

## “GLOBSEC Healthcare Readiness Index”

Unique Composite Index

*What are the Benefits of the Composite Index for Decision-Making in Public Healthcare Systems?  
How Different EU Countries Are Prepared for Future Challenges in The Public Healthcare Area?*

**Thursday 17 November 2022 at 16:30 H – 18:00 H**

**Online ZOOM meeting**

**Format:** Online moderated discussion (stakeholders from public, private, and acad. field)

**Targeted audience:** EU Parl. Members, EC DG SANTE representatives, Medical Experts, EU Patients Organizations representatives, Academia, Professional Associations, and Private Sector representatives.

**Date and time:** 17 November 2022, 16:30 H CET

**Format:** Online - ZOOM meeting – participants need to preregister

a link will be distributed to the attendees who confirm their participation online

**Suggested invitees:** no limit for the online presence

**Program:**

**16:30 PART ONE:**

**Health Readiness Index presented by Martin Smatana**, IMF Health Analyst & Health Fellow, GLOBSEC

**Followed by Q&A**

**17:15 PART TWO: Panel discussion**

- **Cécile Nourigat**, Policy Officer, European Commission
- **Michal Štofko**, Assoc. Fellow on Health for the Economic Growth and Sustainability Programme at GLOBSEC Policy Institute
- **Martin Smatana**, Assoc. Fellow on Health for the Economic Growth and Sustainability, GLOBSEC Policy Institute
- **Roland Freudenstein**, VP and Head of Brussels Office, GLOBSEC – moderator

**TARGETED AUDIENCE:**

EU Parliamentary Members (ENVI/HERA), EC representatives, Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region; DGA Interel; ECDA - European Chronic Disease Alliance; ECDC; EPHA; Eurocare; EurohealthNet; European Cancer Organisation; European Health Parliament; EMA, OECD, WHO, EU countries Health Attaches in BXL, private sector representatives etc.

## **ABOUT – PART ONE:**

The pandemic has reminded us that the healthcare sector is a critical infrastructure with a significant impact on the whole ecosystems of trade, industry, and services worldwide. In fact, whole economies rely on health systems, as we have seen around the world over the last two years. Surprisingly, countries with the highest spending on healthcare and the most advanced infrastructure have not managed the pandemic best. In many cases, smaller countries with flexible systems, a heavy focus on public health, and early access to innovations fared better. This is the case of for instance, Island and Nordic countries.

Even though Covid-19 cases are in decline as a result of vaccination and focused efforts at a global level, future challenges such as multimorbid patients, expensive drugs, and depleting personal resources are likely to pose significant problems. These problems will likely require a similar solution as the one that performed best during the covid pandemic, i.e. flexible health systems that are ready to immediately adopt the best solutions and face new challenges.

Which countries are currently most ready and should be considered “role models”?

To assess the readiness of any country to face healthcare challenges, whether it is the covid pandemic or the increasing rate of multimorbid patients, a variety of factors needs to be considered. These range from basic indicators of health expenditure to complex composite indicators such as DALYs. Each indicator portrays some aspect of readiness, but to have a complete picture, it is vital to analyse the variable of time.

Some indicators measure the readiness of the system as it has been up to today, e.g. avoidable mortalities. Some indicators measure readiness or impact on readiness in the future, e.g. incidence of diseases or spending on preventive measures. Hence, the readiness index analyses indicators in two parts: indicators and factors that influence readiness today and factors that are likely to influence the readiness of the system in the future.

## **ABOUT – PART TWO:**

The macroeconomic crisis that is affecting the European Union (and the world) has a direct effect on both citizens' quality of living and states' budgets. As recent epidemical and political disasters have shown, a harsh economic crisis leads to increased health issues in the population, given that a larger part of society is intrinsically intertwined with higher levels of illnesses. The materialization of such a scenario would deepen the treasury-related woes of EU Member States, increasing the high health cost that has been already weighing on states' budgets for quite some time - and that is projected to balloon over the next decades given the demographic situation.

Thousands of deaths could be avoided if appropriate treatment or preventive measures were available in the European Union (and internationally). Some of these deaths are the result of poor access to innovative medicines and long waiting times for treatment.

The same policy issues affect most of the world. The greatest potential for improvement lies in individual risk factors, such as diet, tobacco, and alcohol consumption. Studies have focused on analyzing key risk factors in more detail while calculating the benefits that could result from the application if appropriate public policies were implemented. Concrete data from the Czech Republic and Slovakia quantify the possible savings as an example for all of the EU.

Behavioral economics – and the related taxation and regulation that go with it – aims to reduce citizens' risky behaviors, to decrease the cost that those very same risky behaviors produce on the overall economic system. The lack of correct policies – or the lack of application of well-known correct policies – results in a loss in both lives and GDP terms.

Silver bullets do not exist in policymaking. However, policies that result in incremental gains for society can go a long way in improving the overall system and creating a more sustainable environment for states and citizens alike. The

Commission suggested with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan several initiatives that have the potential to significantly increase life value for society. There are certainly extreme requests where the delivery of results will be impossible or at least questionable. The parliament responded with a resolution that includes proposals worthwhile considering reducing the harm to society. Good regulation can foster innovation and well-being at the same time, but it needs courage and acceptance for implementation.

*This event is a moderated closed-door discussion among experts in the area of public health with the participation of representatives of the European public and private sectors. The aim of this event is to introduce the unique composite index project by GLOBSEC: the Health Readiness Index. The presentation will focus on the Index's objectives, benefits, uniqueness, methodology, and future developments that will allow the construction of a useful tool for public health systems' decision-makers and stakeholders.*