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EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL SECURITY

Universal Health Care Coverage

Couverture universelle des soins de santé

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IEN Technical Seminar: Social security and human rights – Ensuring access and combatting the non-take-up of social benefits

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Context (1)

- **Mandatory affiliation in Luxembourg**
- **All person under 18 years is also mandatory affiliated (payment of SSCs by the State)**
- **Voluntary affiliation to the healthcare system (SSCs paid by the person)**
- **Social Aid in place which also grants access to the healthcare system (e.g. REVIS)**
- **Emergencies are treated in hospitals (State used to pay 80% to the hospitals in the past, now it reimburses 100% of the costs)**

Context (2)

- **Coalition Agreement 2018-2023: instauration of a basic health care coverage for those particularly vulnerable and without access to basic healthcare**
- **Proposition of the *Ronnen Däsch* to create a Medical Aid System**
- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of the WHO and SDG 3.8 of the UN**

Premises and principles

- Take advantage of the existing legal mechanisms (e.g. voluntary affiliation)
- Get to the vulnerable people and be on the field (not asking them to go to social security offices) = work with the NGOs already on the field supporting the most vulnerable
- Reduce the administrative burden to the strictly required
- Give access to the social security healthcare benefits = same rights for everyone and not a «2-class»-system (legal healthcare *versus* «basic» health care)

The Universal Health Care Coverage (1)

- **Pilot project was presented in October 2021 and launched in April 2022**
- **Targeted population:**
 - those who are usually on the national territory,
 - do not have financial resources or income
 - and cannot receive support by a social office or other public entity.
- **Access after a period of 3 months (like any voluntary affiliation to the social security healthcare)**
- **Address of reference = the one of the NGO ensuring the follow up of the person**

The Universal Health Care Coverage (2)

- Cooperation with the NGOs already on the field and having an agreement with the Ministry of Health (5 NGOs so far)
- Procedure : request is prepared and made by the NGO, validated by the Ministry of Health and by the Social Security Centre (*Centre commun de la sécurité sociale*)
- Regular follow up, including payment of SSCs and costs of healthcare services (if not directly paid by the National Health Fund) is ensured by the NGO in charge
- Financing by the Ministry of Health (additional staff for NGOs, SSCs, costs for healthcare services which are not reimbursed etc.)

Facts and ongoing

- So far 190 persons have benefited from the Universal Health Care Coverage (from April 2022 until now)
- All family members, if any, are also affiliated (co-affiliation) and are not counted in the 190.
- Evaluation of the measure is ongoing.

Next steps (1)

- Targeted awareness and information campaign to enlarge the pilot project
- Streamline and review the administrative processes with clarifications and simplifications (where possible) of different points concerning the pilot project
- Better combine the pilot project with other existing measures

Next steps (2)

- **Future legislation for a permanent measure (replacing the pilot project):**
 - Creation of a legal «right of access to the UHCC» for the targeted people
 - Possibility of exchange of administrative data between NGOs and public services to ensure a better functioning on the field
 - Better clarification of the interaction between the UHCC and other existing legal mechanisms
 - Better integration into other measures and processes (e.g. digitalisation of the healthcare system, including financial payments)



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