

Re-Organisation of SHI Management

Country: Austria

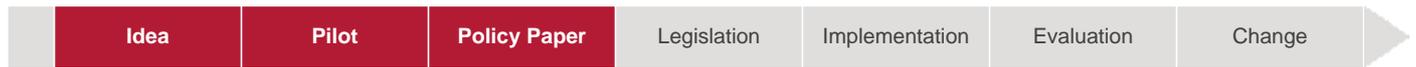
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Survey no: (1)2003

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Health Policy Issues: Funding / Pooling

Current Process Stages



1. Abstract

Based on a verdict by the Constitutional Court, the Federation of Social Security Institutions (FSSI) needs to be reorganized. The FSSI is a self-governing umbrella body of 25 Austrian social insurance funds. The Court stated that the current structure of the Federation was unconstitutional because it lacked democratic legitimization and its tasks were not clearly defined.

2. Purpose of health policy or idea

1. Observed parallel supply of selected services should be reduced (e.g. accident hospitals), regional health insurance funds should supply services in kind formerly provided by AUVA (general occupational accident insurance fund), cash benefits formerly provided by AUVA are to be provided by pensioners insurance fund
2. Re-organization of the management structure in regional health insurance funds.
3. Creation of a holding competence centre (all insurance funds including pension funds) for health promotion and prevention
4. Private employees' social health insurance funds (and accident insurance funds?) in each state are to be merged after completion of harmonization of contribution rates, doctors' fees and benefits.

Groups affected

Federal Ministry for Health and Women's issues Institutions, Federal Ministry for Social Security and Generations, Regional health insurance funds, AUVA, Federation of Austrian Social Security

3. Characteristics of this policy

Degree of Innovation	traditional	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	innovative
Degree of Controversy	consensual	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	highly controversial
Structural or Systemic Impact	marginal	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	fundamental

Public Visibility

very low very high

Transferability

strongly system-dependent system-neutral

4. Political and economic background

Political background:

- New government; idea is part of the programme of the new government for the next legislative period;
- Economic background: not clear as synergies are not (yet?) obvious

Change based on an overall national health policy statement

5. Purpose and process analysis



Origins of health policy idea

- The idea to merge some social insurance funds has been a topic in the public discussion for several years now and has been persevered by the Freedom Party, mainly under the objective to reduce overhead cost in those funds.
- To re-organize the management structure of the regional sickness funds according to the model as created by the reorganization of the Federation of Social Security in the last legislative period.

Stakeholder positions

Opposition parties are against the merger; main issue seems to be the management structure; whereas currently sickness funds are managed by executive directors and by trade unionists (representing the self-government), a new management structure should be introduced consisting of an executive body and a supervisory board. The parity in the supervisory board has been reassured via the delegation of members from the "social partners". However, this organizational change is likely to diminishing the influence of trade unions and will weaken the self-government tradition.

Influences in policy making and legislation

It will, once the discussions are finished.

Legislative outcome

Adoption and implementation

- The government
 - Federation of Social Insurance;
 - Not many details are visible by now
 - Chances of implementation are not so high in the near future
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6. Expected outcome

This policy idea will generate a hot debate;

Since administration costs of sickness funds are low anyway we do not assume that increasing efficiency is the main goal.

Once regionally integrated funds exist this may lead to a multiplication of experts necessary to carry out the tasks for administering accident insurance issues which now is rather centralized; however, with the creation of the holding competence centre this tendency may be lessened.

7. References

Reform formerly reported in

[Adjustment of SHI Contribution Rates](#)

Author/s and/or contributors to this survey

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Suggested citation for this online article

Maria M. Hofmarcher, Contributor: Gerald Röhrling, Monika Riedel: "Re-Organisation of SHI Management". Health Policy Monitor, May 2003. Available at

http://www.hpm.org/en/Downloads/Half-Yearly_Reports.html