



UEHP, Press Release,
NOVEMBER, 16, 2017

Hospital Private Sector increases by 16% in a global contracting market (- 9%)

The European Union of Private Hospitals presented its Factbook on November, 7 at the European Parliament.

In 2015, 20,45% of European Hospital Beds were privately owned (17,56% in 2007). The Hospital Private Sector increases by 16% in a global contracting market (- 9%).

The mean value in EU28 is 515 Beds per 100.000 inhabitants (range from 260 in Ireland to 813 in Germany).

The most important % increase of the Private Sector is observed in Eastern Europe, reflecting the private sector engagement to develop modern and efficient hospitals dedicated to all European Citizens.

This publication (Factbook) reflects an important communication objective of European private hospitals, aiming to demonstrate their full involvement in health systems. The UEHP entrusted this work to a medico-economic expert, Hans Martens, to bring valuable information to the debate on hospital regulation in Europe and on the modernization of provision of care. Controlling hospital costs, reducing waiting times, working in connected networks, documenting quality are the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Crippled by the global economic crisis, the European social area has reduced its health expenditure. The accredited private sector, i.e. under contract with the national social security systems, offers a response to the challenge of achieving organizational success in the hospital of tomorrow. Change management, strategic investment, patient information on the quality of care provided, are key elements of success.

UEHP provides accurate data on private sector involvement as a response to attain the sustainability of health systems, as full and equal partners to meet performance expectations both medically and economically.

“The subject is indeed hospital performance”

Dr Paul Garassus, president of UEHP

“Our challenge is to carry out the modernisation of provision of healthcare services, including innovation and necessary investment while respecting the strict budgetary constraints of health systems in each member state. The 2007 economic crisis profoundly affected economic regulation in health, with sustainability being questioned in some countries. Our action is focused on the quality of relevant and timely healthcare services for all European citizens. The private sector claims its place in an environment of increased competition by bringing professionalization of management, strategies adapted to an innovative healthcare provision, which are key to the success of quality health services of tomorrow. It is often difficult to identify the place of the private sector and its results in international data. The place of private hospitals deserved a specific study, covering all the points of view of all relevant actors. The members of the UEHP all share the great and admirable ambition to provide accessible and timely quality care to informed patients, while respecting their social responsibility for efficiency. The subject is indeed hospital performance”.

“Inequality is not created by who owns the institutions, but how payments are made”

Hans Martens, medico-economic expert

“The European Health system model can only survive if we have sufficient resources. The public sector does not have the resources because of demographic developments with too many old people and not enough young people to pay the taxes, so we need private capital to go in otherwise the system will collapse. Then, the issue is not about who owns the hospitals as long as they function perfectly. The question is rather about who pays. If it is the same payer, the insurance companies or the public sector, there is no inequality because of the status of the hospital. Inequalities can be observed in countries where the patient has to pay a lot out of pocket. We have national data but no comparable European data. We do know that the number of hospital beds in Europe is being reduced but the number of private hospitals is increasing. That is interesting. The reason are the lack of new investment from the public sector and higher patient satisfaction from private hospitals. They are more efficient.

This analysis is designed to stimulate a policy debate at European level with a positive message by linking it to the hot topic of sustainability of the European way of health systems. A debate to be continued...”

European Union of Private Hospitals (UEHP) : www.uehp.eu

UEHP Members (17 European Countries) are national private hospital federations representing more than 5.000 Private Hospitals. Those Hospitals are accredited by contract with National Social Insurances and certificated according to quality standards defined by national laws.

The purpose of the UEHP is to defend and represent independent hospitals in Europe, to generate the political and economic conditions aiming to improve the independent initiative in the health field.

Press & PR Contact

Ilaria GIANNICO
UEHP Secretary General
Tel :+32 22861237
secretarygeneral@uehp.org

UEHP, ASBL
Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée
1, B-1040 BRUXELLES
www.uehp.eu
🐦 @UEHP_Brux