



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SALARIÉS  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Report Conference V4 Countries' Health care Situation</b>		
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## **Report on Health Care situation in V4 countries- Problems and solutions background, Bratislava 20.4.2013**

### **1. Absence of systemic health care reform in all V4 countries.**

After the fall of communism, there was a gradual destruction of the previous system without following a clear definition of the new rules.

### **2. Corrupt and non-transparent environment.** This is a political decision.

Plundering of system- setup system to profits for some selected segments- it is a political decision:

- Distribution companies,
- Pharmacies
- Purchases of medical equipment, other services in hospitals, hospitals' property management,
- Selected medical segments- for example: X-ray departments, MRI, dialysis,
- Selected laboratory- favorable contracts
- Health insurance companies /HIC/.

### **Efforts to privatize selected segments of healthcare under the guise / under the pretext / transformation of hospitals into joint stock companies.**

### **3. Health insurance companies do not fulfill its basic function.**

In all countries it does not work the fair payment for realized performance. The fundamental problem of the current system is inadequate payments by health insurance companies for health care. There is no established legal obligation for health insurance companies to pay for care. The health care providers must provide adequate health care - the health insurance companies have no obligation to pay the real costs of providing healthcare. Increasing gap- cost vs. payment by HIC = so called health care debt.

### **4. The lack of resources for ensuring and the development of healthcare care** especially in the sphere of healthcare providers-hospitals and ambulance.

Reducing the assessment base of health insurance contributions for the insured state-Slovakia.

Restriction of Reimbursement Decree- Czech Republic.

The low proportion of of gross domestic product spent on health care.

Result- spending on healthcare per capita is insufficient and well below the EU average.

### **5. It is not intended the range of basic health care** paid from compulsory public health insurance system and the superstructure above standard health care financed by commercial insurance or direct payments, based on expert medical arguments.

**6. The role of professional and trade unions organizations is marginalized.** Healthcare professionals who work directly in the system and know its shortcomings and possible improvements have no real chance to impact the system. There is a predominance of targeted political interference and influence of interest groups- a focused effort to keep the system untransparent. The media and political attacks on health professionals in their efforts to change the dysfunctional system.

Attempt to criminalize doctors for their activities- Slovakia.

Persecution of trade union representatives-Poland, Slovakia.

**7. The working conditions of health professionals-**compliance with the Labor Code, EWTD / overtime and standby duties/, staffing norms, professional training / attestation training /, fair remuneration for their work.

**8. Unwillingness of politicians comply written commitments.** Unfulfilled government's commitments in the Czech Republic and Slovakia- the Memorandum with the government in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

**9. Leaving health professionals abroad for better conditions.** Reducing the number of health professionals:

Poland: 2 doctors per 1,000 people

Hungary: Each year more than 1,000 doctors leaving the country

Slovakia: decline of doctors- [Http://www.vpl.sk/files/image/praktik% 201\\_11%](http://www.vpl.sk/files/image/praktik%201_11%20obrazky/obalka_3s_ubytok_lekarov%20.jpg)

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Increasing the average age of physicians, lack middle generation of doctors.

**10. The healthcare system, its development and stability is not a priority of the governments** for years. Politicians focus on reducing health care regardless of the impact on people, without a clear vision for sustainable health development. These efforts are particularly dangerous for patients and for health professionals who have to work under ever greater pressure. Instead of respecting agreements and finding solutions governments focus on suppressing the rights of healthcare workers, there is the escalation of political pressure, long-term ongoing negative campaign against health professionals in their requirements for fair working conditions.

## **11. Conclusions:**

**Ensure transparency and eliminate corruption** from all points of the system, the disclosure of all contracts, which are used by public resources of money /taxpayers' money/ payments for health insurance. Punish those who break the law or came to improperly benefits.

**Ensure catalog of performance, ensure a real payment for medical performance** determined in accordance with the law on prices including labour costs of health care workers.

**Preserve the public character of health care available to all citizens.**

**Ensure adequate financial resources from public health insurance.**

Determining the range of basic health care paid from compulsory public health insurance system and the superstructure above standard health care financed by commercial insurance or direct payments, based on expert medical arguments.

**Improve the working conditions of health professionals** and thus stabilize them in their home country.



**Ensure adequate and sufficient space for the professional and trade union organizations of professionals in the system, respecting their comments and allow them to actively intervene in the system settings. Stop the discrimination and persecution of their representatives at all levels. Comply with the standards and transparent rules for the functioning of the system, violators must be excluded from the system.**

**12.** We appeal the health care and its development have become a national priority for the ruling garnitures of the V4 countries because a functioning health service has an irreplaceable role in the development and stabilization of the society.

**Sick health care system is threat for everyone!**



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- Fair remuneration for the work.

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#### Solutions:

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- Ensure adequate and sufficient space for the professional and trade union organizations of professionals in the system, respecting their comments and allow them to actively intervene in the system settings. Stop the discrimination and persecution of their representatives at all levels.
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