



2nd Croatian Health Economics Workshop

20th-22nd May 2024 – Dubrovnik, Croatia

Since its inception during the 1st Croatian Health Economics Workshop in 2023, the **Croatian Health Economics Association** continues its mission to promote the dissemination of research in the field of health economics across Croatia, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as foster collaboration between interested scholars across institutions in the region and internationally. As a result, the goal of the **2nd Croatian Health Economics Workshop** is to act as a forum encouraging a continued exchange of ideas and best practices, with the hope to promote discussion centred around high-priority topics for the health systems of Central and Eastern European countries (including EU-member and non-member states). More generally, the workshop hopes to serve as a platform for transferring knowledge within Central and Eastern Europe and the international community.

WORKSHOP THEMES

The multiple challenges of ageing societies, growing demand for long-term care, increased burden for the healthcare workforce, and shrinking budgets for public healthcare systems are common to most high-income countries. Despite facing vastly similar health systems' challenges, most Central and Eastern European countries (including EU-member states and non-member states) lag in terms of innovations in the ways their healthcare systems are organised, and issues tackled. Additionally, compared to Western Europe, the region has a substantial gap in terms of economic growth, with various countries still in a middle-income status, which makes the fiscal constraints even more salient. Consequently, whilst papers addressing other topics are welcome, contributions focusing on the following broad themes are particularly encouraged:

Financial sustainability: The increase in healthcare costs at a faster pace compared to the rates of healthcare budget expansion or GDP growth beg the question of how sustainable the current health systems are in the long run. Around this broad theme, the workshop welcomes evidence on approaches to prioritise innovative technologies/interventions, system reorganizations contributing to more efficient and effective healthcare delivery, policies reducing socioeconomic health inequalities in access and health outcomes or policies increasing population coverage, as well as similar topics.

Long-term care and ageing: The increasing demand for long-term care in response to both ageing and an increased burden of chronic conditions calls for profound changes in the design of healthcare systems. Among multiple challenges, three key elements of interest are (1) finding ways to ensure appropriate funding, (2) ensuring continuity and integration of care, and (3) maintaining equity of access for disadvantaged socioeconomic groups.

Data linkage and outcomes measurement: Although it is often perceived as an obvious pre-requisite, appropriate approaches to measure health and healthcare outcomes should not be taken for granted. Two big areas of interest are (1) innovative approaches to administering, linking and using

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administrative datasets, and (2) integration of quality-of-life measures in broader evaluations of healthcare policies or changes to the organisation of healthcare services.

Healthcare workforce: Shortage of healthcare workers – especially in primary care – is a common issue across the board. Clear solutions to tackle this problem have not yet been found. The workshop welcomes contributions broadly providing evidence on the implications of and the potential solution for the health workforce crisis, including assessments of strategies to expand the skill-mix in primary and hospital care, interventions to improve retention, and studies outlining the trade-offs faced by healthcare providers themselves.

Financial incentives: There is solid evidence that financial incentives change the behaviours of healthcare providers and patients. Whether these changes in behaviours are always geared towards a more efficient, effective and equitable provision of healthcare is much less clear. For this theme, the workshop seeks novel evidence on the response of healthcare providers and patients to financial incentives, focusing for instance on (1) distributional effects, (2) unintended effects and externalities, (3) effects on efficiency, (4) cost-effectiveness of provider payment reforms, (5) reducing moral hazard.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop aims to create a supportive environment to discuss, critique and ultimately improve scholarly work, as well as a learning experience for all participants. The workshop will accept 15 full papers. Each accepted paper will be assigned a discussant who will receive the paper ahead of the workshop. Papers submitted by Early Career Researchers will be discussed by expert senior academics. Each session will run as follows:

- a) a brief presentation by the author (15 min)
- b) a thorough discussion of the paper by the assigned discussant (15 min)
- c) open discussion with the audience (5 min)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The workshop will include a keynote session delivered by Prof. Stephanie von Hinke (University of Bristol).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Please submit your abstracts (max 350 words, preferably structured) via email to chew@efri.hr **no later than 9th February 2024**. Preference may be given to papers proposing studies specific to the Central and Eastern European countries or to authors with substantial links or affiliations to Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, other valuable contributions stimulating discussion and exchange of ideas are welcome. Early Career Researchers are particularly encouraged to submit.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission: **9th February 2024**

Notification of acceptance: **1st March 2024**

Full paper submission: **No later than 3rd May 2024**

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The workshop will start on Tuesday 21th May and close on Wednesday 22nd May 2024. We plan to organize a daytrip on Monday 20th 2024 (details to follow) so the participants who would like to join the daytrip should plan to arrive on Monday the 20th in the morning. Details of the daytrip to follow in due course.

VENUE, LOGISTICS, FEES

The workshop will be held at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia. For more details on the venue, please see the website: <https://iuc.hr>.

Participants will be asked to pay the conference fee of 250€. This fee is inclusive of all conference lunches, refreshments, and the conference dinner on 21st May 2024.

We also offer an option for participants to book accommodation in the Inter-University Centre dormitory for the duration of the conference (Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd May 2024) at an additional price of about 100€/night (exact price to be announced beginning of 2024). The dormitory, which offers single or double rooms (with bathroom), is within the Inter-University Centre building, just steps away from the Old city of Dubrovnik. The price includes a room with dinner on 20th May and breakfast on 21st and 22nd May. The following link contains more information and pictures of the accommodation: <https://iuc.hr/accommodation/dormitory>.

Please note there are 21 single-occupancy and 4 double-occupancy rooms available, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in reserving accommodation, please email us at chew@efri.hr for further details on the booking process.

Dubrovnik offers a lot of alternative options for accommodation for the participants to choose from and is well connected to most destinations in Europe and the UK all year round.

If you have any additional questions about the conference, including travel, logistics, registration or fees, please contact us via email at chew@efri.hr.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Prof. Ana Bobinac (University of Rijeka, HR, Chair)
- Igor Francetić (University of Manchester, UK)
- Lana Kovačević (Imperial College London, UK)
- Ismar Velić (University of Rijeka, HR)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Prof. Ana Bobinac (University of Rijeka, HR)
- Igor Francetić (University of Manchester, UK)
- Lana Kovačević (Imperial College London, UK)
- Prof. Matt Sutton (University of Manchester, UK)

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