Regional Management of Health in Austria

Ines Czasný

GÖG (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH) was established in its current form by federal law on 1 August 2006 as the National Planning and Research Institute in Health Care System.

3 Business units are integrated in GÖG (owner is MoH Austria):

- ÖBIG (Österreichisches Bundesinstitut für Gesundheitswesen – Austrian Health Institute), a well-known research institute established in 1973 by federal law to plan, regulate and promote the Austrian Health Care System.

- FGÖ (Fond Gesundes Österreich – Fund for a Healthy Austria), established in 1992 with the task to improve health promotion and prevention in Austria.

- BIQG (Bundesinstitut für Qualität im Gesundheitswesen – Federal Institute for Quality Assurance in Health Care), established in July 2007 to guarantee the quality of health services rendered in Austria by for instance maintaining quality registers and reports and performing Health Technology Assessment (HTA).
Content

» Regional Structure of Austria

» Austrian Health Care System – Overview

» Health Reform 2005 – ÖSG & RSG

» Health Reform 2012 – Governance by objectives
Austria

Federal republic with 9 provinces ("Bundesländer"), 32 health care regions and 95 districts

Area: 83,879 km²
Population: 8.5 million

Source: Statistik Austria
The Austrian Health Care System – Overview

» Health care system is based on a **compulsory social insurance**; access to services is regulated by law (General Social Insurance Act)

» **Comprehensive social health insurance coverage** is a major feature of the Austrian health care system → **99.9 % of the population is protected.**

» **High density of easily accessible health care facilities** (278 hospitals with 64,825 beds; 46,000 physicians); **free access** to all parts of the out-patient sector → **no gate-keeping**

» Health care system is characterized by the **cooperation** of a large number of actors. Competences are regulated by law.

» The **Federal Government** plays a **central role** (eg. legislation); **many competences are delegated** to the 9 provinces and to the 22 social security institutions (principle of self-governance).

» **Joint responsibility** for structural policies and planning (agreements under Art. 15a of Austria’s Constitutional Act)
The Austrian Health Care System – Funding

» Equal access to health care services is guaranteed by the solidarity-based funding principle.

» Mainly public financed system (social insurance and taxes) → 76 % of the health expenditures are public financed

2012
» € 34.1 billion total expenditure on health
» 11.1 % of GDP
» € 25.9 bn. public, € 8.2 bn. private
» 34 % In-patient care
23 % Out-patient care
16 % Medical goods
14 % Long-term care
Structure of the Austrian Health Care System

Federal MoH & regional provinces/regional health authorities

Acute care hospitals

Outpatient facilities in hospitals

Outpatient clinics (standing general)

Practising general physicians

Practising specialist physicians

Rehabilitation centers

Nursing homes

Centers for the elderly

Home services (home nursing...)

Practising therapists

Need for Coordination and Integrated Health Care Planning

Central field of action in hospital master planning

Fields to be taken into account during hospital master planning

Federal MoSA & regional provinces/regional social authorities

15a-Agreement

Health insurance funds & ‘main association of HIf’
Health Reform 2005

» **Strengthen integrated health care** – measures to overcome the strict separation of health care sectors and improvement of coordination of planning, financing and governance
  
  » Reform of Institutions on federal and regional level
    *(Federal Health Care Agency, Regional Health Care Funds)*
  
  » Integrated Health Care Structure Plans for the federal level
    *(Austrian Health Care Structure Plan – ÖSG)* and for the regional level *(Regional Health Care Structure Plans – RSG)*

» **Improve quality of health care** – measures to build up a uniform nationwide system of quality measurement and quality management as well as quality assurance
  *(Act on Health Care Quality, Federal Institute for Quality Assurance in Health Care – business unit of GÖG)*

» **Ensure economic stability** – sustainable financial security of the health care system
Legal Implementation of **Integrated Health Care Planning**

“Austrian Health Care Structure Plan” (ÖSG) builds the mandatory framework for “Regional Healthcare Structure Plans “(RSGs) of the 9 provinces (Agreement under Art. 15a of Austria’s Constitutional Act, on the Organization and Funding of Health Care)
Health Reform 2005

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Health Expenditure in Austria

6.2.1. Health expenditure as a share of GDP, 2012 (or nearest year)

6.1.1. Health expenditure per capita, 2012 (or nearest year)

Rate of (Acute Care) Hospital Discharges in Austria
Physician focussed health system in Austria

3.1.1. Practising doctors per 1,000 population, 2000 and 2012 (or nearest year)

1. Data include not only doctors providing direct care to patients, but also those working in the health sector as part-time doctors.
2. Data refer to all physicians who are licensed to practice.


Health outcomes and cost: A 166-country comparison

Sources: The Economist Intelligence Unit; World Health Organisation.
Health Reform 2012

- Is a **deepening concretization** of the **health reform 2005** → sustainable financial security of the health care system

- **Gradually reducing growth of public health expenditure** in relation to projected growth of GDP → definition of health expenditure targets

- **Governance by objectives**, via targets in the areas of
  - health outcome
  - health care processes
  - health care structures
  - financial development

- **Equal partnership** between federal authority, 9 regional authorities (provinces) and public health insurances under the condition of unchanged responsibilities

- **Federal and 9 regional 4-year contracts** (2013–2016) and yearly working programs

- **Bi-annual monitoring** of health care **reform progress** in the 9 provinces
Health Reform 2012
Governance by Objectives – „Federal 4 Year Contracts“

Common objectives of the partnership in the sense of **vision, mission** & action-oriented **principals** (values)

→ **regional implementation in 9 „Regional 4 Year Contracts“**
Many thanks for your attention!

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