

International Conference - Decentralisation of health care : European experiences

DULBEA, Solidaris & CIRIEC - 16th of November – Dupréel Room (ULB Solbosch)

Description

The organization of health care is essential for its effectiveness and the decentralisation of health care is therefore a crucial issue for the future of our systems. Naturally, decentralisation brings policies closer to the needs of populations, yet it also presents many challenges in terms of coordination and geographical inequalities.

The objective of this international conference will be to compare the experiences of different countries in decentralising health care (whether these countries are federal or not), in order to better understand the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems. More specifically, the aim is to analyze whether the decentralisation of health policy can improve effectiveness.

During the conference, two types of speakers will share their expertise. On the one hand, academics will describe the health care system in their country of reference and share the results of their research, with a particular focus on the issue of effectiveness in health care policy. On the other hand, practitioners will be invited to discuss day-to-day management of their health care system in the context of decentralisation.

On a more practical note, the conference will take place over a whole day and will be composed of two parts: the first consists of two round-table discussions with health care actors in the different countries studied, while the second consists of academic presentations of the various systems and their effectiveness. Moreover, a simultaneous translation service will be provided (English, French and Dutch) so that everyone can follow the presentations and discussions.



Programme

08:30: Welcoming of participants

09:00: Welcoming words

Benoît Bayenet, Professor of Public Finance at the DULBEA-ULB and ULiège, President of the Central Economic Council (Belgium)

09:30: Round table on decentralisation facing the test of the health crisis

- **Sari Raassina**, Director of the Social and Health Unit of the Association of Finnish Municipalities (Finland)
- **Francesc Esteve**, Member of the *Consell de Garanties Estatutàries de Catalunya* (Spain)
- **Patrick Jouin**, International Relations Advisor, Strategy Department, International Relations of the Grand-Est Regional Health Agency (France)
- **Jouleen Gruhn**, Head of Unit at the Ministry of Health (Germany)

Facilitator: **Jérôme Germain**, Professor of Public Law at the Université de Lorraine (France)

The covid-19 crisis has severely shaken our health systems. The objective of this first round-table is for operational actors to discuss the management of the covid-19 crisis by the various health system in relation to their degree of decentralisation. More specifically, the speakers will attempt to answer the following question: "Does a decentralised health care system provide an adequate response to a crisis situation?"

10:30: Coffee-break

10:45: Round table on decentralisation in the face of medical supply management

- **Lars Münter**, Director of the International Projects Unit of the Danish Committee for Health Education (Denmark)
- **Jean-Christophe Canler**, Deputy Director General of the Hauts-de-France Regional Health Agency (France)

Facilitator: **Quentin Detienne**, Lecturer at ULiège (Belgium)

During this second round-table, several practitioners will provide concrete examples of the management of medical supply in their (more or less decentralised) health system. They will shed light on how the issue of the supply of doctors is dealt within their country, and how it relates to the degree of decentralisation, and will indicate whether their health system is facing a shortage of medical supply.

11:45: Summary and perspective

Ilan Tojerow, Professor of Public Economics at the DULBEA-ULB, Director of the DULBEA (Belgium)

12:30: Lunch break

13:15: Policy perspective on decentralisation of health care (TBC)

Frank Vandenbroucke, Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health (Belgium)

13:45: Decentralisation and efficiency in coordination

Johanna Schnabel (Freie Universität Berlin - Germany)

The three academic presentations of the afternoon will focus on the issue of decentralisation and how it relates to the effectiveness of health care policies. More specifically, Johanna Schnabel will highlight how coordination problems on both the supply and demand sides of health care provision are addressed when policies are decentralised.

15:00: Coffee-break

15:15: Decentralisation and system cost effectiveness

Gilberto Turati (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Italy)

This second academic presentation will analyse the link between the decentralisation of the provision of care and the cost of the system, both at the level of federated entities and of countries as a whole.

16:30: [Coffee break](#)

16:45: Decentralisation and equity effectiveness

Joan Costa-Font (London School of Economics – United Kingdom)

Our last speaker will offer an analysis of the effectiveness of decentralisation systems, with special attention paid to the problems of health inequalities (online).

17:45: Conclusion

Jean-Pascal Labille, Secretary General of Solidararis (Belgium)

18:00: [Drink](#)

Practical information

[Registration](#)

Registration is mandatory and is done via [the following form](#).

[Date](#)

November 16, 2022 from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

[Location](#)

Dupréel room, building S, ULB (Solbosch campus, Brussels).

[Registration fees](#)

A fee of 40€ is requested for participation to the conference.

Please make the payment to the following account number: BE62 0689 3186 3061, Université libre de Bruxelles, indicating the following communication: 4R00S000118 + Last Name + First name.

A reduced fee can be granted upon request to dulbea@ulb.be and admission is free for members of the organising institutions (ULB, Solidararis, CIRIEC).

[Languages](#)

A simultaneous translation service will be provided in English, French and Dutch.

[Contact](#)

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Scientific committee: Benoît Bayenet, Claire Duchêne, Manon Pierrot, Ilan Tojerow.

With the help of:



Description of academic participants

Johanna Schnabel is a Lecturer at the Free University of Berlin. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Lausanne. Her research interests include federalism and intergovernmental relations, health and education policy, and fiscal policy. She was editor-in-chief of the Swiss Journal of Political Science. She publishes regularly in academic journals and in 2021 she published an article on federalism and the covid crisis.

Gilberto Turati is a Professor of Public Finance at the Department of Economics and Finance of the School of Economics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where he is the Director of the 2-yr. Master Programme in Service Management. He holds a PhD in Finance from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and a M.Sc. in Economics from the University of York. His research is mainly focused on the intersections between health economics, regional economics, industrial organization and political economy. He is currently a board member of the Italian Society of Public Economics.

Joan Costa-i-Font is a Professor of Health Economics, the team leader of the Ageing and Health Incentives Lab, and a faculty associate of the International Inequalities Institute at the London School of Economics. He has worked as a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University, taught at the University of Barcelona, Università Cattolica and Paris Dauphine. His research focuses on the economics of health behaviours, ageing, and health disadvantage. He regularly publishes in all the main journals in health economics, behavioural economics and political economy, as well as general audience journals in economics and interdisciplinary social science.

Jérôme Germain is a Lecturer at the University of Lorraine, where he has been teaching public law since 2009 and is responsible for the Master 2 programme "Procedures and applied taxation". He defended his thesis entitled "The Parliament and the Court of Auditors" at Toulouse 1. His research interests include public finance and comparative democracies as well as the economic and monetary union. Jérôme Germain is also a correspondent of the comparative public finance section of the *Revue française de finances publiques*.

Quentin Detienne is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology at the University of Liège since 2019. His teaching mainly concerns Belgian social security law and European and international social law. His research focuses on the field of social protection in general, with a special focus on pension law. In his doctoral thesis, he studied the current and potential influence of European competition law and the freedom to provide services, on the one hand, and European economic governance, on the other, on national pension systems. He is also a member of the editorial board of the *Revue de droit social/Tijdschrift voor sociaal recht*.