

The Slovak health system shows a very low degree of effectiveness and efficiency when compared to many other EU countries. In its current conditions, the system is at risk of being economically unsustainable in the future. The main consequence of this situation are ongoing adverse impacts on public health, for example, in the form of a shorter Healthy Life Year indicator which is only 52.2 years for the Slovak population compared to the 62 years of the EU - wide average (ten years of negative difference for the Slovak population). This results in an early leaving of the labour market and social exclusion of persons at retirement age. Council recommendation on Slovakia's 2013 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Slovakia's stability programme for 2012 -2016 calls for improving the long - term sustainability of public finance by increasing the cost – effectiveness of the health care sector. This is in line with the underlying principles of the Europe 2020 strategy (an EU document on the cohesion policy strategy) that emphasises the need to ensure that the current and future generations continue to enjoy a high - quality of healthy life underpinned by Europe's unique social models and sustainable health care system. Slovakia is currently far from this ideal situation, as evidenced, for example, by the aforementioned shorter Health Life Years indicator compared to other EU regions. The recommendation of Council 4 health care expenditure will be the main driver of costs associated with an aging population, which represents 2% of GDP, the second highest projected growth in health care spending from all EU Member States. Problems remain, especially in the area of hospital care and primary care. Slovak Government in December 2013 adopted a strategic framework for health for the years 2014 - 2030 to improve cost efficiency. A healthy population is a key to a community growth. Good health has a positive effect on the economic growth by increasing labour productivity, increasing savings during the life of an individual, which in turn brings improvements in education and support foreign direct investments. Each extra year of life expectancy raises economic performance by 4%, even when adjusted for working experience and education.

Five measures have been defined on the basis of the aforementioned analysis that need to be taken in order to implement an integrated health care model. The measures must be implemented and carried out concurrently in order to yield expected results. If they are not, measures implemented separately are very likely not to yield the results as expected.

1. Creating integrated health care centres
2. Transforming acute centres and regional centres of excellence in the hospital sector
3. Implementing clinical guidelines and preventive medicine guidelines
4. Resident programme and education, especially for doctors and nurses
5. Integrating and distributing information to promote health

The issue of integrated healthcare centres arises from the fear of general practitioners as they assume it is re-privatization or control of the whole primary sector by large financial groups. We found an very interesting point of view for us: the residential program.