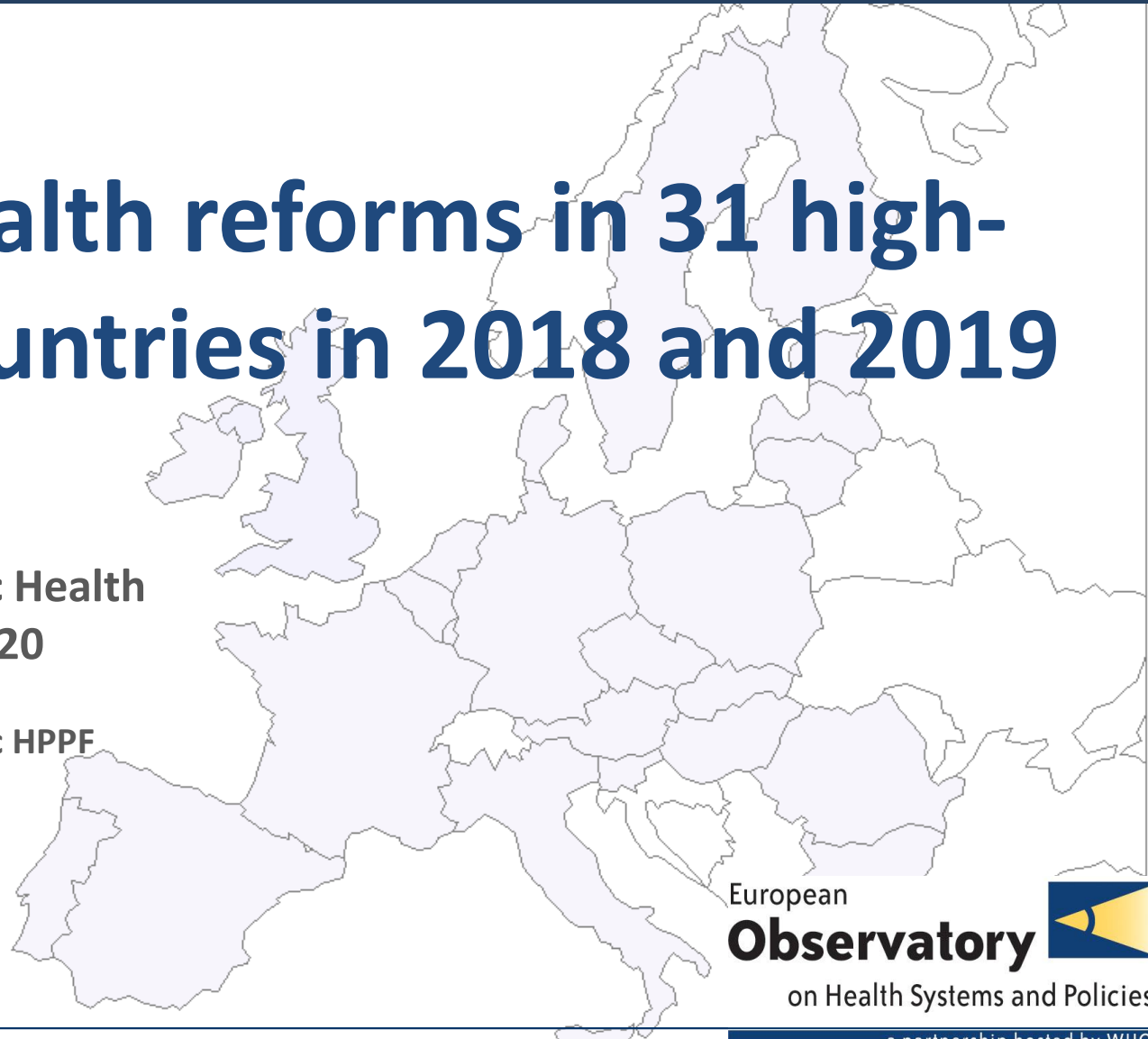




Major health reforms in 31 high-income countries in 2018 and 2019

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European
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Background

- Health systems are changing
 - Often similar reforms in different countries
 - Policy-makers would benefit from considering reform experiences abroad
- Limited information is available about reforms happening concurrently across different countries
- Aims: to provide an overview of
 1. three most important national reforms in 2018 and 2019
 2. main reform trends across countries for the two years
 3. implementation status of reforms



Methods 1

- Information collected from national experts of HSPM network
- Email survey prior to 2018 and 2019 network meetings sent to experts from 31 countries
- Information on “top three reforms” in their countries (70 words per reform)
- 2019 survey: implementation progress of 2018 reforms



Methods 2

- Reforms were clustered by 2 researchers
- Categories originally derived from template for health system reviews but adjusted inductively
- Feedback from HSPM members during meetings
- Implementation status was categorized as (1) implemented, (2) ongoing, (3) abandoned



Results

Survey response

- 2018:
 - 30 responses
 - 28 countries included
(no reforms in Slovenia and Croatia)
 - 81 reforms
- 2019:
 - 30 responses
 - 29 countries included
(no new reforms in Estonia)
 - 83 reforms

Reform categories

1. Governance
2. Digital health & transparency
3. Insurance coverage & resource generation
4. Resource allocation & pooling
5. Healthcare purchasing & payment
6. Human resources
7. Public health
8. Primary & ambulatory care
9. Hospital care
10. Chronic & other specialized care
11. Pharmaceuticals



2018 reforms

Country	Governance	Digital health & transparency	Insurance coverage & resource generation	Allocation & pooling	Healthcare purchasing & payment	Human resources	Public health	Primary & ambulatory care	Hospital care	Chronic & other specialized care	Pharmaceuticals
Austria											
Belgium											
Bulgaria											
Canada											
Croatia											
Czech Republic											
Cyprus											
Denmark											
Estonia											
Finland											
France											
Germany											
Hungary											
Ireland											
Israel											
Italy											
Latvia											
Lithuania											
Malta											
Norway											
Poland											
Portugal											
Romania											
Slovakia											
Slovenia											
Spain											
Sweden											
Switzerland											
The Netherlands											
UK											
USA											
Total # countries	10	7	13	4	9	5	7	7	9	4	2
Total # reforms reported	11	7	15	4	9	5	8	7	9	4	2

Centralization

Quality

Cross-cutting themes

Centralization

Quality

(2) Governance reforms

(1) Large-scale funding reforms

(3) Purchasing and payment reforms

(4) Hospital care

Centralization



2018 reform implementation

Country	Governance	Digital health & transparency	Insurance coverage & resource generation	Allocation & pooling	Healthcare purchasing & payment	Human resources	Public health	Primary & ambulatory care	Hospital care	Chronic & other specialized care	Pharmaceuticals	Implemented /ongoing/ abandoned/ missing
Austria												0/2/1
Belgium												0/3/0
Bulgaria												0/2/0
Canada												0/3/0
Croatia												0/0/0
Czech Republic												
Cyprus												
Denmark												
Estonia												
Finland												
France												
Germany												0/3/0
Hungary												2/1/0
Ireland												0/3/0
Israel												2/1/0
Italy												1/1/1
Latvia												0/2/1
Lithuania												1/1/1
Malta												2/0/1
Norway												1/2/0
Poland												0/3/0
Portugal												1/2/0
Romania												2/1/0
Slovakia												1/2/0
Slovenia												0/0/0/3
Spain												0/0/0/3
Sweden												0/0/0
Switzerland												0/3/0
The Netherlands												1/2/0
UK												1/2/0
USA												0/0/0
USA												0/2/0
Implemented/ ongoing/ abandoned / missing	0/8/3/0	3/4/0/0	6/7/1/1	1/2/0/1	4/4/0/1	0/4/1/0	6/1/1/0	0/7/0/0	2/6/0/1	0/3/0/1	0/1/0/1	22/47/6/6

Still ongoing dominates

implemented	still ongoing	abandoned	missing
22	47	6	6



2019 reforms

Country	Governance	Digital health & transparency	Insurance coverage & resource generation	Allocation & pooling	healthcare purchasing & payment	Human resources	Public health	Primary & ambulatory care	Hospital care	Chronic & specialized care	Pharmaceuticals
Austria											
Belgium											
Bulgaria											
Canada											
Croatia											
Cyprus											
Czech Republic											
Denmark											
Estonia											
Finland											
France											
Germany											
Hungary											
Ireland											
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Malta											
Norway											
Poland											
Portugal											
Romania											
Slovakia											
Slovenia											
Spain											
Sweden											
Switzerland											
The Netherlands											
UK											
USA											
Total # countries	11	8	2	4	3	7	6	14	9	11	4
Total # reforms	13	8	3	4	4	7	6	14	9	11	4

(2) Governance reforms

(1) Primary & ambulatory care

(3) Chronic & specialized care

Waiting time

Waiting time



Discussion

- The three most important areas across years:
 1. Primary & ambulatory care reforms
 2. Governance reforms
 3. Hospital care reforms
- Major trends:
 - Primary care: focus on multi-professional group practices
→ improve coordination/integration of care
 - Hospital care: centralization of specialized care, stronger planning
- Limitations: (1) based on HSPM experts, (2) focus only on “top 3” reforms per year, (3) just two years



Conclusions

- Policy-makers: knowledge about similar reforms in different countries may provide inspiration and/or help avoid making the same mistakes
- Researchers: can draw on overview of similar reforms for case-studies
- More research and longer follow-up needed to explore determinants of successful reforms across countries
- Effect of COVID-19 on reform dynamics remains to be seen → currently ongoing 2020 survey round.



Thank you!

If you have further questions:

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