

# Specialization in Health and Social Policy

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**WU**  
WIRTSCHAFTS  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN VIENNA  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ECONOMICS  
AND BUSINESS



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# Why a specialization in Health and Social Policy?

Health and social policies include pensions, health care, education, child care, unemployment, poverty, etc

In the European Union, public expenditure on health and social policies accounts for almost 30% of GDP

An important share of the working population in Europe is in health and social care, both in public and in private sectors

The public sector, nonprofit organizations, the traditional market sector and families are closely interlinked in the provision of health services and their financing

The specialization is designed to prepare students for the specific, interdisciplinary professional challenges in this growth sector

# Key facts about the specialization

## **interdisciplinary – international – interactive**

- For students in BBE, BW, IBW and WIRE
- 30 students per semester
- 5 PI courses for a total of 20 ECTS credits
- All courses are taught in English

# Courses offered in the specialization

## Five PI courses

1. Introduction to Health and Social Policy
2. Economics and Policy of the Public Healthcare Industry
3. Economics and Policy of the Private Healthcare Industry
4. International and Transnational Social Policy
5. Social Policy Evaluation

## Flexible structure

- The teaching material of each course is complementary but not interdependent
- Only the registration to Introduction to Health and Social Policy is required to register to any other course



# Interlinked social policies, example 1

## Shortage of hospital beds...



Air-conditioned tents in Changi General Hospital, Singapore  
Source: The Straits Times, Jan 8th, 2014

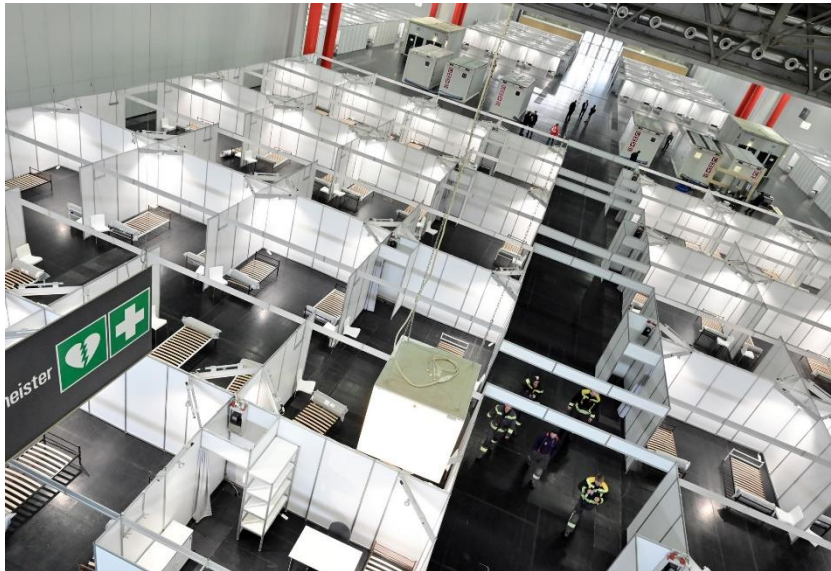
## Build larger hospitals?



Singapore General Hospital in 2020

# Interlinked social policies, example 2

## Covid-19 pandemic



880 beds set up at Messe Wien in March 2020

Source: Stadt Wien

## Policies affected

- Health
- Long-term care
- Public health
- Unemployment insurance
- Poverty reduction
- Education
- Family policy
- ... and many more
- ... in all sectors of the economy

# Courses 2 & 3

## 2 perspectives on health economics and policy

### Public healthcare industry

1. Introduction
2. Production and demand for health
3. Social health insurance
4. Public provision of healthcare
5. Healthcare labor markets
6. Economic epidemiology
7. Regulation of unhealthy goods and behaviors

### Private healthcare industry

1. Introduction
2. Healthcare consumers
3. Private health insurers
4. Hospitals
5. Physicians
6. Pharmaceutical industry
7. Behavioral health economics



# Course 4

## International and Transnational Social Policy

### Objectives

- present a European and global comparative perspective on health and social policies and welfare state development
- analyze supranational social policy in the EU and its interactions with national social policies as well as the role of international organizations
- discuss formal and informal transnational social security

### Key questions

- How do health and social policies compare?
- How social policy travels? What is the role of international organizations and cross-border learning?
- How is the EU impacting national health and social policies and individual social security in Europe?
- How, why and by whom is medical care accessed and used across borders?
- What are the social rights of migrants?

### Objectives

- present a comprehensive framework to evaluate health and social policies.
- introduce key concepts and methods for evidence-based analyses of policies to inform decision making:
  - Taking into account different stakeholder perspectives; policy maker, the public sector, the private sector, the individuals.
  - Based on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
  - At the firm, city, regional, country, or global level.
- develop critical appraisal skills

### Examples of evaluation questions

- **Relevance:** Do the objectives of the program “Gesunde Bezirke” meet the needs and the expectations of the inhabitants of the districts in Vienna?
- **Coherence:** How do the actions to improve healthier diets support or hinder progress in access to affordable food?
- **Effectiveness:** Do the new toy safety requirements in Europe, decrease the number of toy related injuries?
- **Efficiency:** Should more funds be awarded to the construction of social housing or to a social housing allocation, to improve access to quality housing of poor households in Europe?
- **Acceptability/acceptance:** What influences the public acceptance of the current Covid-19 vaccine policy?

# Admission to the specialization

## Admission to the specialization Health and Social Policy in the sommer term 2022 requires the following steps:

- Register for the course AG 5699 "Access to Specialization: Health and Social Policy"
  - Registration is possible between January 26, 2022 and January 30, 2022 using LPIS.
- You will get the task to write a **motivational letter in LEARN** as soon as you've enrolled
  - Submission dates: between January 26, 2022 and January 30, 2022
- We will inform accepted students no later than February 14, 2022.
  - In case you receive an admission offer from us, please accept or reject it at your earliest possible time
- Registration for courses of the specialization starts February 17, 2022 and ends on February 20, 2022.

# Motivational letter

- Explain **why you are applying** to our specialization.
- AND **discuss a selected current issue in health and social policy or future challenges**
  - You can address this issue on local, national or international level
  - You can focus on pressing issues high on the political agenda, but you can also address issues that are often widely neglected.
  - Tell us about how you perceive the chosen issue or challenge and what interests you about it.
  - Make an interdisciplinary case by giving arguments relating to at least two of the following disciplines: Economics, Social Sciences, Business Administration, and Law.
- References to the literature are not needed.
- **Length:** 400-500 words

# Many thanks for your attention

- Further information can be found on the webpage of the Institute for Social Policy:
- <https://www.wu.ac.at/en/sozialpolitik/teaching/healthandsocialpolicy>
- Any question? Feel free to write to us! [hsp@wu.ac.at](mailto:hsp@wu.ac.at)

# Additional material



### Objectives

- present a comprehensive framework to evaluate health and social policies.
- introduce concepts and methods for evidence-based analyses of policies to inform decision making:
  - Taking into account different stakeholders perspective; policy maker, the public sector, the private sector, the individuals.
  - Based on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
  - At the firm, city, regional, country, or global level.
- develop critical appraisal skills

### Key concepts

- **Theory of change:** what are the expected effects of a policy based on its objectives?
- **Policy cycle:** stages of development of a policy
- Policy **assessment** versus policy **evaluation**
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
  - Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Acceptability/Acceptance, Equity, Sustainability

# Policy and Evaluation Criteria

