



How do private hospitals perform -compared to public hospitals- regarding efficiency, accessibility and quality of care in EU context?

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Upcoming: Eurofound (2016/2017), *The role of the private sector in delivering hospital services*, Publication Office of the European Union, Luxembourg

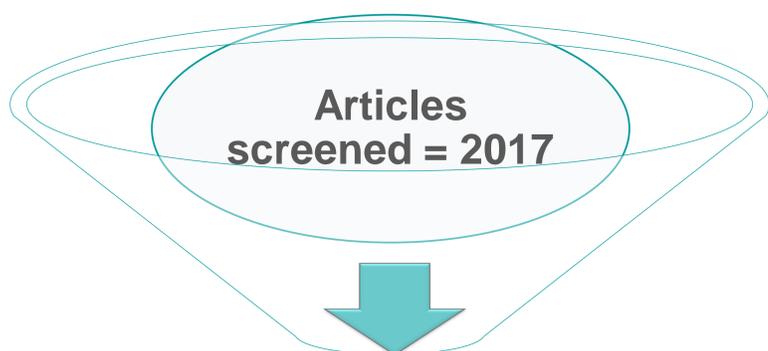
Objective

This review scrutinizes the consequences of the involvement of private hospital providers regarding *efficiency, quality- and accessibility* of services in the European Union (28)

Material & Methods

Method: Systematic literature review

- **Population:** private *non-profit*, private *for-profit* or *public-private partnership*
- **Intervention:** Privatization as a process or exposure to private hospital services
- **Context:** member states of the European Union (28)
- **Method:** empirical research , no descriptive analysis



Results

Quality of care

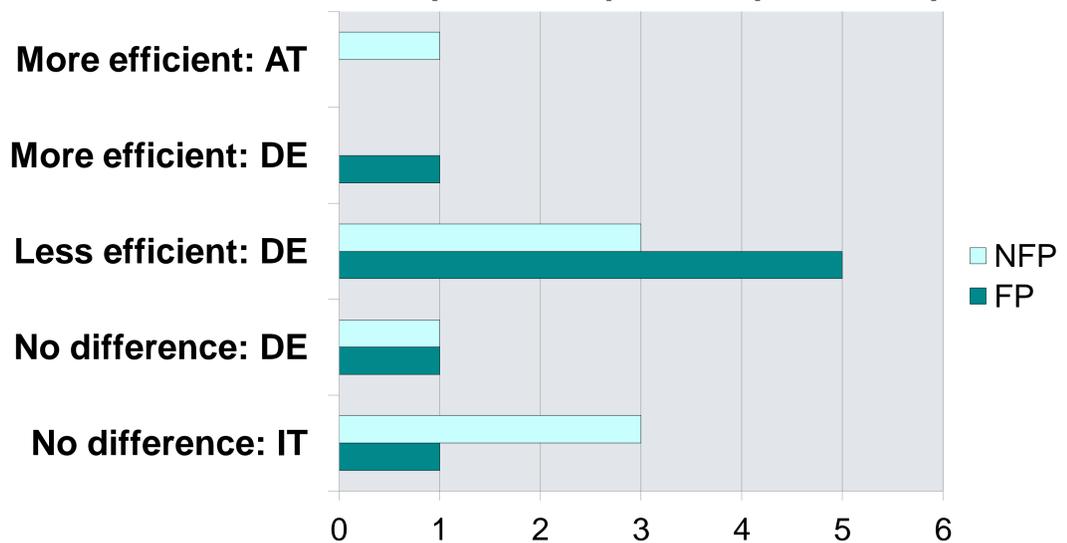
The overall outcome was relatively *mixed*. The results differ between finding a negative (7 art.), positive (4 art.) and no significant relationship (1 art.). Note that various different indicators were used.

Accessibility

The outcomes and indicators are rather specific. Nevertheless, the lion's share of the articles *raise concerns regarding accessibility of private hospitals*; Especially, users from higher SES seem to have better access to private hospitals.

Efficiency

Figure 1. Efficiency findings: number of articles. Private hospitals compared to public hospitals



The *institutional framework* (i.e. reimbursement system) , methodology and research design seem to influence the different findings.

Takeaway message:

- Context seem to matter more than ownership.
- Methodology and research design (especially the indicators used) cause divergent results.



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Abbreviations	
DE= Germany	NFP= Not For Profit hospitals
IT= Italy	FP= For profit hospitals
AT= Austria	art.= articles