

Title

Mc-COVID 19

(Design of arrangements between public policy sectors to streamline the response to the Coronavirus crisis, stemming from the relationship between health systems and institutionalized elderly care in Spain and the rest of the EU-15).

Summary

The political and administrative management of the healthcare crisis provoked by the COVID 19 is a key issue in preventing the spread of the disease. The Mc-COVID 19 project is set to analyse the socio-sanitary co-ordination procedures in the context of institutionalized elderly care (age group that appears particularly vulnerable in this epidemic context), in Spain as well as in the rest of the EU-15. This study will focus on the articulation of resources between health and social policies, and will contribute to improve the effectiveness of the decisions to be adopted and implemented, crucial aspects in the fight against the pandemic. Findings will also be useful to deal with other public policy fields involved in other emergency situations.

Main research aims

To comprehensively analyse the existing co-ordination arrangements among the various levels of governance, as well as different public policy sectors in order to design effective response in emergency situations like the one produced by the Coronavirus pandemic. This co-ordination ought to be achieved around three stages of the management of a crisis:

1. To understand what has happened, what is happening, and what could happen in the near future.
2. To make decisions and implement them in a co-ordinated manner, assessing the collective efforts necessary to respond to the crisis, and to secure their coherent application.
3. To socially construct the ‘definition’ of the crisis. Putting aside other implications, this ‘definition’ must consider the important consequences involved guaranteeing legitimacy to the adopted decisions, which should be sound and socially acceptable, together with the options of shortening or extending the duration of the impact of the crisis.

Analytical context

This research aims at engaging in the analysis of the co-ordination arrangements between the health and social systems in the institutionalized residential elderly care in Spain and the rest of the EU-15 countries, within a context of a structural crisis of the ongoing model which projects into the future with far-reaching consequences for the promotion of public health. The study will identify good practices and successful benchmarking in the prevention and fight against the disease. Analytical emphasis will be placed in seeking to detect the optimization of integrated and co-ordinated decisions

between health and social care policies. Lessons will be useful for other public policy areas in the eventual occurrence of this type of massive crisis.

UE-15 countries to compare in addition to Spain and duration of the project

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom.

12 months.

1st April, 2020