

Further reading and sources on the workings of publicly funded health care systems

- Health ministries will almost certainly publish official histories, planning documents and other material about publicly funded health care.
- Textbooks, history books and other studies will also be available to give the main outlines of systems and how they have changed.
- Professional and trade press will follow the main day to day changes, “reforms” and occasionally include a historical view.
- WHO European Observatory on Health Systems offers profiles on most health systems in Europe, which need checking, since some are out of date, and may omit some details.
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits>
- Also available are the more detailed Health Systems in Transition series with in-depth studies, which may again be out of date:
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/who-we-are/partners/observatory/health-systems-in-transition-hit-series>
- A neoliberal critique of existing healthcare systems and public funding is available from the *Economist*
[http://www.eufutureofhealthcare.com/sites/default/files/EIU-Janssen%20Healthcare Web%20version.pdf](http://www.eufutureofhealthcare.com/sites/default/files/EIU-Janssen%20Healthcare%20Web%20version.pdf)
- An IMF conference recently discussed health systems and reforms in Europe
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2011/paris/index.htm>
- An OECD comparative study (in some technical detail) **Health care systems: Efficiency and Institutions** (2010) is at <http://goo.gl/SALil>

Sources and responses:

EU overviews are very out of date, but there is some data on hospitals at http://www.hope.be/03activities/1_0-facts_and_figures.html

More figures on health systems are on Eurostat:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Healthcare_statistics

The OECD publishes statistical information and analysis of health systems in its member countries at: <http://goo.gl/4onac>

WHO country data: <http://www.who.int/countries/en/>

University departments and leading **academics** will occasionally publish studies on health systems, or comment on issues arising.

Bodies of **health professionals** will often reflect a division of views, with a balance between those seeking to develop their own private practice and work with private healthcare corporations and those committed to public provision, values of equity and access.

Campaign bodies and **pressure groups** for and against privatisation (some funded by **trade unions**, which will also offer comment and some analysis) will be able to provide information reflecting specific views.

The private sector (pharmaceutical industry, suppliers, private hospital and insurance companies) and its trade press and publicity departments will offer ready comment reflecting its view on public health services.

Management of **public hospitals and healthcare services** will have their own press and publicity departments to respond to specific concerns and developments.