



Joint Report on Health Care and Long-term Care Systems & Fiscal Sustainability

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Addressing health care as a policy priority



European
Commission



Joint Report on Health Care and Long-Term Care Systems & Fiscal Sustainability

Volume 1

INSTITUTIONAL PAPER 037 | OCTOBER 2016

EUROPEAN ECONOMY



Joint Report on Health Care and Long-Term Care Systems & Fiscal Sustainability

Volume 2
Country Documents

INSTITUTIONAL PAPER 037 | OCTOBER 2016

Economic and
Financial Affairs
Economic Policy
Committee

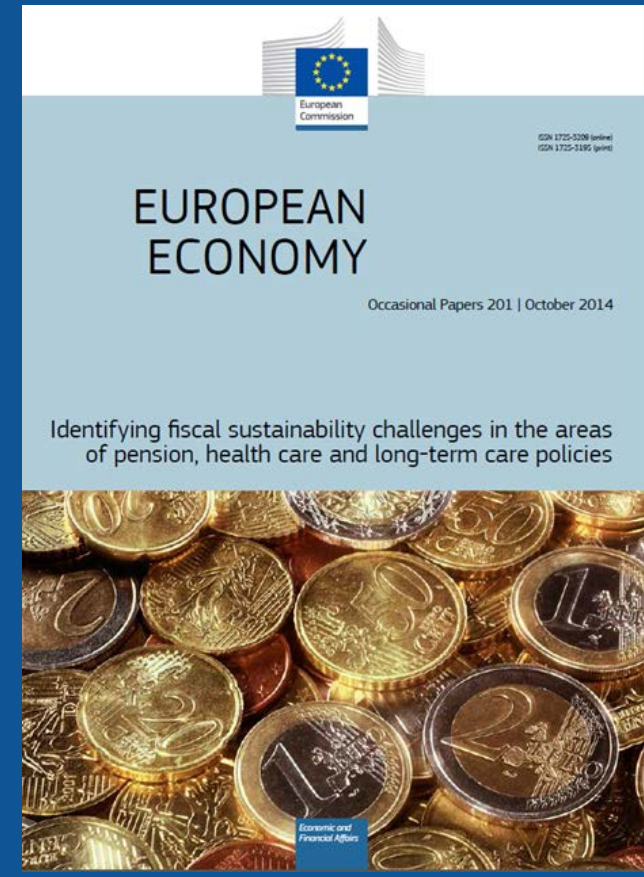
Economic and
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- In October 2016, ECFIN-EPC published the '**Joint Report on Health Care and Long-term Care systems & Fiscal Sustainability**', prepared jointly with the EU Member States.
- **Volume 1** presents policy challenges and reform options on how to contain spending pressures through efficiency gains
- **Volume 2** presents specific chapters on each Member State's HC and LTC systems

The Joint Report in context

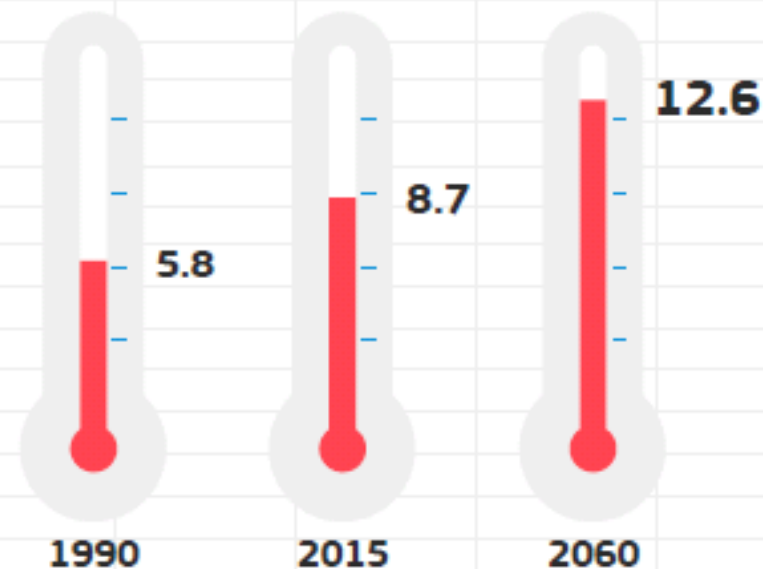


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HEALTH SYSTEMS AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

HEALTH RELATED EXPENDITURE TAKES UP A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF RESOURCES IN THE EU. THIS IS PROJECTED TO GREATLY INCREASE IN THE COMING DECADES.



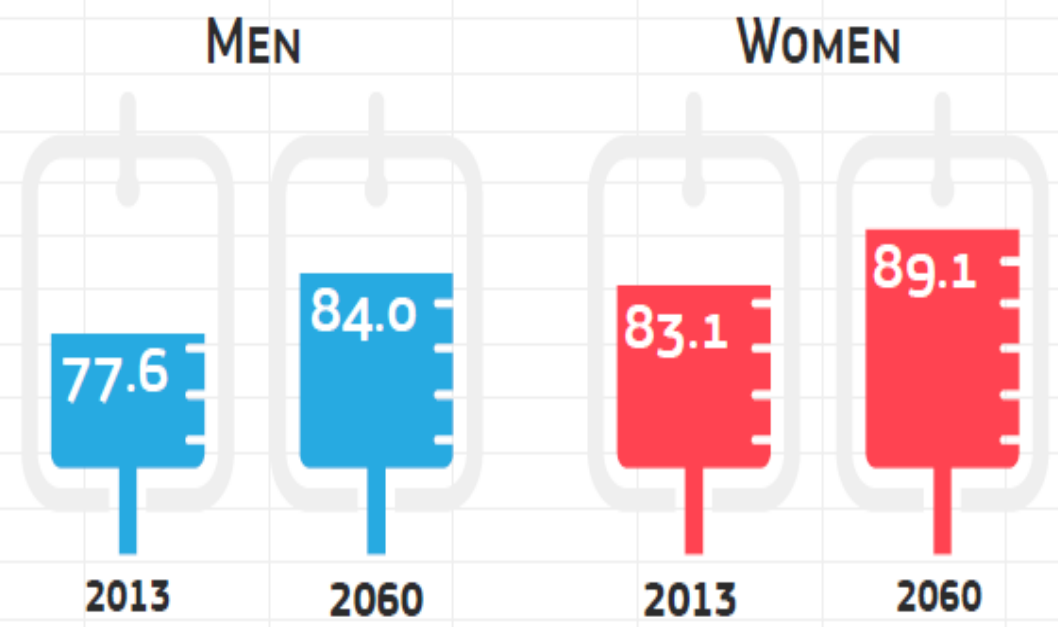
Public expenditure in health and long-term care (% GDP)

SYMPTOMS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES and ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

ARE AT THE ROOT OF THIS INCREASE

LIFE EXPECTANCY WILL
CONTINUE TO INCREASE AND
THE SHARE OF OLD PEOPLE IN
THE POPULATION WILL
CONTINUE TO GROW.

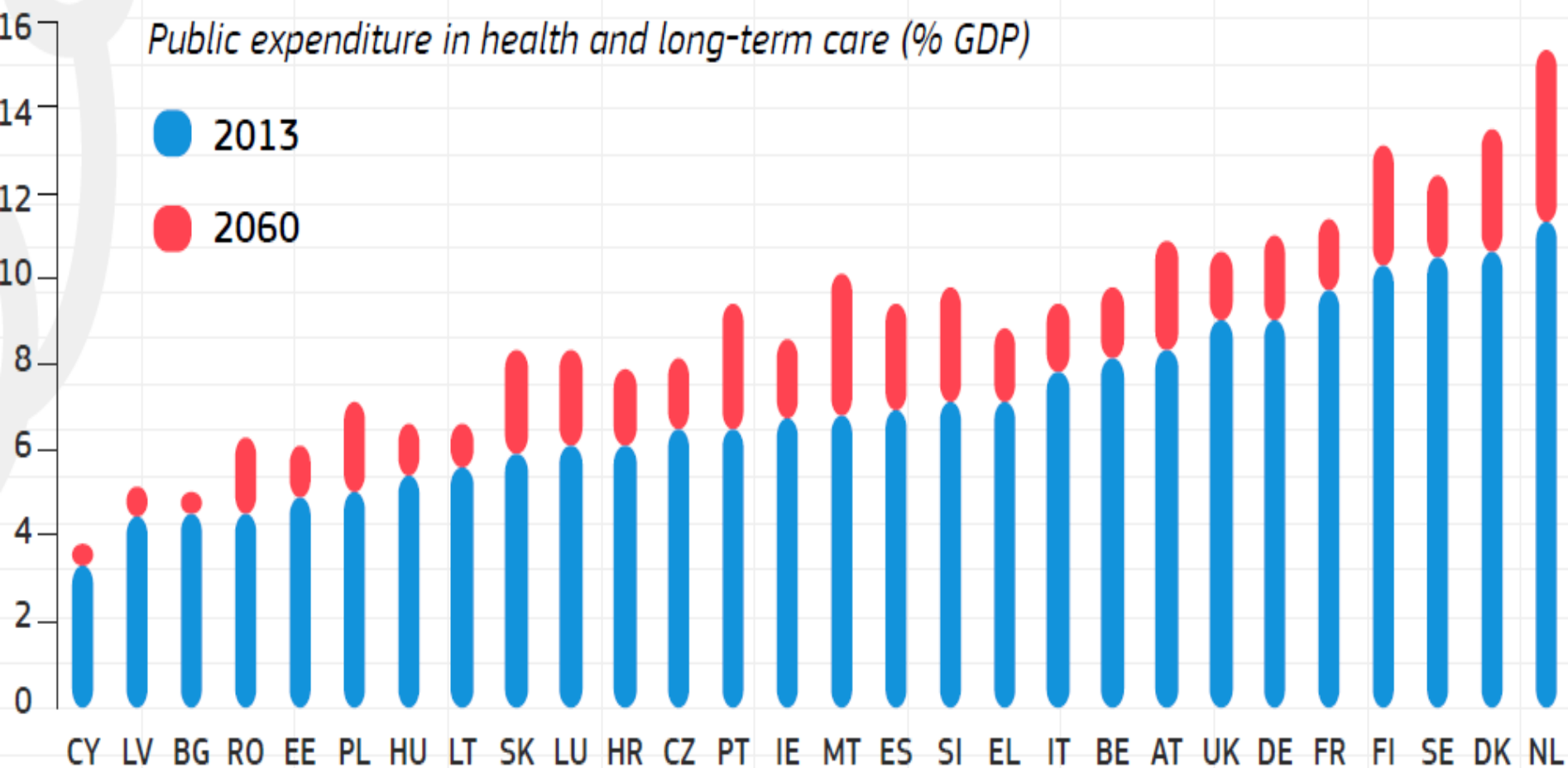


Life expectancy

DIAGNOSIS

WIDE DIFFERENCES

EXIST BETWEEN EU MEMBER STATES





Policy Challenges



Containing costs

on hospital and pharmaceutical care

Investing in primary care and health promotion
and disease prevention

Frequent budget overruns, competing fiscal
pressures, changing policy priorities

Improve the quality of information

Decision making split in ministerial silos

Fraud and corruption



Policy Options

A: Improving the governance
of health care systems

Policy Options

B: Enhancing the
sustainability and efficiency of
health care systems



A. Improving the governance of health care systems through:

1. strengthening the **cooperation between fiscal and health policy authorities** and employing a wide range of budgetary planning tools;
2. adjusting the **regulatory framework** to support and strengthen efficiency, transparency and accountability;
3. setting up of information technology and data management strategies, to support **monitoring and governance**;
4. **assessing health-policy reforms** ex-ante and ex-post in a systematic and formalised manner based on evidence and;
5. using **workforce planning** tools to actively manage the health workforce.



B. Enhancing the sustainability and efficiency of health care financing and spending

This includes:

1. improving the **financing mix**;
2. benefits packages need to be based on **cost-effectiveness criteria** and **cost-sharing schemes should** support the containment of public spending, while preserving access;
3. moving away from **hospital-centric models**;
4. strengthening the **cost-effective use and the affordability of medicines**.



The Council **considers** that achieving the twin aim of ensuring fiscal sustainability and access to good quality health care services for all, by **improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health and long-term care systems**, is therefore particularly important.

Taking into consideration [...] Art. 168, the Council [...] **invites the Commission to factor these findings into [...] the European Semester and explore how Union action can complement national policies**, with a clear focus on fiscal sustainability.

The Council **invites Member States to factor these findings into the implementation of their national policies** where appropriate and relevant in different national contexts.

The Joint Report on:



Efficient & Affordable
Medicines

Improve the efficiency and affordability of medicines

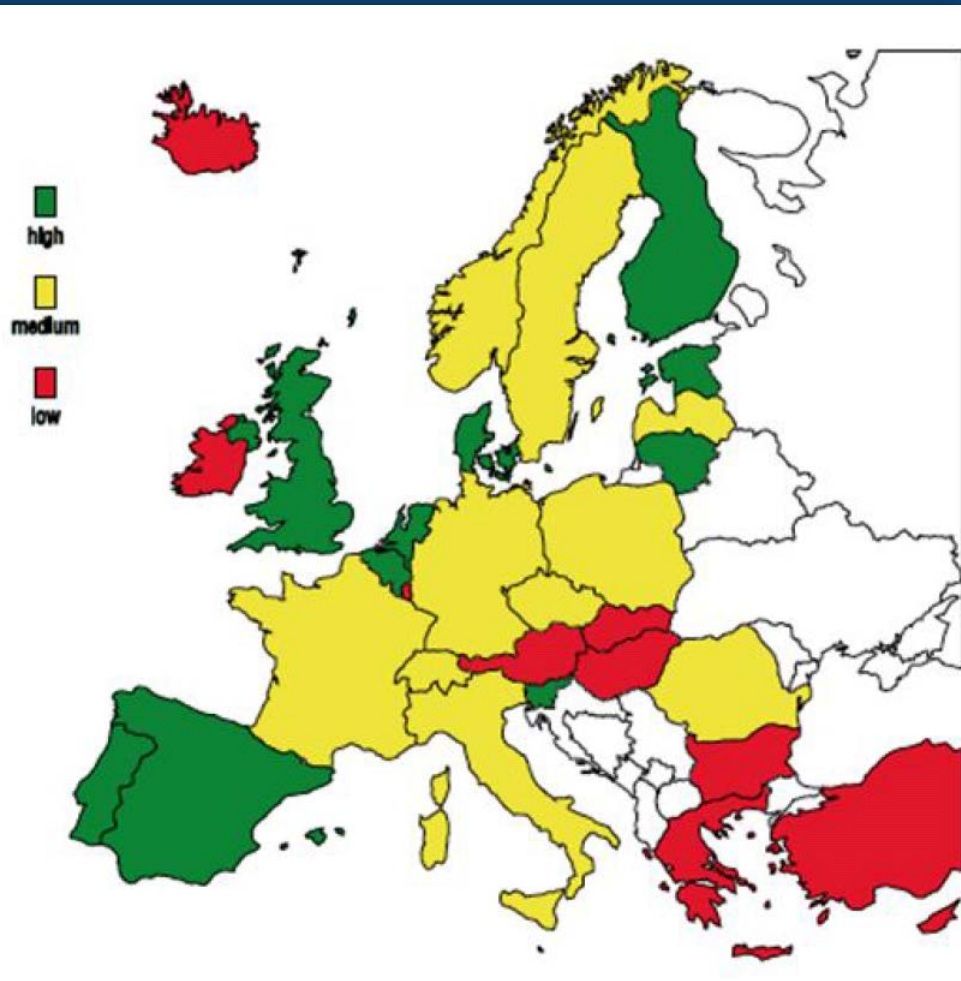
- guarantee access to effective and cost-effective medicines at an affordable cost
- ensure innovation without jeopardising the sustainability of public spending
- half of all EU member states perceive this as a challenge
- Decisions to pay for medicines with public money should be transparent and evidence-based : **Health Technology Assessment** should identify those medicines which offer the highest value for money

The Joint Report on:



Primary & Integrated Care

Variation in the overall strength of primary care in Europe



(1) Green = High; Yellow = Medium; Red = Low

Strong primary care systems & integrated care tend to:

- reduce unnecessary hospitalisations
- increase population health
- lower socio-economic inequalities
- reduce inefficiencies
- slow down growth in health care expenditure

Health workforce training, recruitment and retention



The importance of measuring performance

Measure performance to monitor progress towards health systems goals and targets at national level to:

- trigger improvements in the health system
- increase information to the public
- ensure health topics remain high on the political agenda and guide policy making
- promote the exchange of best practices to improve efficiency and sustainability at EU level

Develop measurements (e.g. related to treatment of chronic pain relevant) for national monitoring and international comparisons; make use of input, output, process and outcome indicators, including wider set of dimensions, such as PREMs and PROMs

The Joint report on:



Chronic Pain?

The Joint report does not make direct reference to treatment of chronic pain patients

The Council conclusions on the Joint report, however, can be applied to any kind of publicly financed health services

Accordingly, when treating patients with chronic pain conditions, two issues of equal importance emerge:

- 1) **publicly financed chronic pain treatment interventions have to be cost-effective, and**
- 2) **the organisation of their delivery has to be well-coordinated and efficient (e.g. stronger role of primary care and integrated multidisciplinary care in the management of patients with chronic pain conditions)**



'Joint Report on Health Care and Long-term Care systems & Fiscal Sustainability' available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/economy-finance/joint-report-health-care-and-long-term-care-systems-fiscal-sustainability-0_en

Thank you for your attention!