



European Academy of Paediatrics
Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S (European Union of Medical Specialists)



Models of child health appraised: planning a healthy future for Europe's population

The health of children is important for Europe's future. Today's children are citizens, future workers, future parents and future carers. Children depend on good health services, but these are structured differently throughout the European Union. In addition, there is little research into what works best. To help every child benefit from optimum health care, the MOCHA project will perform a systematic, scientific evaluation of the types of health care that exist (<http://www.childhealthservicemodels.eu>).

The MOCHA project is a 42 months study of primary healthcare in 30 European countries which will appraise the differing models of child health that are used across Europe. It is hosted by Imperial College London, funded under the highly competitive Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission with the final official reports to the EU Commission due by the end of 2018. The results will identify the optimal models of children's primary health care. Factors will be analysed which will help the results of this knowledge be adopted across Europe, and provide indicators for policy makers of the health and economic gains that can be achieved.

The European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP) is a member of MOCHA's External Advisory Board. The External Advisory Board will ensure scientific and professional validity in the MOCHA project and consists of different stakeholders.

Last week, the MOCHA External Advisory Board met with Work Package leaders in Malta. This is an excellent time for MOCHA to take heed of thrust of future health care system planning and optimisation.

During the project's first year, it was explored which types of primary healthcare exist in the 30 European countries that are studied, which systems and frameworks in operation are in place and how we may appraise the various models in relation to key child health outcomes attributable to health care delivery systems.

The study group has now started to look at how patient-centred and more innovative measures of quality have been developed in different countries as an example. Innovative funding and incentive systems, innovative training, innovative workforce development, and innovative community involvement are all within scope and should be part of future research questions to inform the project.

This next phase is more challenging than the first and is focused on identifying good or excellent practices in different countries which might indicate a shift to a 2.0 - 3.0 system of primary care for children.

The EAP is proud to be a member of MOCHA's External Advisory Board and dedicated to further improving child health across Europe.

Stefano del Torso MD
EAP vice president