

Have sustainable health systems met their potential benefits? (A European perspective)

Master Thesis for Obtaining the Degree

Master of Science in

Sustainable Development, Management, and Policy

Submitted to David Leonard, Ph.D.

Written by Michelle Granda (1311528)

Abstract

In delivering healthcare services to meet and maintain the health needs of populations, health systems contribute significantly to environmental, social, and economic detriment. Improving health system sustainability through the appropriate pathways would serve to mitigate these impacts. This study investigated the progress and actualised benefits of a health system having recently implemented sustainability reforms through a case study approach, supplemented by expert input to inform the interpretation. The analysis revealed that although significant benefits have been realised as a result of the transition towards greater health system sustainability, the full potential of these benefits has not yet been met. In addition to the actions currently undertaken to effectively improve health system sustainability, a proactive approach to healthcare involving a greater emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion is strongly needed.