

SUMMARY

This evaluation aims to make preparations for the EU structural funds programming period 2014-2020. Preparation covers assessment of health care sector development trends till 2020 and identification of potential health priorities to be financed from the EU structural funds. Evaluation had four objectives to achieve:

1. To analyze Lithuanian health care sector and to highlight the challenges and good initiatives.
2. To determine the main causes of population health problems.
3. To identify the possibilities for the EU structural funds investment into health sector in accordance to the strategic documents on the EU structural funds and health.
4. To nominate the most effective and expedient priority measures to be potentially financed from the EU structural funds in 2014-2020.

Methodology of evaluation

Methodology was based on the application of complex evaluation methods. Assessment has been done in three steps: collection of information, analysis and draft of recommendations. Every methodological step was accomplished according to the specific additional methodologies. Primary and secondary sources of information were put to use for data collection. Data were analyzed using complex analysis methods. Qualitative information was analyzed applying content analysis method, and health sector challenges were investigated using case studies. Quantitative data were explored applying descriptive statistical methods and criteria. Legislative and other strategic documents were reviewed applying structural content analysis method. Economic modelling tools were used for the economic evaluation of the priority interventions. Health system scrutiny was achieved by applying the so called SWOT analysis – identifying strengths, weaknesses threats (challenges) and opportunities of the Lithuanian health system. Consequentially recommendations were brought as the main conclusions of the evaluation.

The main findings of evaluation

Demographic and epidemiologic analysis of population health status revealed the main public health challenges naming rapid aging, high prevalence of behavioural risk factors (alcohol consumption, smoking habits, nutrition and physical activity), and high preventable and amenable morbidity and mortality indicators. The SWOT analysis of the health system disclosed apparent peculiarities of the health system performance.

We identified three major priority areas for health sector investment. Priority areas and health interventions address the main population health challenges in the country and health system singularities. Priorities are in accordance with principal strategic priorities identified in Lithuanian sustainable growth strategy 2030, Lithuanian sustainable growth programme 2014-2020 and in the EU 2020 strategy. The proposed priorities for the EU structural funds investment are Management of chronic diseases, Health at work and Improvement of health safety and quality. By implementing the goals of these priorities we aim to reduce amenable and preventable mortality and morbidity from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, injuries, lower respiratory system diseases, TB, digestive system diseases; we target to decrease the absenteeism from work due to respective diseases, to increase the extent of the outpatient services, and to diminish hospital lethality due to controlled prevalence of hospital infections. Main tools are training, E-Health

development, research, monitoring and evaluation, etc. Expected outcomes of investments will manifest through a better self perceived health of population and increased economic activity of population, especially of working people aged 55-64.