



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION of HEALTH LAW



Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 6th European Association of Health Law (EAHL) Conference in Bergen (Norway), 28-29 September 2017 on

“Health Rights Entitlements and the Distribution of Health Care in Europe”.

The conference is organised by University of Bergen, Faculty of Law, in close co-operation with the EAHL.

Demographic and societal changes and also technological innovations have significant impact on the affordability of health systems in Europe. The EAHL conference theme addresses challenges within contemporary European (and national) health law from a patient’s rights and a societal perspective. Healthcare costs are increasing with the development of personalised medicine, leading to more expensive diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The growing demand for health services continues to raise questions about accessibility, affordability and quality of health services, especially for ageing societies. Inequalities in access to healthcare particularly affect socially vulnerable groups: elderly, refugees, migrants (especially those in an irregular situation) and homeless people.

Questions regarding priority setting in healthcare are not new, but they are recurrent and require ongoing discussion. The rapid demographic changes and technological advances clearly call for new models of human rights proof, patients’ rights friendly healthcare delivery. To achieve value based health care, legal responses are necessary both at national and European level. Cross-border health care should be used as an instrument to improve cost-effective and equitable care of good quality. So-far the Open Method of Coordination on Health and Long-term Care, one of the priorities of EU actions to facilitate the exchange of best practices, has not been really effective.

The conference aims to address every aspect that contributes to just distribution of healthcare in times of scarcity and high-cost innovations: healthcare that is safe, cultural sensitive, cost-effective, with respect for patients’ rights. This includes the influence of European jurisprudence (Council of Europe, European Union), public health measures, standardisation and prioritisation of health care, professional guidelines, innovations (e.g. robotisation, gene-therapy, telemedicine, orphan drugs, personalised medicine, medical research), resilience and self-care, new models of care, interplay between private and public healthcare providers and health insurances, as well as co-operation at European level on strategies to effectively manage cost effective, patient friendly health care.

More information (e.g. on the conference fee) will soon be on the website of the conference: eahl2017.org. The deadline for the abstract- submission will be 1 May 2017. Participants registering before this date will be given an "early bird" fee.

Pre-events

On Wednesday 27 September a seminar for Phd students will be held, where they will be able to present and discuss their projects with PhD students in health law from across Europe and with senior scholars within the field.

The organizers are also planning a seminar open to the general public on the evening of 27 September on a contemporary health law topic.

On behalf of the organizing committee,

K. H. Søvig

Karl Harald Søvig