

ANNOUNCEMENT: EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL

What: Integrated care: moving beyond the rhetoric

The Observatory Venice Summer School 2015 is a one week intensive course aimed at senior and mid level policy makers, civil servants and professionals involved in the funding, design and implementation of innovative integrated delivery models suited to the needs of an ageing population.

When: 26 July-1 August 2015

Where: San Servolo, Venice

Objectives: The Summer School will:

- Provide a state of the art account of the effectiveness and economic impacts of integrated care;
- Explore and discuss existing examples of integrated care approaches and strategies that have been implemented across Europe and elsewhere, stretching from individual pilot programmes to regional and national integrated care strategies;
- Interpret how different integrated care options can be operationalized considering resource, infrastructure and technology constraints in different settings;
- Discuss in a critical manner the place and usefulness of integrated care in a modern health and social care system;
- Draw practical policy and implementation lessons to inform better decision-making on delivery system reform that will positively impact the quality of care given resource constraints.

Why integrated care: Responding to the burden of chronic disease presents challenges for all health systems. In European Union countries, between one-fifth to over 40% of adults report one or more long-standing health problem. The complexity of needs arising from chronic conditions, and in particular from multiple health problems, in combination with increasing frailty at old age, require the development of delivery systems that bring together a range of professionals and skills from both the cure (health care) and care (long-term and social care) sectors to meet those needs. Yet, service delivery has developed in ways that have tended to fragment care, both within and between sectors.

There is a persuasive argument that better integration of services along the care continuum will overcome fragmentation and ultimately lead to better outcomes. However, the notion of 'integrated care' has been tainted by a long debate about the meaning and interpretation of the concept, risking for it to become an end rather than a means to achieve people-centred care. At the same time, many countries have begun developing innovative care models that seek to bridge the boundaries between professions, providers and institutions and so provide appropriate support to patients with long-standing health problems. Countries' experiences provide a rich source of data and insights that can help inform others and move beyond the rhetoric.

Approach: The six day course includes formal teaching but has at its core the experiences of participants in practice. A highly participative approach emphasizes group work that cuts across themes, participant presentations, round tables and panel discussions. It mobilizes the latest evidence and a multidisciplinary team of experts with a track record in the analysis, implementation and evaluation in integrated care. Course participants will also be able to share perspectives with and

gain insights from key international organizations including the World Health Organization, the European Commission and relevant professional and governmental organizations and to engage in political dialogue with senior policy makers. They will be part of the Summer School tradition, which fosters evidence-based policy-making and encourages European health policy debate by raising key issues, sharing learning and building lasting networks.

MODULE 1: If integrated care is the answer: what is the question? Analysing the challenge

- **Why do we care?** – policy needs and expectations
- **What is ‘integrated care’ and what problems is it intended to solve (is there a common understanding?)** – assessing concepts and applications
- **Experimenting with integrated care?**– an exploration of countries’ experiences
- **What we know, what we don’t know, and what we need to know** – assessing the evidence base and its application in real-world settings

MODULE 2: Developing and implementing integrated care

- **Getting started** – a developmental model for integrated care.
- **Will it ‘work’?** – conceptual frameworks and planning templates
- **A route map for implementation** – assessing the prerequisites for integrating care
- **What about the service user?** – innovative approaches to involving patients and their careers in designing new models of care

MODULE 3: Moving beyond the rhetoric: Getting the system ready for integrated care

- **Getting the incentives right** – paying for integrated care
- **Delivering integrated care** – developing the workforce
- **Top down or bottom up?** – designing an enabling regulatory framework for integrating care
- **The added value of EU and WHO action in supporting Member States**

Accreditation: the Summer School has applied to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and it is expected that participation will count towards ongoing professional development in all EU Member States.

Organization: the Summer School is organized by the **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the Veneto Region of Italy, the European Commission and World Health Organization.**

Applicants/participants: The Summer School is primarily aimed at senior to mid-level policy-makers although more junior professionals will be considered. All participants should be working in a decision-making or advisory function in a governmental and non-governmental context – such as ministries, (public) health institutes, regulatory or funding bodies, provider and professional associations – that focus on policy and management at a regional, national or European level. Participation from the social care sector is encouraged. This year’s School targets:

- National and regional policy-makers and senior civil servants who wish to enhance their understanding and application of the evidence, implementation and evaluation of innovative integrated care approaches in different European settings.
- Senior professionals in the health and social care sectors responsible for funding or designing delivery systems that are better suited to meet the needs of an ageing population at both the policy and implementation level.
- Those with a responsibility for the promotion of the generation, use and application of evidence to inform service delivery decision-making.

Applications are welcome from all 53 WHO European Region Member States and the programme will be tailored, as far as is possible, to the backgrounds of participants. If places allow, participants from outside the region will be considered.

Potential participants are **requested to apply by submitting their CV with the brief application form** attached. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2015.

The cost of **€ 2,200** covers teaching materials, social programme, transfer from the airport to the island upon arrival, accommodation and meals.

Faculty: The Summer School will involve a group of expert lecturers and facilitators from international organizations and centres of expertise and will be led by

- **Reinhard Busse** (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and Berlin University of Technology) as Director
- **Ellen Nolte** (European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies) as Co-Director

Preparation:

- The course involves only limited preparation
- All materials are available through the website www.theobservatorysummerschool.org.

Other information:

The Summer School involves

- An active social programme to facilitate networking and provide opportunities to enjoy the magnificent setting of Venice
- A visit to the Veneto Region office in Venice

The **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies** supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through the comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe and beyond. It is a partnership that includes national governments and other authorities (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the Veneto Region, the French Union of Health Insurance Funds), international organizations (the WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Commission, and World Bank) and academia (London School of Economics and Political Science, and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

The Observatory has three hubs. The Summer School is organized by its Berlin hub which is hosted by the Technical University Berlin.

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 EU Member States. The Veneto Region is active in the area of cross-border health care and plays a leading role in the EU in research and policy development. It is also actively involved in a number of networks, including EUREGHA, ERRIN, EuroHealthnet, WHO RHN, AER, HealthClusterNet, ESN, ENSA and ELISAN. The Veneto Region, which has been a partner of the European Observatory since 2004, is hosting the Summer School because it is committed to providing a European platform for political debate on health matters, linking regional authorities to the EU debate.

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

www.theobservatorysummerschool.org