

Abstract

Title: A Comparison of the German and Austrian Outcome Reporting

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Although population's health status of the countries within the European Union has steadily improved during recent years, there are considerable demographic changes, resulting from the slower growing population in combination with increasing life expectancy, that have an impact on health care and therefore just as on the population's health. To the increase of non-communicable diseases which occur because of the above mentioned changes can be counteracted with prevention, behavioral changes with regard to the way of life as well as the development of a health-promoting environment.

Related to the prevention of health Outcome Reporting plays an important role. By showing the actual situation of the population's health, measures which will help to improve the health situation can be derived. Within the Public Health Action Cycle Outcome Reporting is the basis for developing targets referring to the citizens' health and the subsequent setting up, implementing and evaluating measures with which the state of health should be revised.

Although Outcome Reporting implies many advantages, some loss-making aspects can be associated with it. For identifying these challenges, as well as demonstrating success factors, differences and similarities in conjunction with the health coverage of the two countries, within this thesis eleven interviews with experts of the health sector have been conducted.

The results of this investigation show, that Outcome Reporting does a good job in presenting the current health situation of the population. Based on the fact, that both countries do not have an appropriate legal framework the results of the reports cannot be compared sufficiently. Another challenge with which both countries are confronted is the fact, that policy makers, which play an important role in implementing strategies for improving the population's health, do not adequately appreciate the positive side effects of Outcome Reporting. Success factors that were addressed by the interviewed persons refer to the principles of the Public Health Action Cycle. If health goals are defined in connection with the outcome of the reports, health could be improved by the implementation of the derived measures. The development of human resources by course offerings in public health means that in Germany, compared to Austria, more advanced studies can be developed to form an adequate basis for further steps within the Public Health Action Cycle.