

Health Policy in the European Multilevel Governance System

Thursday, 10h15-11h45

Winter term 2021/22

Dr. Mechthild Roos

I. Course contents & desired learning outcomes

This seminar offers an overview of the genesis and implementation of health policy in the multilevel governance system of the European Union. To this end, it takes into account the distribution of legislative and executive power and of political competences at

- a) The EU level (including insight into current and ongoing processes of change),
- b) The national level (taking into consideration various types of healthcare regimes),
and
- c) The regional and communal level (with differing extents of power in different EU member states).

With a view to current developments – both in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond – the seminar sheds light on the growing importance, and not least the increasing politicisation, of health policy in the European multilevel governance system. It furthermore discusses the repercussions of these current developments in policy-making processes and outcomes.

II. Reading guidance

The reading material for the preparation of each unit is accessible via Digicampus. The contents of each unit build on the knowledge provided by the respective reading material. It is therefore expected that every student reads the respective texts for each unit and actively engages with them, as we will also do during the course sessions. Students may also use the reading material as basis for the unit tasks, as well as the final assessment.

III. Requirements for successful completion of the course

Within the scope of this seminar, the following is asked of the participating students:

- a) Active course participation in both synchronous and asynchronous elements of the course,
- b) Active engagement with the reading material,
- c) Individual tasks within each unit,
- d) Written final assessment (different options are discussed during the seminar).

IV. Access to the virtual sessions via Zoom

You can access the virtual seminar sessions via the following Zoom link:

[Link deleted]

V. Class Policies

Please make sure to actively participate in all units, including both the respective synchronous and asynchronous elements. This is a precondition for passing the course, since you need to complete every unit in order not only to reach all learning goals, but to complete all required tasks. In case of questions or concerns, or if you are in need of any information not included in this syllabus, please contact the teacher directly before or after the course sessions, via e-mail or via Digicampus. Due to the pandemic, office hours take place virtually (Zoom) or by phone, either directly before or after the sessions, or on individually agreed dates.

VI. Syllabus

Unit 0: Introduction (Virtual session on 21.10.2021)

Unit 1: Public Health in the European Union (Virtual session on 04.11.2021)

Assigned reading: Scott L. Greer & Holly Jarman (2021): 'What Is EU Public Health and Why? Explaining the Scope and Organization of Public Health in the European Union', *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 46:1, 23-47.

Assignment for unit 1: Research and assemble different definitions of health, healthcare, health(care) system, health policy, and public health. Collate at least ten different definitions, whereas it is up to you to choose how many definitions you present for each term, as long as a total of ten is reached, and as long as every term is covered at least once. Make sure to include a source/literature reference for each definition.

Please upload a file containing an overview of all your selected definitions on Digicampus by 3 November.

Unit 2: Typologies of Healthcare Systems in Europe (Virtual session on 18.11.2021)

Assigned Reading: Claus Wendt: 'Gesundheitspolitik', in Herbert Obinger & Manfred G. Schmidt (eds.): *Handbuch Sozialpolitik*. Wiesbaden 2019: Springer VS, 605-624.

Assignment: Write a short review (ca. 500 words) about the assigned reading (Wendt 2019, see above), and about its relevance for our course.

Please upload your review on Digicampus by 17 November.

Unit 3: The Politicisation of Health (Virtual session on 02.12.2021)

Assigned reading: Scott L. Greet et al. (2017): 'Policy, politics and public health', *European Journal of Public Health*, 27:4, 40-43.

Assignment: Select an election manifesto from a national party of an EU member state of your choice (since 2016) and discuss in a concise format what health- and health policy-related contents and demands are covered in this manifesto.

Please upload your outline on Digicampus by 1 December.

Unit 4: Health Politics in the EU Multilevel-Governance System I: The EU Perspective (Virtual session on 16.12.2021)

Assigned reading: Martin Schölkopf & Simone Grimmeisen (2021): '8 Die Europäische Gesundheitspolitik', in Martin Schölkopf & Simone Grimmeisen (eds.): *Das Gesundheitswesen im*

internationalen Vergleich. Gesundheitssystemvergleich, Länderberichte und europäische Gesundheitspolitik, Medizinisch Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 279-306.

Assignment: Create a graphic overview of the functions and competences in European health policy of one EU supranational institution (European Commission, European Parliament, Court of Justice of the EU) or one of the following: European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA), and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

You may work in small groups. We distribute responsibilities for each of the above-mentioned institutions at the virtual session on 2 December. Please upload your graphic overview on Digicampus by 15 December; and please make sure to also have a look at the overviews of your fellow classmates.

Unit 5: Health Politics in the EU Multilevel-Governance System II: The Member-State Perspective (Virtual session on 13.01.2022)

Assigned reading: Anja Hartmann & Sebastian Becker (2014): 'Der Einfluss europäischer Regulierung auf gesundheitspolitische Steuerungsprozesse in Deutschland, in Alexandra Manzei & Rudi Schmiede (eds.): 20 Jahre Wettbewerb im Gesundheitswesen. Theoretische und empirische Analysen zur Ökonomisierung von Medizin und Pflege, Springer VS, 71-88.

Assignment: Collect reasons and arguments, why EU member states might have an interest in:

- a) Transferring more competences in the area of health policy to the EU level; and
- b) Ensuring that health policy competences remain firmly in member states' hands.

Please upload a file containing your clearly structured presentation of arguments and reasons on Digicampus by 12 January.

Unit 6: Towards a European Health Union? (Virtual session on 27.01.2022)

Assigned reading: Giulia Bazzan (2020): 'Exploring Integration Trajectories for a European Health Union', *European Journal of Risk Regulation*, doi: 10.1017/err.2020.98, 1-11.

Assignment: Compose a statement (ca. 500 words, or alternatively ca. 3-5 minutes in an audio or video format) from the point of view either of a political actor at the EU/national/regional/communal level, or of a stakeholder in European health/healthcare/health policy (doctors, nurses, patient representatives, hospitals, health insurance associations, pharmaceutical industries etc.) on the question: Whether and why is EU treaty change necessary in order to meet current challenges in the area of health policy?

You may work in small groups. We distribute the different actors' roles during the virtual session on 13 January. Please research the positions of your respective actor and construct your line of argumentation accordingly.

Please upload your statement on Digicampus by 26 January.

Unit 7: Concluding Discussion (Virtual session on 03.02.2022)

Assignment: Reflect on a possible research subject and draft a research question for your written final assignment. Please bring both with you to our final virtual session on 3 February.