

OBSERVATORY VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

What: *“Primary care: innovating for integrated, more effective care”*

The Observatory Venice Summer School 2016 is a short, intensive course. It is a week of learning, interacting, studying, debating, and sharing experiences with other policy makers, planners and professionals to promote innovation in primary (health) care for better integrated, more effective care.

When: 24 – 30 July 2016

Who: The course is aimed at senior and mid level policy makers, civil servants and professionals. If you are involved in steering primary care services or are looking at strengthening care, its continuity and integrative functions within and beyond the health system – then the Observatory Venice Summer School is for you.

Objectives: To

- ✓ Provide evidence-based country experiences of different approaches and innovative models of primary care
- ✓ Describe how primary care can serve whole populations, emphasizing vulnerable groups
- ✓ Provide mechanisms and tools that facilitate the integration between health care, public health and social services
- ✓ Provide tools to assess the performance of primary care
- ✓ Explore innovations that strengthen effectiveness of primary care interventions
- ✓ Review how provider payments and incentives can enable that primary care fulfils its role
- ✓ Systematize and interpret primary care innovations and their implementation

Why innovation and primary care?

There is a Europe wide consensus on the central role of primary care to enable universal access; facilitate continuity in health care; promote intersectoral work; empower communities; and adopt a public health perspective. This course will go beyond these core commitments to address how countries in very different systems can use, adapt and apply innovative models to make primary care a key force for integration and effectiveness. It will seek to address the following policy questions:

- ✓ How can innovation be shared and applied in practice in very different European systems, given the path dependency of provision?
- ✓ How can innovation be used to include vulnerable groups whether they are migrants, minorities, in isolated rural communities, or otherwise excluded?
- ✓ How can professionals, carers and patients be engaged in and support achievement of better health outcomes?
- ✓ How can the most fitting strategies be identified in a given national context?

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 of primary 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: *Where do we stand with primary care in Europe?*

This module describes the current situation of primary care in Europe and addresses issues, such as:

- ✓ What is primary (health) care? A working definition
- ✓ Interface with other sectors: integration between health care, public health and social services
- ✓ GP-led primary health care: organizational forms, scope of practice, cooperation with other health care sectors and social care
- ✓ Primary care performance: what does the international evidence show?

MODULE 2: *Health system challenges and Primary care reforms*

This module addresses the challenges that health systems face:

- ✓ Changing care needs in the population: multimorbidity, ageing, chronicity
- ✓ Taking care of diversity of patients, especially in vulnerable situations (e.g. migrants, homeless and minorities) and using primary care as vehicle for integration
- ✓ Workforce and organizational challenges: new professions in health care, incentives and appropriate skill mix to best meet patients' needs
- ✓ How primary care reforms attempt to solve health system challenges
- ✓ Primary care reforms and policy developments in European countries

MODULE 3: *Policy, planning and evaluation*

This module addresses the potential for change, both at system level and at the level of organizations and networks. We will address issues such as:

- ✓ Use of technological innovations and information system developments to support more effective primary care and better integration
- ✓ Empowering patients and making primary care the guide through the health system, to support choice and access to the right services in the right settings at the right time
- ✓ Policy development and implementation: how to translate the international visibility of primary care into actual reform at national (and subnational) level
- ✓ Policy evaluation

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** with the participation of **NIVEL – the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research**

Applying: 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.

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 2016.

The cost of **€ 2,200** covers teaching materials, social programmes, transfer from/to the airport to/from the island, 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
- **Peter P. Groenewegen** NIVEL – the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research as Co-Director

Preparation:

- The course involves only limited preparation
- All materials will be available in due course at 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

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 and Summer School is organized by its Berlin hub which is hosted by the Berlin University of Technology.

The **European Commission** is the EU's executive body. It represents the interests of the European Union as a whole (not the interests of individual countries). The Commission is committed to make Europe a healthier, safer place, where citizens can be confident that their interests are protected. It has been a partner of the European Observatory since 2009 and is promoting and facilitating exchange of best practice, and the preparation of elements for periodic monitoring and evaluation.

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. 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.

The **World Health Organization**, Division of Health Systems and Public Health

The Division of Health Systems and Public Health aims to assist Member States to design, adopt and implement comprehensive health and health systems policies, strategies and tools in line with the values of solidarity, equity and participation across the broad thematic areas of health systems governance, financing, services delivery and resource generation; specifically human resources for health and pharmaceuticals and technologies. The WHO EURO Office hosts the partnership of the Observatory. DSP and the Observatory work in close collaboration in a range of knowledge brokering activities such as the development of policy briefs and dialogues to support decision making.

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

www.theobservatorysummerschool.org