

Matching Healthcare Demand with Supply in Ageing Societies

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Continuously improving and broadly available healthcare opportunities are – among other achievements – reasons for the ongoing longevity and ageing of societies.

This unprecedented evolution will not only challenge societies in general, but will affect their governance, social security systems, well-being of national economies, as well as wealth creation on both the macro and micro levels. Ultimately, it will also modulate the future of broadly affordable healthcare provision in the 21st century.

To address and understand these challenges one has to develop - based on the 2010 OECD data for Europe - a framework around five critical questions:

- What are the estimates of future supply and demand of health services?
- What is the current public health status and how will it develop in the coming decades?
- What are the determinants of the current and future health statuses of nations?
- What do we know about the current and future resources to deliver healthcare resources?
- Why is mental and physical mobility the burning topic to manage healthcare in the 21st century?

Based on the answers to these questions one may have to tackle two additional questions:

- Are health care systems and their suppliers ready to deliver?
- What is the plan of action if the answer is "no"?

The objective of this presentation is "to light the fire" around this complex topic and to secure healthcare services which fulfill the social and ethical expectations of ageing societies in the 21st century.

However, at the end of the day, it is not only a question of what type of healthcare services ageing societies demand – it's also a question what these systems require in terms of resources, how they can deliver in terms of outcomes, and if ageing societies will be able to afford this.