

Foreword

This first edition of *Health at a Glance: Europe* presents a set of key indicators on health and health systems across 31 countries – the 27 European Union member states, three European Free Trade Association countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and Turkey. The selection of indicators is based on the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) shortlist – a set of indicators used by the European Commission to guide the development of health information systems in Europe. In addition, the publication provides detailed information on health expenditure trends across countries, building on the OECD's established expertise in this area.

This publication is a concrete example of the long and fruitful collaboration between the OECD and the European Commission in the development and reporting of health statistics. This collaboration also involves the World Health Organization (WHO).

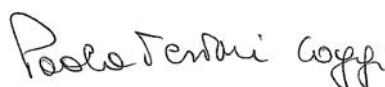
The preparation of this report has been greatly facilitated by the increased co-operation in the collection of health statistics at the international level in recent years. A joint data collection between the OECD, Eurostat (the European statistical agency) and WHO was launched at the end of 2005 to improve the availability and comparability of data on health expenditure and financing, based on the System of Health Accounts. Building on the success of the joint Health Accounts collection, a new joint data collection between the three organisations was launched in 2010 to gather data on non-monetary health care statistics. These joint data collections are improving the comparability of data across countries, while reducing the data collection burden on national administrations.

Health at a Glance: Europe 2010 would not have been possible without the effort of national data correspondents from the 31 countries who have provided most of the data and the metadata presented in this report. The OECD and the European Commission would like to sincerely thank them for their contribution.

This publication was prepared by a team from the OECD Health Division under the co-ordination of Gaétan Lafortune and Michael de Looper. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 were prepared by Michael de Looper and Valerie Moran, with a contribution from Carol Jagger and Jean-Marie Robine (Network on Health Expectancy, REVES) for the indicators related to life expectancy and healthy life years. Chapter 3 was prepared by Gaétan Lafortune and Gaëlle Balestat, with a contribution from Vladimir Stevanovic and Rie Fujisawa for the two indicators related to cancer care. Chapter 4 was written by David Morgan and Rebecca Bennetts. It is important to recognise the contribution of colleagues from Eurostat (in particular Elodie Cayotte and Albane Gourdol) and WHO-European Office (in particular Ivo Rakovac), who have shared some of the data presented in this publication. This publication benefited from comments from Mark Pearson (Head of OECD Health Division) and Nick Fahy, Fabienne Lefebvre and Federico Paoli (European Commission – DG Sanco).



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