

Observatory Venice Summer School 2009
(San Servolo, Venice, 26-31 July 2009)

Innovation and Health Technology Assessment: Improving Health System Quality

Programme Outline

The Observatory Venice Summer School

The Observatory Venice Summer School brings together high-level policy-makers in a stimulating environment. It is organized by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and one of its partners, the Veneto Region of Italy. It draws on their experiences of promoting evidence based policy making and of providing a platform for European health policy debate.

The Summer School combines a core of formal teaching with a participative approach involving presentations by participants, discussions and group work. The aim is to raise key issues, share and learn from each others' experiences and insights as well as to build networks. The conference centre on the island of San Servolo, which also hosts the International University of Venice, offers a unique setting for mutual learning and informal exchange with colleagues from various countries in Europe.

The Summer School is accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and participation counts towards ongoing professional development in all EU Member States.

Recent Summer Schools have focused on Human Resources for Health (2007) and Hospital Re-engineering (2008).



Innovation and Health Technology Assessment: Improving Health System Quality

The Summer School 2009 will look at the role of Innovation and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) as a means to improve the quality of health systems and the outcomes of health care. The course will develop a better understanding of the challenges in stimulating and assessing innovation in health-care provision and will explore ways of organizing effective evaluations, designing related decision-making processes and setting up relevant institutions. In this way, the Summer School will bridge the gaps between generalist system planning, specialist HTA expertise and the impact of HTA-informed developments on health care practitioners and managers.

Summer School Directors

Next to the Director of the Summer School, Professor **Reinhard Busse** (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and Berlin University of Technology) this year's course will be led by **John-Arne Røttingen** of the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services. They will be joined by a select group of lecturers and facilitators who are among the leading international experts and practitioners in the field of HTA and innovation in health care and health system processes.



The five-day course will be organized into three modules

MODULE 1: INNOVATION

The first module will look at the different dimensions of innovation, not only in medical products and health care interventions but also in broader health-system organization. Also based on experience from other economic sectors, it will explore what challenges innovation represents for the organisation of health systems and how it can be steered towards meeting the values and goals that governments have set for their health systems.

Issues that will be addressed in this module include:

- Defining concepts: innovation, health technology, HTA, quality in health care, etc...;
- Expectations and values related to innovation;
- Drivers and stumbling blocks for innovation;
- Diffusion and management of innovation;
- Innovation in processes and services;
- A policy framework for innovation.

MODULE 2: EVALUATION

In this module we will explore the experience of evaluating three different types of health technologies: (1) medical products and services (i.e. “health technologies” in a narrow sense), (2) regulatory and policy measures and (3) public health interventions. It will look at different models and methods for HTA, how evidence is used and how HTA and innovation contribute to quality improvement strategies.

Lectures and discussions in this module will cover following aspects:

- assessing different types of medical products and services (drugs, diagnostics, devices, procedures and e-health applications): selection, assessment processes and methodologies;
- policy measures (regulatory approval, reimbursement systems, national guidance or clinical guidelines) and public health interventions: similarities and peculiarities compared to assessing medical products and services;
- differences between context-free (internationally applicable) and context-dependent (national/local) evidence;
- integration of scientific and “colloquial” evidence.



MODULE 3: TRANSLATION

This last module will focus on the translation of evidence and assessment outcomes into policies and clinical practices. Starting from analysing the impact and effect of HTA reports and guidelines, it will address the key question “*what are effective ways of knowledge translation and brokering in health policy and health care practice*”.

These are some of the elements that will be tackled in this part:

- needs and demands of policy makers and practitioners;
- design of effective assessment institutions and decision-making processes;
- the role of the EU, WHO and other international organisations;
- the role of stakeholders, including consumer organisations, professional organisations and the industry;
- information and communication.

Cross cutting group work and political dialogue



In addition to the lectures, an important part of the programme will be dedicated to exchange between participants and to group work. Participants will be invited to work on a concrete case which is directly linked to the topics covered in the various lectures. They will present the result of this work at the end of the Summer School. This group work will be a way to put newly acquired insights into practice.

Also as part of the programme, a political round table will be organized, involving various policy makers and representatives of agencies and institutions such as WHO

Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission, the World Bank, as well as a stakeholder panel to reflect on their position and views with respect to the Summer School's theme. In this way, the lectures, discussions and group work can be framed within the reality of health policy making.

Participants

The Summer School is intended for senior to mid-level policy-makers and more junior professionals who are making careers in policy and management at a regional, national or European level. It mainly targets

- general health policy planners and managers who want to set up and use regulatory or other systems to improve the performance of their health care system;
- producers of HTA who have to interact with mainstream planners; and
- professional groups and managers who are considering introducing HTA to inform decision making processes.



Preferably participants should be working in institutions with decision-making powers whether government or non-governmental (e.g. ministries, directorates, national health institutes, federal committees), relevant provider or payer associations (such as insurance boards, hospitals or hospital federations, management boards) or public HTA agencies or professional bodies. Also a limited number of applicants from the private sector will be considered. Applications are welcome from all countries across the European Region and the programme will be tailored, as far as possible, to the mix of participants.

Get-togethers and social programme

Participants will spend the week on the island and therefore will have many occasions for networking and informal exchange. Various events will be organised during the week to enjoy each others' company and the magnificent setting of Venice. Besides the opening of the Summer School and welcome reception, a visit is planned to the WHO Office in Venice as well as an excursion to Villa Contarini in Padova.



Preparation

Prior to the Summer School participants will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the theme and course content as well as with the other participants through the web site of the Summer School (www.observatorysummerschool.org). Teaching material will include recent Observatory publications on the Summer School theme.

About the organisers

The **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies** supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe and beyond. It engages directly with policy-makers and experts and works in partnership with research centres, governments and international organizations to analyse health systems and policy trends. The Observatory is a partnership of national governments (Belgium, Finland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden); regional governments (the Veneto Region) international organizations (the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, World Bank, and the European Investment Bank); and academia (London School of Economics and Political Science and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine).

The **Veneto Region** seeks to ensure that empirical evidence and analysis reaches national and regional stakeholders and policy-makers. It is involved in comparing health care systems across European Union Member States. The Veneto Region is active in the area of health and it therefore plays a leading role in the European Union in research and policy development. It is also very much at the heart of the WHO Regions for Health Network. The Veneto Region, which has been a partner of the European Observatory since 2004, is hosting the Summer School to promote recognition among policy-makers and because it is committed to providing a European platform for political debate on health matters.

For more information and regular updates on the programme and lecturers:

www.observatorysummerschool.org