



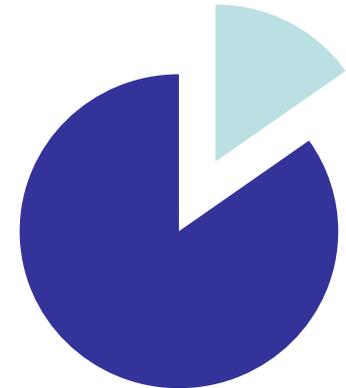
SGPP meeting, 7 June 2019

Health in the European Semester: Up-date on the state of play

Unit "Performance of national health systems"
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
European Commission

Why is health system assessment important in the Semester?

- **Biggest government** expense after **pensions**: up to 15% of total
- A key economic sector contributing **R&D/innovation, trade jobs** and **growth** : 9.9% of GDP on average and 8.5% of the total workforce
- A keys sector of social protection : an investment in **human capital** and **productivity**
- A key determinant of **inequality**/ill-health ↔ poverty/exclusion





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Conceptual framework for the analysis of health systems in the Semester:



EFFECTIVE,

ACCESSIBLE &

RESILIENT health systems



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Equal opportunities and
access to the labour
market



Fair working conditions



Social protection and
inclusion

Principle 16

Everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality

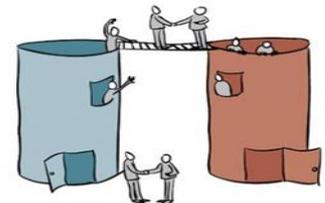
- Building upon art 35 of the EU Charter of fundamental rights
- Access to good quality preventive health care and medical treatment is recognised as a fundamental principles in many national health systems in the EU
- Social scoreboard: indicators to monitor progress on the Pillar Principles
- Action at EU level (Cooperation, Legislation, Semester) and national level

How we work

- *28 teams, led by Sec Gen and reuniting experts from over 20 DGs, including European Semester Officers based in the capitals = more than 500 staff members*



- *Dialogue with the Member States -> interaction during each European Semester cycle: technical missions, two rounds of bilateral meetings, consultation on the draft reports, senior management missions, commissioners and presidents visits.*



New



Investment focus of the European Semester in 2019

- ***MFF 2021-2027: strengthening links between EU funding and European Semester***
- *Country reports **identify investment needs**, taking into account also regional specificities.*
- *A dedicated annex to the report identifies the Commission's priorities for **cohesion policy funds***
- ***Health investments covered - national coordination is key***



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June 2019: Messages from the Spring Package (1)

- *Progress (in implementation) has been particularly **slow** on broadening the tax base, **health and long-term care**, as well as on competition in services.*
- *Government **debt remains high** in several Member States. The impact of an ageing population poses additional challenges and calls for continued **reforms** of the pension, **healthcare** and long-term care systems to **increase their efficiency, effectiveness and adequacy and preserve their long-term fiscal sustainability.***

Messages from Spring Package (2)

- ***Reforms of the health systems** are ongoing in several countries to **ensure the accessibility of healthcare for all, while enhancing their cost-effectiveness and sustainability.** Member States should continue their efforts, giving priority to the careful design of comprehensive measures and to stepping up the adoption and implementation of health service delivery reforms. Further **investment** is often necessary to support and implement reforms of the health systems.*



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Member states with CSRs on health in 2019

BG	Improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals.
CZ	Improve long-term fiscal sustainability of the pension and health-care systems.
IE	Address the expected increase in age-related expenditure by making the healthcare system more cost-effective.



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Health CSRs 2019 (2)

EL	<p>Focus investment-related economic policy on. ..., health, ... , taking into account regional disparities and the need to ensure social inclusion.</p> <p>[Continue and complete reforms in line with the post-programme commitments].</p>
CY	<p>Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes operational in 2020, as planned, while preserving its long-term sustainability.</p>
LV	<p>Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.</p>
LT	<p>Increase the quality, affordability and efficiency of the healthcare system.</p>



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Health CSRs 2019 (3)

HU	Improve health outcomes by supporting preventive health measures and strengthening primary health care.
MT	Ensure the fiscal sustainability of the healthcare and the pension systems.
AT	Ensure the sustainability of the health, long-term care, and pension systems.
PL	Focus investment-related economic policy on... , healthcare, ... taking into account regional disparities.

Health CSRs 2019 (4)

PT	Improve the quality of public finances by prioritising growth-enhancing spending while strengthening overall expenditure control, cost efficiency and adequate budgeting, with a focus in particular on a durable reduction of arrears in hospitals.
RO	Improve access to and cost-efficiency of healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.

Health CSRs 2019 (5)

SI	Adopt and implement reforms in healthcare and long-term care that ensure quality, accessibility and long-term fiscal sustainability.
SK	Safeguard the long-term sustainability of public finances, notably that of the healthcare and pension systems. Focus investment-related economic policy on healthcare, taking into account regional disparities.
FI	Improve the cost-effectiveness of and equal access to social and healthcare services

2019 health CSRs – themes

- *Improve access to healthcare services: BG, LV, RO, SI, CY, FI (focus on equal access)*
- *Reduce out-of-pocket payments or make healthcare more affordable: BG, LT*
- *Improve/preserve long-term fiscal sustainability of healthcare: CZ, CY, MT, AT, SI, SK*
- *Increase efficiency: LT, PT (focus on hospitals)*

2019 health CSRs – themes (2)

- *Enhance cost-effectiveness of healthcare: IE, LV, FI, RO*
- *Strengthen primary or outpatient care: HU, RO*
- *Improve the quality of healthcare: LV, LT, SI*
- *Invest in healthcare, taking into account regional specificities: EL, PL, SK*
- *Improve health outcomes and prevention: HU*

2019 health CSRs – themes (3)

- *Tackle healthworkforce shortages: BG*
- *Adopt or implement major key reforms in healthcare: SI, CY, FI, EL*

2019 health CSRs – further challenges covered in recitals

- *Regional disparities in the provision of healthcare: IT, HU, RO, BG, LV*
- *Shortages in healthcare workers: BE, PL, HU, RO, LV, SK*
- *Underdeveloped primary care: PL, HU, EL, HR, CY, MT, AT, SK, LV*
- *Hospital-centredness: PL, LV, LT, HU, SK*
- *Quality of care: SK*
- *Low use of public procurement: AT, SI*

2019 health CSRs – further challenges in recitals (2)

- *Low public healthcare spending that impacts on access to healthcare: PL, BG, LV, RO,*
- *High out-of-pocket payments: LV, LT*
- *Low health outcomes: PL, LV, LT, HU, RO*
- *Investment needs/gaps in healthcare: BG, CZ, LT, CY, LV, SI , LT, RO*
- *Low cost-effectiveness of care : CZ*
- *Financial sustainability of hospital care: CY*
- *Long-term fiscal sustainability: LU, FR, FI, HR*

2019 health CSRs – further challenges in recitals (3)

- *Long waiting times: EE, MT, FI, LV*
- *Weak integration/coordination of healthcare (and other services): EE, IE, HR, LT, RO, SK*
- *Unhealthy life-styles: HU*
- *Weak prevention policies: SK, LV, LT*
- *Informal payments: LT, HU, RO*
- *Underdeveloped eHealth infrastructure or/and low access to or use of eHealth services : SI, DE, CY, MT, AT*
- *Implementation of a comprehensive reform: IE*

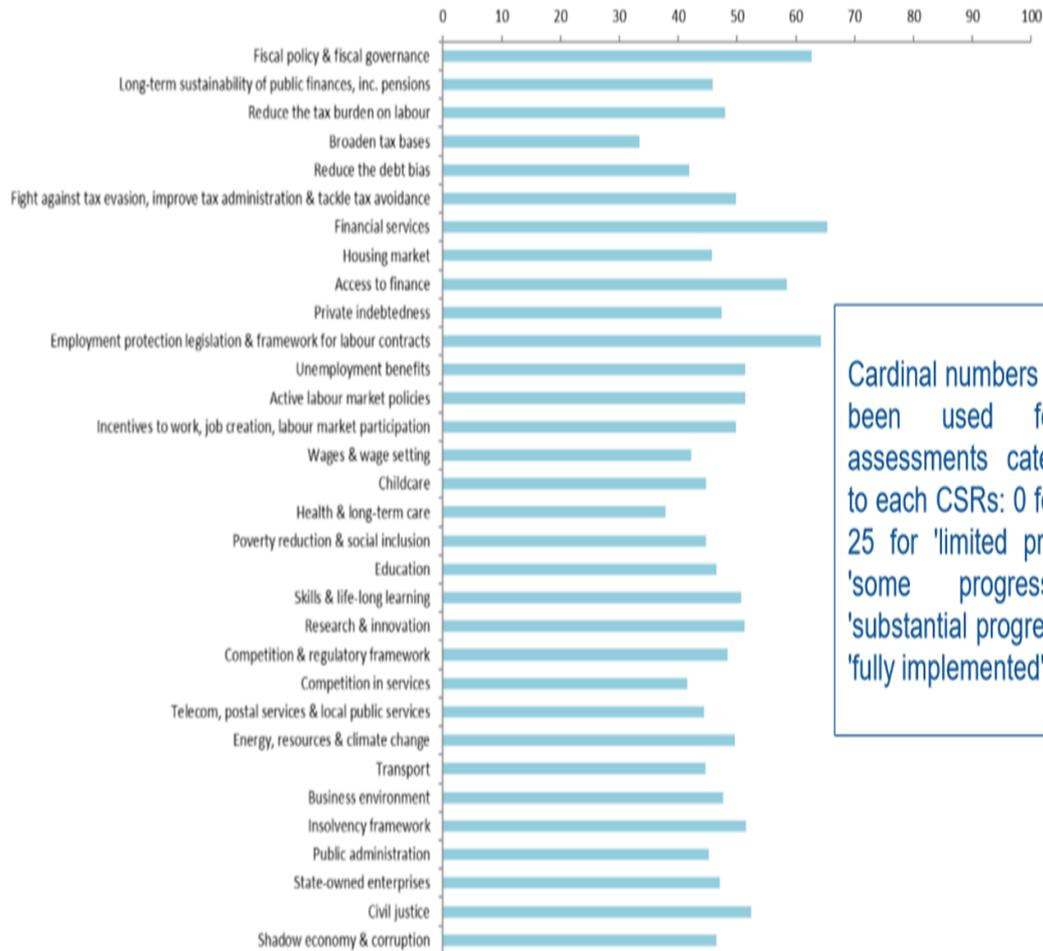
Finally, a few words about...





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Multiannual implementation – policy areas



Cardinal numbers out of 100 have been used for the five assessments categories applied to each CSRs: 0 for 'no progress'; 25 for 'limited progress'; 50 for 'some progress'; 75 for 'substantial progress', and 100 for 'fully implemented'.