

Press Release



Malta drops in annual European healthcare ranking keeping a decline trend for the last 5 years

Brussels, September 28, 2009

Malta lost 3 positions among the healthcare systems of Europe when the 2009 Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) was presented today in Brussels. The annual survey of European healthcare ranked Malta 26th out of 33 countries with 565 points from a potential 1,000. The Netherlands win the ranking for the second year with a record 863 points, followed by Denmark (819), newcomer Iceland (811) and Austria (795).

Malta can be proud of some basic patients' rights and good drug information. The Index ranks Malta behind Croatia or FYROM and equal to Poland.

"Malta still has some distance to cover to attain world class treatment outcomes" states Dr. Arne Björnberg, the Euro Health Consumer Index Director.

This year's measurement indicates that the top performers in European healthcare start using healthcare information and choice to engage patients in the decision-making building a pressure from below for improvement. At the lower end of the ranking you find many countries stuck to old style healthcare, filled with hierarchies and lack of transparency. This gap challenges EU principles of equality and solidarity.

About the Index

The EHCI has become a measurement standard for European healthcare. It ranks 33 national European health care systems across 38 indicators, covering six areas that are key to the health consumer: Patients' rights and information, e-Health, Waiting times for treatment, Treatment outcomes, Range and reach of services provided and Access to medication. The Index is compiled from a combination of public statistics, patient polls and independent research conducted by the founders, Brussels-based think tank Health Consumer Powerhouse. The 2009 EHCI works under the auspices of the Swedish EU Presidency. The e-Health subcategory is developed in co-operation with the European Commission - DG Information Society and Media.

For more information and the explanatory report:

http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=54

About the EHCI, contact Dr. Arne Bjornberg

arne.bjornberg@healthpowerhouse.com, +46 705 84 84 51

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: www.healthpowerhouse.com or contact Dr. Raluca Nagy, raluca.nagy@healthpowerhouse.com, +32 472 61 24 63

Office Brussels: Rue Fossé aux Loups 34, B - 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 (0) 2 218 73 94 brussels@healthpowerhouse.com www.healthpowerhouse.com