

Benchmarking Regional Health Management

Summary

The project “Benchmarking Regional Health Management” (Ben RHM) set up by the EU under the framework of the Health Monitoring Programme (HMP), was aimed at enlarging the knowledge of regional health policies with respect to the governance of health programmes and processes, the administration of regional public health authorities, financing institutions and providers and institutional arrangements for monitoring activities. It intended to support a learning process among European regions using the variations between different regional health care regulations and activities.

To get an insight into the different regional health systems and the according management structures in Europe the tracers, measles immunisation and breast cancer screening as examples for prevention and screening strategies were chosen. Detailed questionnaires, additional background information and face-to-face interviews were used to gather the relevant information on the health policies of the 8 European regions that took part.

The analysis of the questionnaires and collected information material showed an immense variety in the organisation, implementation and evaluation of different measles immunisation- and breast cancer screening programmes. The participating regions gained knowledge and understanding of different ways of working and got information on how to improve their own prevention and screening programmes. However, an international or rather interregional benchmarking with the aim of identifying good practice models could not be achieved due to the limited information that could be gained in this rather short period of time, due to the in many aspects not comparable very different socio-economic and historical backgrounds and especially due to the limited number of regions.

To enable a continued learning progress among European regions and to achieve more transparency amongst the different regional health systems, it would be beneficial to involve a far larger group of regions, and give special consideration to political and socio-demographic backgrounds as well as epidemiological developments. This would allow a comprehensive benchmarking and the identification of good practice models for each group, enabling regions to implement changes according to the procedures most similar to theirs.