

Health Reform in Bulgaria

Antoniya Dimova, Maria Rohova, Miroslav Popov
Bernd Rechel



Health reform – a radical change

- New health system based on new principles
 - decentralisation and deconcentration of health system's management
 - market regulation
 - orientation towards demand (population's health needs)
 - greater influence of professionals
 - civil participation
 - autonomy of health care providers and purchasers

The Health Reform Diagnosis

- The main health indicators are still far below EU averages.
- Patients and health professionals are dissatisfied with the current state of the system.

Insufficiently liberalised health system

- The NHIF has monopolistic status for mandatory health insurance.
- The state remains in ownership of many health care providers.

The system is economically unstable

- Hospitals suffer from underfunding
- Price formation is not based on real costs
- A great number of individuals are not covered by SHI
- The market for health services has not yet been comprehensively developed.

The errors in the course of the health reform

- Reform began without a comprehensive plan or perspective.
- Implementation of the reform was carried out slowly and hesitantly.
- Communications with the citizens and health professionals were neglected in terms of objectives, content and process of the reform.
- The reform legislation did not regulate clearly enough the new legal basis of the health system and responsibilities in health care.
- The control functions and the regulation of the health system were underdeveloped.

General conclusion

Polisy failures

Absence of a systematic approach to the health system reform

Inconsistent health policy and absence of a long-term vision and political consensus

Further reform

- The major challenge - improving population health and reducing health and access inequalities
- Health and health care policy widely supported by a large constituent base, including civil organisations, trade unions, municipalities and the scientific community

