



**HOPE EXCHANGE STUDY TOUR 4
FOR SENIOR HOSPITAL PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS
HEALTH SERVICES' PLANNING AND CONTRACTING IN ESTONIA
OCTOBER 20 THROUGH 24, 2009- TALLINN, TARTU**

TIMETABLE AND INFORMATION

- ✓ The cost of the Study Tour is €300 to be paid at the time of confirmation notice.
- ✓ Registration from 01.08.2009 until 04.09.2009
Registration centre is at the Estonian Hospitals Association - info@haiglateliit.ee
- ✓ We are expecting 15 participants. In case of too many applications, participants representing different HOPE member countries will be preferred. Nevertheless, we encourage multiple applications from one HOPE member organization.
- ✓ Announcement of participants : 07.09.2009
We expect to have confirmation of participation by September 14th the latest.
- ✓ Deadline for homework : 12.10.2009
- ✓ Summing-up and analyses of the study tour : 25.11.2009

Questions regarding registration and logistics

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Questions regarding programme contents

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 20

- Arrival
- Official dinner

OCTOBER 21

- Overview of the Estonian health care system - Ministry of Social Affairs
- Overview of the health care financing system (planning, needs assessment, preparation of contracts) - the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF)

OCTOBER 22

- Contract monitoring and planning of service division - Tartu University Hospital

OCTOBER 23

- Contracting in detail, communication and cost control between providers and the EHIF - EHIF
- Seminar on health services' contracting in Europe - Praxis, centre for policy studies

OCTOBER 24

- Departure

SOCIAL PROGRAMME - *to be announced later*

HOMEWORK

All participants are expected to write a 1-2 page summary on provider-purchaser relations in their country. *To be sent 2 weeks prior to the study tour.*

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The Estonian Hospitals Association proudly announces HOPE's fourth study tour for senior hospital professionals and managers on "Health services' planning and contracting in Estonia" taking place from October 20 until October 24, 2009 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Estonian purchaser-provider system in health care financing has been internationally recognized as a very effective, transparent and accountable one, thus giving the participants of the study tour a good understanding in:

- ✓ development of a health care financing system;
- ✓ contracting health care services through a strictly regulated, yet flexible relations;
- ✓ purchasing health services through needs assessment;
- ✓ managing capped contracts on a hospital level;
- ✓ and last but not least - communicating all above mentioned information through electronic channels.

Estonia is the northernmost of the Baltic states that regained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and has belonged to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union since 2004.

Since regaining independence, the political environment has been stable enough to implement various economic and social sector reforms which aim to further ensure stability in Estonia. Over the last decades the health system has been vigorously and quite successfully reformed. The current system is built on solidarity based health financing; a modern provider network based on family-medicine centred primary health care and modern hospital services, lately more attention is put on public health as well. This has resulted in a steadily increasing life expectancy and continuously high population satisfaction rates with access and quality.

Fundamental reforms aiming to develop a modern health system took place in the early 1990s. These were followed by a second legislative review during 2000-2003 that addressed various areas including health financing, service provision and regulation of relations between different actors (e.g. purchaser, provider and patient).

The Estonian health care system is mainly publicly funded through solidarity based mandatory health insurance contributions in the form of earmarked social payroll tax, which amounts to almost two thirds of total health care expenditure. The core purchaser of health care services for insured people is the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF). The health insurance system is mandatory, covering about 95% of the population.

Estonia is widely acknowledged as one of the leading countries in terms of E-health in eastern Europe. Health sector information systems have developed significantly, enabling different parties to communicate more effectively as most of the information in the health sector is moving through electronic channels.

Over recent years EHIF has received many acknowledgements both nationally and internationally for having developed an efficient and accountable health care financing system:

- ✓ In 2007 European health care systems' patient friendliness was assessed and Estonia came to 12th place among 29 countries, in 2008 Estonia was placed 11th. Estonia has been recognized as having the best service price-quality ratio in Europe.
- ✓ In 2003 - 2007 EHIF received five years in a row the best public sector transparency award for finance accountancy reward in Estonia.
- ✓ In 2006 EHIF received best public sector point score with the Estonian Quality Award (Recognized for Excellence - R4E). As the Estonian Quality Award works in association with the Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), EHIF applied for European recognition which it got and received the R4E certificate.

Please find the provisional programme outline and registration timetable with application forms attached.

More information can be found on both webpages:

HOPE <http://www.hope.be/04exchange/studytours/studytoursfirstpagehtml.html>

Estonian Hospitals Association <http://www.haiglateliit.ee/?lang=eng&m1=30>