

**SESSION 4: HEALTH CARE REFORMS IN HUNGARY****PRESENTATION KEYNOTE SPEAKER:****“THE FAILED ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE COPAYMENTS IN HUNGARY”**

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In 2006-2008, the ruling Socialist-Liberal coalition government made a comprehensive effort to downsize and restructure the unsustainably large system of welfare provisions. Health care was only one of the affected areas. Legal and illegal forms of copayments in health care existed throughout the period of Socialism in forms, which were partly similar, but partly dissimilar to the practices in other socialist countries. The preparation of the necessary legislation required for the introduction of two forms of flat user charges ( $\approx 1.5$  euro per visit and per hospital day) was politically difficult, but the actual introduction into daily life was smooth. The insolvable problems emerged, only later, when the Government wanted to pursue the reform process with the reform of the insurance system. In the end, the reforms were almost entirely rolled back.

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