather at the meeting location
- 9:15 – 10:30 **SESSION 5: Willingness and ability to pay for health care services**
 Chaired by: Wim GROOT – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
 “Poverty effects of out-of-pocket payments in the Russian Federation”
 Vladimir S. GORDEEV – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
 “Patient payments in Romania: between willingness and burden”
 Constanta MIHAESCU PINTIA – SNSPMPDS, Romania
 “Eliciting willingness to pay for physician services in six CEE countries”
 Andriy DANYLIV – School of Public Health, Ukraine
 “Paying informally for public health care in Albania: scarce resources or governance failure?”
 Sonila TOMINI – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee/tea
- 10:45 – 11:45 **SESSION 6: Discussion of EU policy brief**
 Chaired by: Milena PAVLOVA – Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- 11:45 – 12:00 Closure project conference – reflection on project results by policy experts
- 12:00 – 15:30 Lunch and social event

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