

HiT launch at the WHO workshop on strategic purchasing at Stupava/Slovakia, 3-4 June 2004

# **The 'Health Care in Transition Profile' Slovakia 2004**

**- An overview from the editor -**

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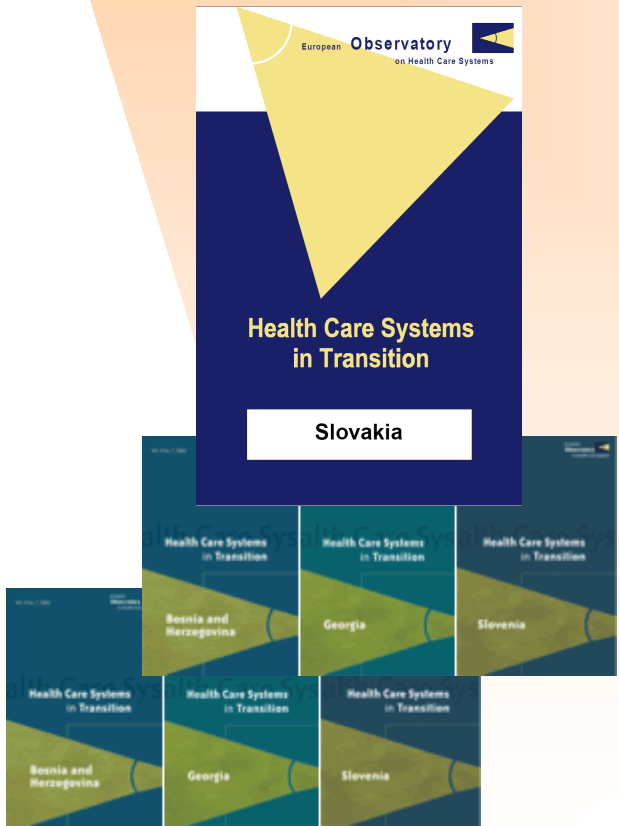
# The Health care systems in transition (HiT) profiles, a series of the European Observatory

- HiTs provide a description and analysis of a country's health care system and health reform initiatives.
- HiTs are based on a common set of questions and follow the same structure.
- HiTs shall enable comparisons between countries and within countries over time.
- HiTs shall promote the exchange of experiences of reform strategies between policy-makers and analysts.



# HiT profiles on 42 countries are currently available including the HiT profiles Slovakia 2000 and 1996

## Soon to be published: HiT Slovakia 2004



### Health Care Systems in Transition

Written by  
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**Annette Riesberg**

### Slovakia 2004

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies is a partnership between the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, the governments of Belgium, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain and Sweden, the European Investment Bank, the Open Society Institute, the World Bank, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

### Health Care Systems in Transition

#### HiT summary Slovakia

**Introduction**

**Government and recent political history**  
 Since the "velvet revolution" of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1989, the country has undergone substantial transformation towards a multi-party democracy and a social market economy. Since 1993, the Slovak Republic has been constitutionally divided from the Czech Republic. Slovakia is a member of the OECD since 2000 and of the European Union since May 2004.

**Population**  
 Slovakia has 5.4 million inhabitants. In 2001, 19% were below 14 years and 18% above 65 years of age. 49.6% were economically active. In March 2004, the unemployment rate was 16.5%, still among the highest in the European Union.

**Average life expectancy**  
 From 1990 to 2002, life expectancy for men improved continuously from 66.6 to 69.8 years and for women from 75.4 to 77.6 years.

**Leading causes of death**  
 In 2002, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 55% of all deaths, while 22% of deaths were due to cancer. Slovakia had one of the lowest infant mortality rates among the central and south-eastern European countries (CSEC), ranking also below the average of EU-15 countries since 2000 (6.2 in 2001).

**Reform trends**  
 Decentralization has been pursued in several reform waves and has involved hospitals only recently. From 1997 cost-containment has become the dominant rationale of health care policy. Since 2002, an encompassing reform agenda seeks to fundamentally reorganize the

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**Fig. 1. Total health care expenditure as % of GDP, comparing Slovakia, selected countries and EU and CSEC averages**

Country/Region	Year	Expenditure as % of GDP
Austria	2002	~10.5
Czech Republic	2002	~9.5
Germany	2001	~10.5
Hungary	2001	~9.5
Slovakia	2001	~8.5
Slovenia	2001	~9.5
EU average	2001	~10.5
CSEC average	2002	~8.5

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe health for all database.

**Reform trends**  
 The Slovak health care system has undergone substantial and stepwise change from an integrated health care model with socialist central planning to a pluralistic social health insurance system with multiple health insurance companies and a private-public mix of providers.

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HiT summary: Slovakia, 2004 1

# **The HiT Slovakia 2004 team**

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# **An updated and revised edition ... of the HiT Slovakia 2000**

Authors:

Dr. Svätopluk Hlavačka and Dagmar Skacková

Editor: Prof. Reinhard Busse

# **... and of the HiT Slovakia 1996**

Author: Dagmar Skacková

Editor: Tom Marshall



# **HiT template to ensure comprehensive assessment and comparability across countries**

- Introduction and historical background
- Organizational structure and management
- Health care financing and expenditure
- Health care delivery system
- Financial resource allocation
- Health care reforms
- Conclusions
- References
- Laws and regulations
- Bibliography

## Selected results from the HiT Slovakia 2004: Sources of finance (%), 1996-2002

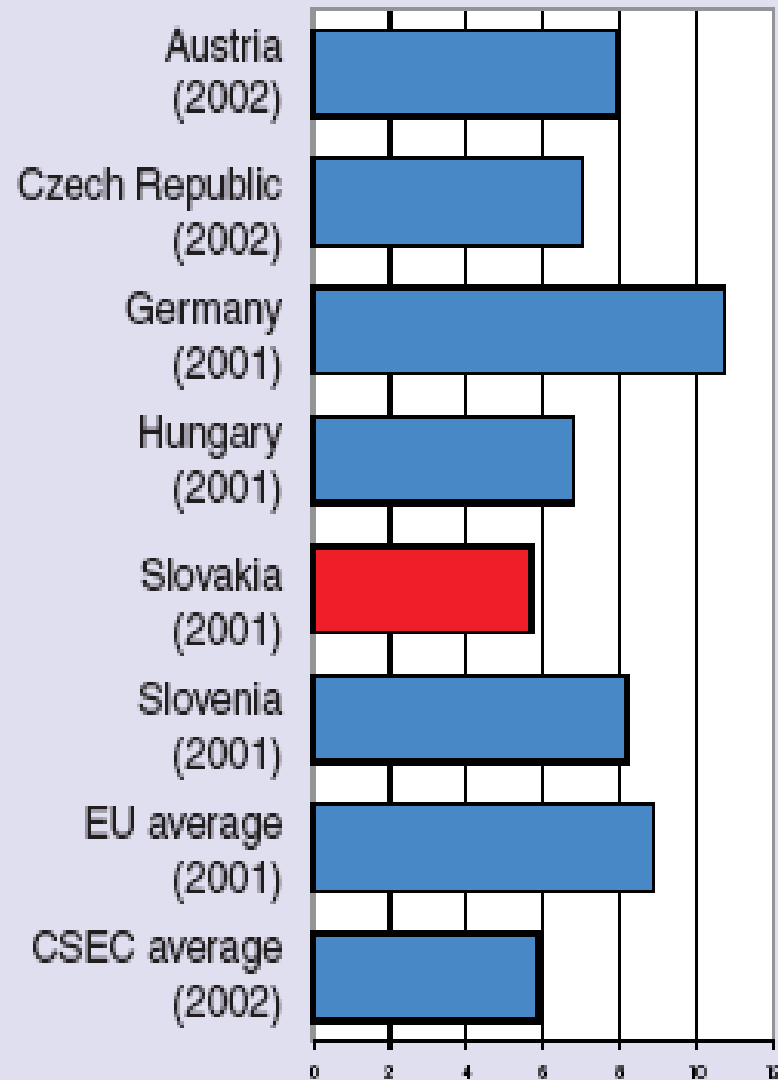
Source of finance	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Public	92.5	91.5	90.7	89.6	89.4	89.3	89.1
– Taxes	33.3	30.8	24.1	5.4	5.9	4.6	3.2
– Mandatory health insurance	59.2	60.7	66.7	84.2	84.3	84.7	85.9
Private	5.6	7.1	7.9	–	–	–	–
– Out-of-pocket	5.6	7.1	7.9	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.9
– Private insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



## Data on total and public expenditures

	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total expenditure as % of GDP	5.4	6.4	5.7	7.5	6.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8
– OECD 2003	–	–	–	–	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8
Public expenditure as % of total expenditure	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.5	90.7	89.6	89.4	89.3	89.1
– OECD 2003	–	–	–	–	91.6	89.6	89.4	89.3	89.1
Public expenditure as % of GDP	5.4	6.4	5.7	6.9	6.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2
– OECD 2003	–	–	–	–	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2

Fig. 1. Total health care expenditure as % of GDP, comparing Slovakia, selected countries and EU and CSEC averages



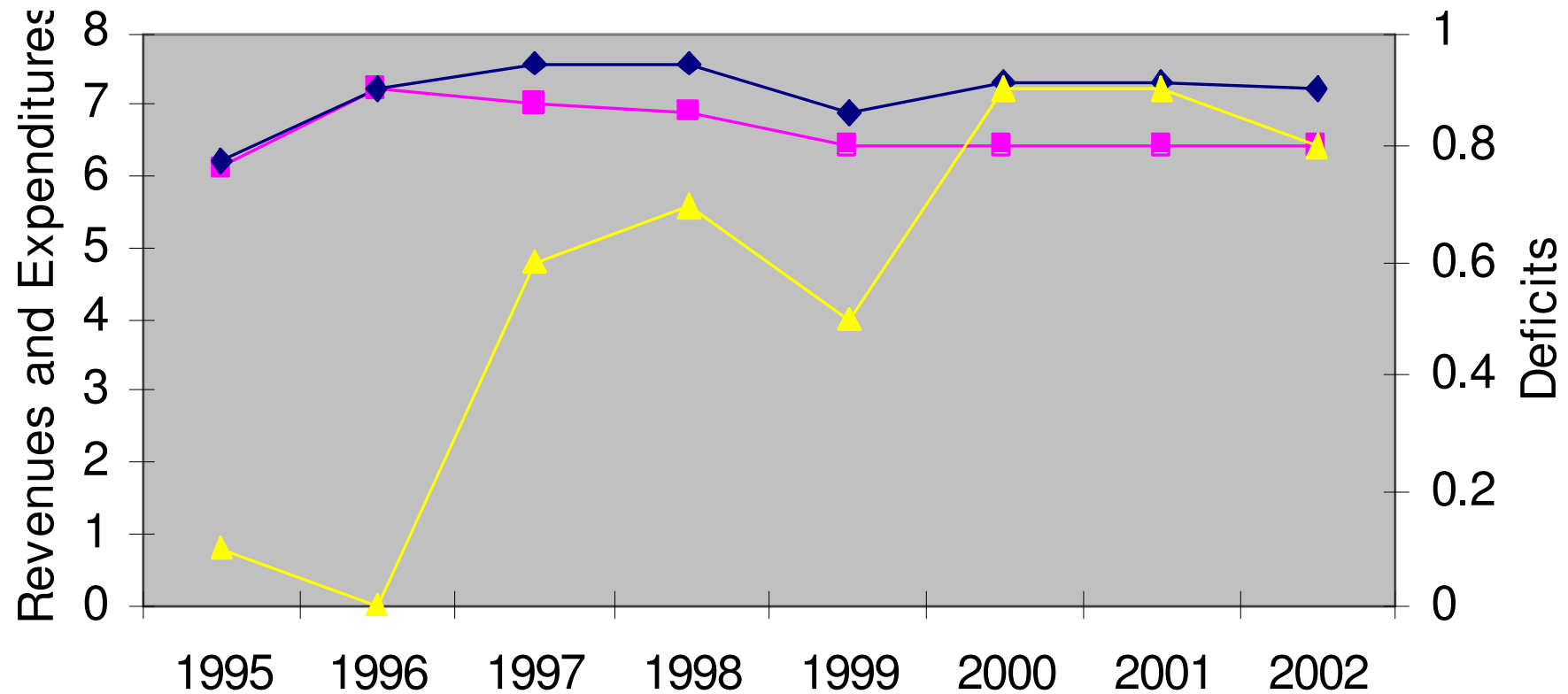
Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe health for all database.

## Low total expenditure in international comparison?

- role of deficits
- role of debts
- role of informal payments

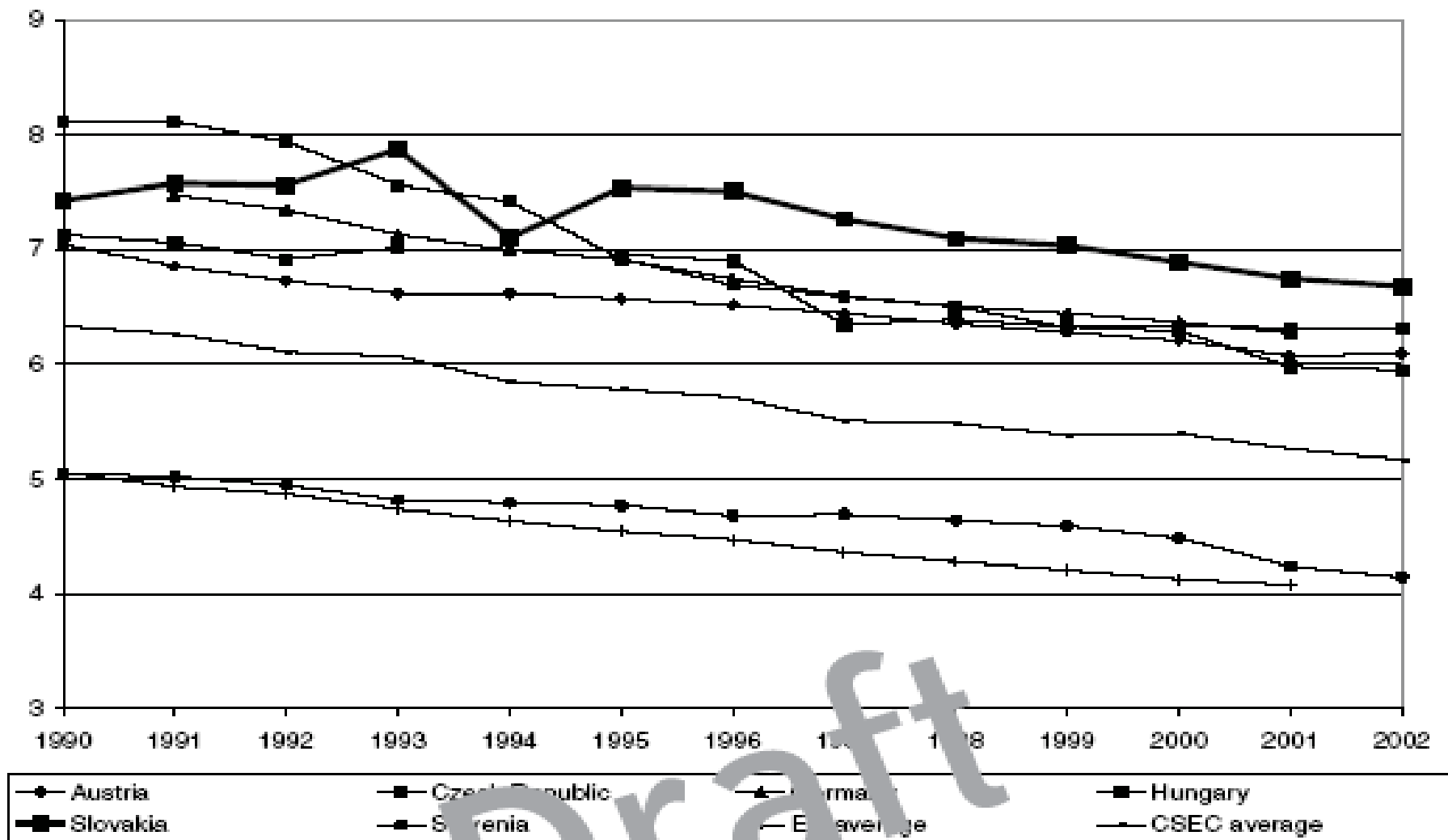
# Annual deficit (% of GDP)

(Source: M. Chawla 2004)



—■— Revenues (% of GDP)      —◆— Expenditures (% of GDP)  
—▲— Deficit (% of GDP)

# Highest number of acute beds among CSEC and EU-15 countries since mid 1990s



## ... and lowest occupancy rate. Average hospital utilization rate.

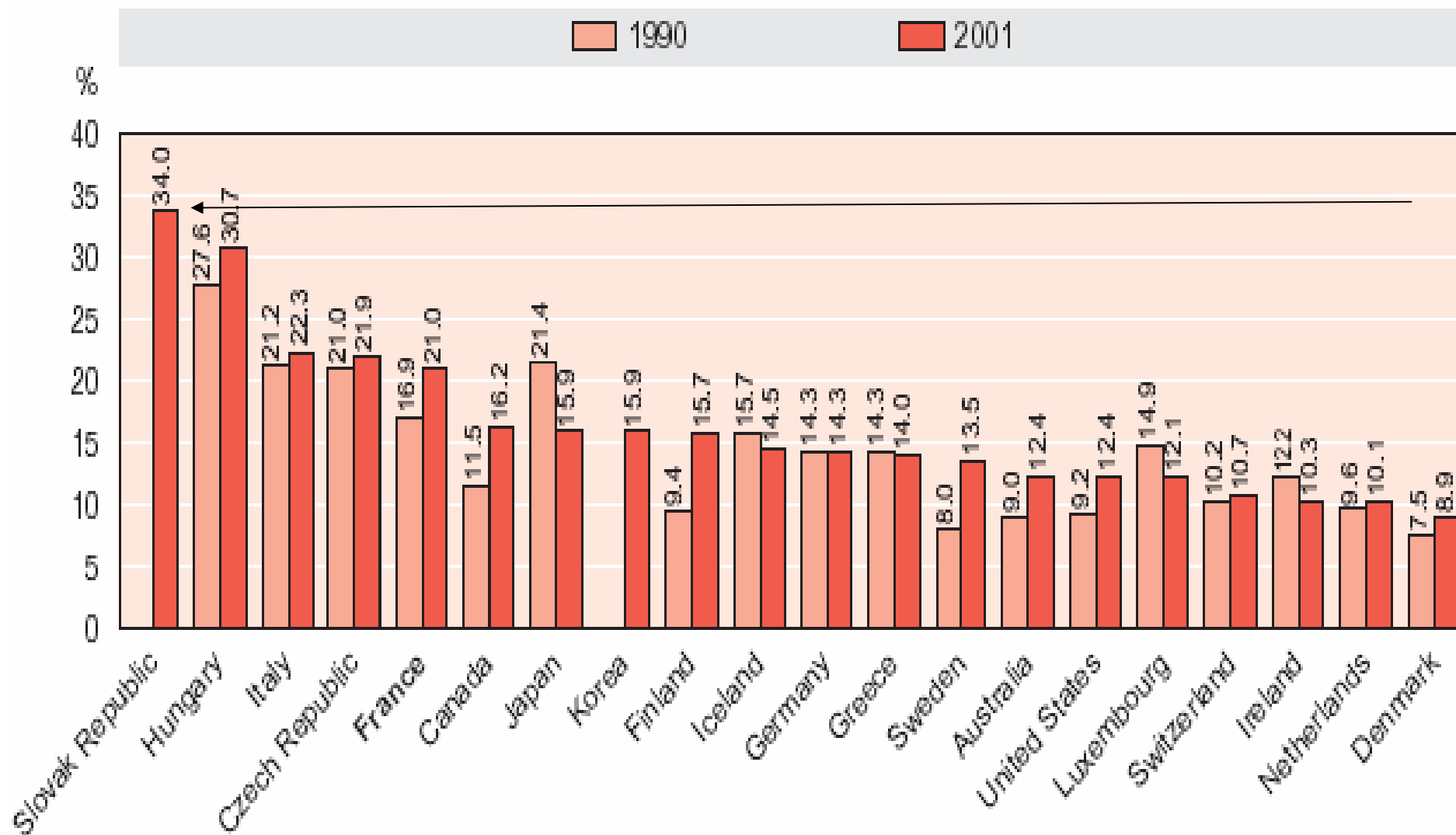
Table 1. Inpatient utilization and performance in acute hospitals in the WHO European Region, 2002 or latest available year

Country	Hospital beds per 1000 population	Admissions per 100 population	Average length of stay in days	Occupancy rate (%)
Austria	6.1	28.6	6.0	76.4
Czech Republic	6.3	19.7	8.5	72.1
Germany	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	20.5 <sup>a</sup>	9.3 <sup>a</sup>	80.1 <sup>a</sup>
Hungary	5.9	22.9	6.9	77.8
Slovakia	6.7	18.0	8.8	66.2
Slovenia	4.1	15.7	6.6	69.0
EU average	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	18.1 <sup>c</sup>	7.1 <sup>c</sup>	77.9 <sup>d</sup>
CSEC average	5.2	17.6	8.1	72.5

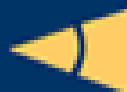
Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe health for all database.

Notes: <sup>a</sup> 2001, <sup>b</sup> 2000, <sup>c</sup> 1999, <sup>d</sup> 1998, <sup>e</sup> 1997, <sup>f</sup> 1996.

Chart 2. Pharmaceutical expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure, 1990 and 2001



Source: Health at a Glance – OECD Indicators 2003



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Your feedback and suggestions are  
welcome!

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The final HiT-Profile will be available at:  
[www.observatory.dk](http://www.observatory.dk)