



European Commission: cuts in health care have long-term impact

Cuts in health care have long-term impact, said Erdem Erginel - the member of the cabinet of European Commissioner for Health at Brussels World Health CareCongress Europe.

The European Commission aims at reducing inequalities in the health field across the European Union. The European Commission estimates that too much inequality in health care - both in terms of the various European Union countries, as well as within a single Member State. "Solidarity and the homogeneous distribution of resources is essential to ensure access to quality health care," said Erginel.

European health authority gave some examples of the high prevailing inequality. For example, the difference between average life expectancy in the European Union countries is thirteen years. But there are differences between rates of diseases – tuberculosis prevails seventeen times per capita more in Romania than in Sweden. Different countries also have the abilities to contribute to health care – there are eleven times more MRI scanners per capita in Austria than in neighbouring Slovenia.

Erdem Ergineli said that reasons for inequality lie in the different financing of health care. The health-care costs in Romania account for 5% of GDP, in France the number is 11%.

Erdem Erginel stressed the important role of prevention in health care management, and warned against too easy budget cuts. "Cuts in health care have long-term impact," said Erdem Erginel.

Siim Nahkur, Brussels, Helsinki.