Propositions

Health system governance in Europe: the case of hospitals

by Timo Clemens

1. Financial support and the facilitation of an arena for cooperation by the European Commission are not neutral. EU involvement adds new layers to the discussion of health policy such as questions of subsidiarity or EU wide social cohesion. (this dissertation, chapter 2)

2. Paradoxically, the EU simultaneously limits the ability of hospitals to react to austerity measures by discouraging long-term investments needed for re-organisation of infrastructure and other key attributes required to achieve efficiencies in care provision and administration. (this dissertation, chapter 3)

3. Law and new governance modes are linked in the implementation of the Directive to help enlarging the health system agenda of the EU. (this dissertation, chapter 5)

4. Domestic policy makers feel that it is difficult to adapt to EU influences and the corresponding need to search for pragmatic solutions. A more proactive attitude towards the EU’s involvement could be of added value. However, it would mean at the same time a further legitimisation of EU involvement in practical hospital issues which many stakeholders seem to fear. (this dissertation, chapter 6)

5. Beyond the work on concrete tools and technological innovations in the hospital setting a broader discussion on the role and function of hospitals in future health systems has to be initiated because investments and research funding on the national and EU level follows accordingly. (valorisation opportunity, this dissertation, chapter 3)

6. The results are an invitation to national decision makers to overcome the hesitation and explore the European route - not for the sake of European collaboration - but in order to solve their domestic problems and challenges in a smart way in Brussels. (valorisation addendum, this dissertation)

7. Scientific knowledge is as much an understanding of the diversity of situations for which a theory or its models are relevant as an understanding of its limits. (Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, in Governing the Commons)

8. Steuern heißen Steuern, weil man damit steuern kann. (Gregor Gysi, German Politician The Leftist Party, April 1996)

9. The velocity of policy transfer is inversely related to the weight of evidence. (Josep Figueras, Director WHO Observatory on Health Systems and Policies at the European Public Health Conference, Glasgow, 19th November 2014)

10. Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride. (John F. Kennedy, U.S. president)