



ASSPRO CEE 2007 - Project No.: 217431

Assessment of patient payment policies and projection of their efficiency, equity and quality effects:

The case of Central and Eastern Europe

About the project

ASSPRO CEE 2007 is a collaborative research project co-funded by the European Commission and focussed on the assessment of patient payment policies, specifically those in Central and Eastern Europe. On a long-run, the project is expected to provide scientific evidence for informed discussions on patient payments between policy-makers, health insurers, researchers, health care providers and consumers. Details about the project can be found on the project website: www.assprocee2007.com

Policy context

Health policy issues have gained considerable importance in the policy debates in EU countries. One characteristic of health care provision, which is commonly considered important but shows great diversity among the EU Member States, is the level of patient payments. The issue of patient payments is especially relevant to Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. There is a concern that the official patient fees in these countries impose a double financial burden to consumers because they are implemented in a context of persistent informal payments. Therefore, a thorough evaluation of official patient fees, implemented or considered for implementation in this European region, is urging.

Research objectives

The aim of project ASSPRO CEE 2007 is to assess the patient payment mechanisms in Central and Eastern European countries and to project their efficiency, equity and quality effects. The project focuses on data collection in six countries: economically advanced Central European countries (Hungary and Poland); economically advanced former Soviet republics in Europe (Lithuania); less advanced countries from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Romania); less advanced former Soviet republics in Europe (Ukraine). In addition to this, datasets for other Central and Eastern European countries (e.g. Albania, Serbia and the Russian Federation) are also analysed within the project.

Scientific approach and methodology

The project relies on research methods from a broad range of fields related to socio-economic science and humanities. In particular, the project applies quantitative techniques (such as modelling, trend analysis, revealed and stated preference methods) combined with qualitative data to study micro and macro outcomes of patient payment policies.

New knowledge and European value added

The research activities within project ASSPRO CEE 2007 address the need of new, improved and more appropriate indicators for the evaluation of patient payment policy at a European level and worldwide, as well as the need of micro-level data from Central and Eastern Europe on health care payments and consumption. The project also aims to create a research network focused on the analysis of the Central and Eastern European health care systems, and to train young researchers from these countries.

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Project duration	From 1-03-2008 to 28-02-2013 (60 months)
Funding scheme	Collaborative Project
Project budget	EC contribution up to 1,446,496 Euro
Project website	www.assprocee2007.com
Related websites	<p>Cordis SSH : http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ssh/ Europa SSH : http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/</p>
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