

**SESSION 4: HEALTH CARE REFORMS IN HUNGARY****PRESENTATION KEYNOTE SPEAKER:****“HEALTH CARE REFORMS IN HUNGARY: PAST EXPERIENCES, CURRENT SITUATION AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE”**

Imre BONCZ

Professor  
University of Pécs  
Institute for Health Insurance  
Hungary

**ABSTRACT:**

In the past two decades, since the social and political changes in 1990, there were several reform attempts intending to re-structure the Hungarian health care system. The aim of this presentation is to give an overview on the health care reforms in Hungary between 1990-2011.

In the first period (1990-1994), the government transformed the former socialist, Semashko-like health care system into the traditional Bismarck-like solidarity based health insurance system. New financing methods were introduced: capitation fee for general practitioner, fee-for-service technique for outpatient care, Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) method (Homogén Betegségcsoportok, HBCs) for acute inpatient care and daily fee for chronic inpatient care. The most remarkable effect of the second governmental period (1994-1998) was the economic convergence programme named Bokros package, which resulted in a significant decrease of health expenditures. The 1998-2002 period was characterised by the stability of health expenditures and the refinement of the financing methods. The introduction of a new public health programme, including organized, nation-wide breast and cervical cancer screening programmes, had a long lasting effect on the Hungarian health policy. Between 2002-2006 a significant increase of health expenditures could be seen due to a 50% increase of salaries of health care workers. However, it resulted in a huge financial deficit of the health insurance fund between 2003-2005. The fourth governmental period (2006-2010) can be described as a period of financial constrains, which means the significant reduction of health expenditures as the proportion of GDP. By 2010, this financial constrains led to a serious economic, human resource and moral crisis in the Hungarian health care system.

In the autumn of 2010, the new Hungarian government announced the “Simmelweis Plan”, a health policy programme aiming to manage the health care crisis immediately and on a medium run.

**LINK TO PRESENTATION SLIDES:**

<http://www.assprocee2007.com/SeminarASSPROCEE2007MAY1618BudapestIBoncz.pdf>