



The Green Paper on the EU Workforce for Health

RN4CAST Stakeholder Meeting

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The health workforce ideal

- Effective and efficient health systems, with the capacity to improve health and prevent disease, depends on having a high-quality, efficient health workforce with the right skills – throughout the EU Member States

Background to the Green Paper

- ageing population/ageing workforce/threats to health (eg pandemic)
- Need to improve access throughout EU
- Ever-rising expectations ; new treatments and new technology
- Increased mobility of health professionals

Context

- Health important contributor to the EU economy: around 10% GDP – thought to be high employment growth potential
- Roughly 1:10 of all workers in the EU are employed in the health and social care sector (in its widest meaning)
- Around 70% of health budgets are spent on employment costs

Need for comparable data

- Difficult to plan when we don't know how many – where they are – where they go - if there is a true shortage – how many non-practising professionals are there who could return
- Exciting new projects - RN4CAST, Prometheus, MoHProf

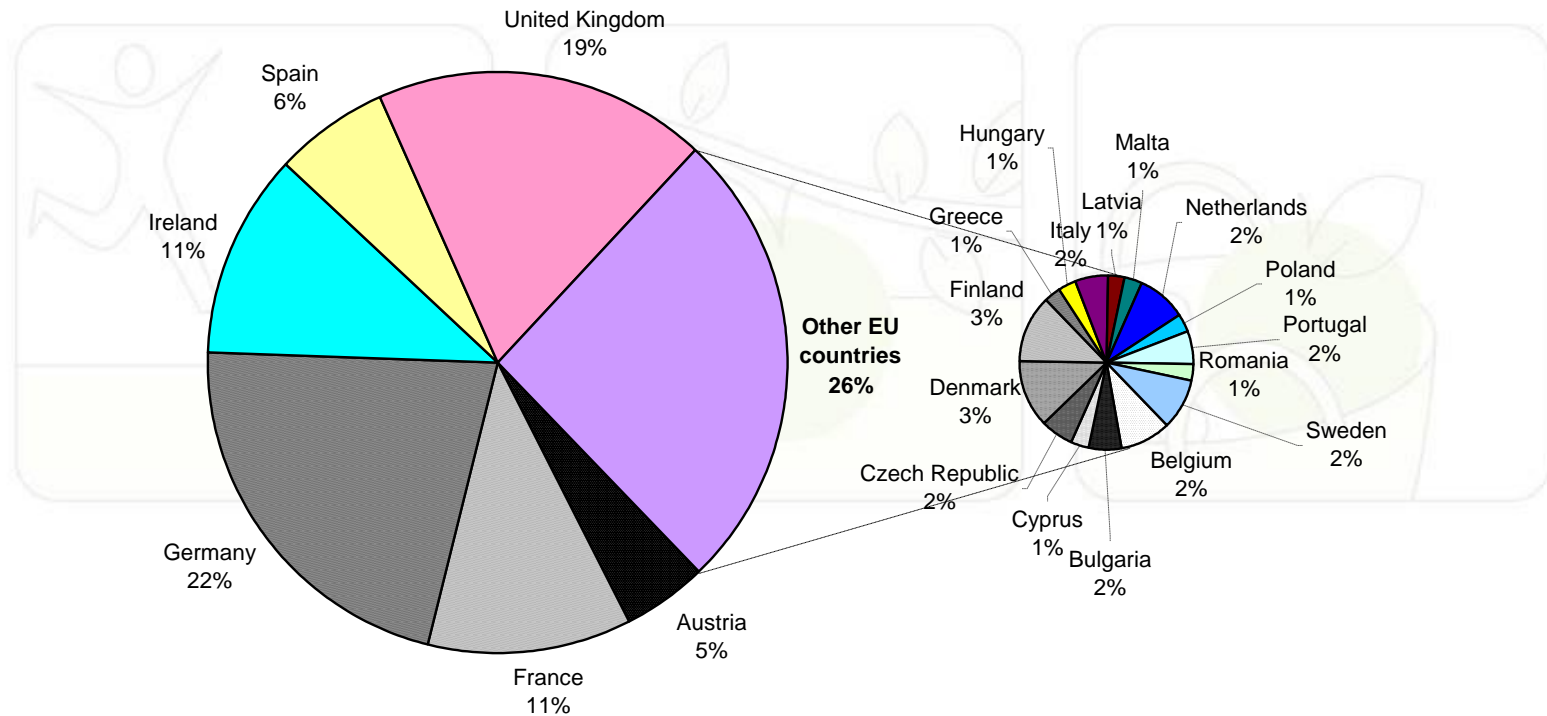
The Green Paper Consultation

- Green Paper adopted in December 2008 and public consultation launched. Ended April 2009.
- Over forty action proposals, 9 topics.

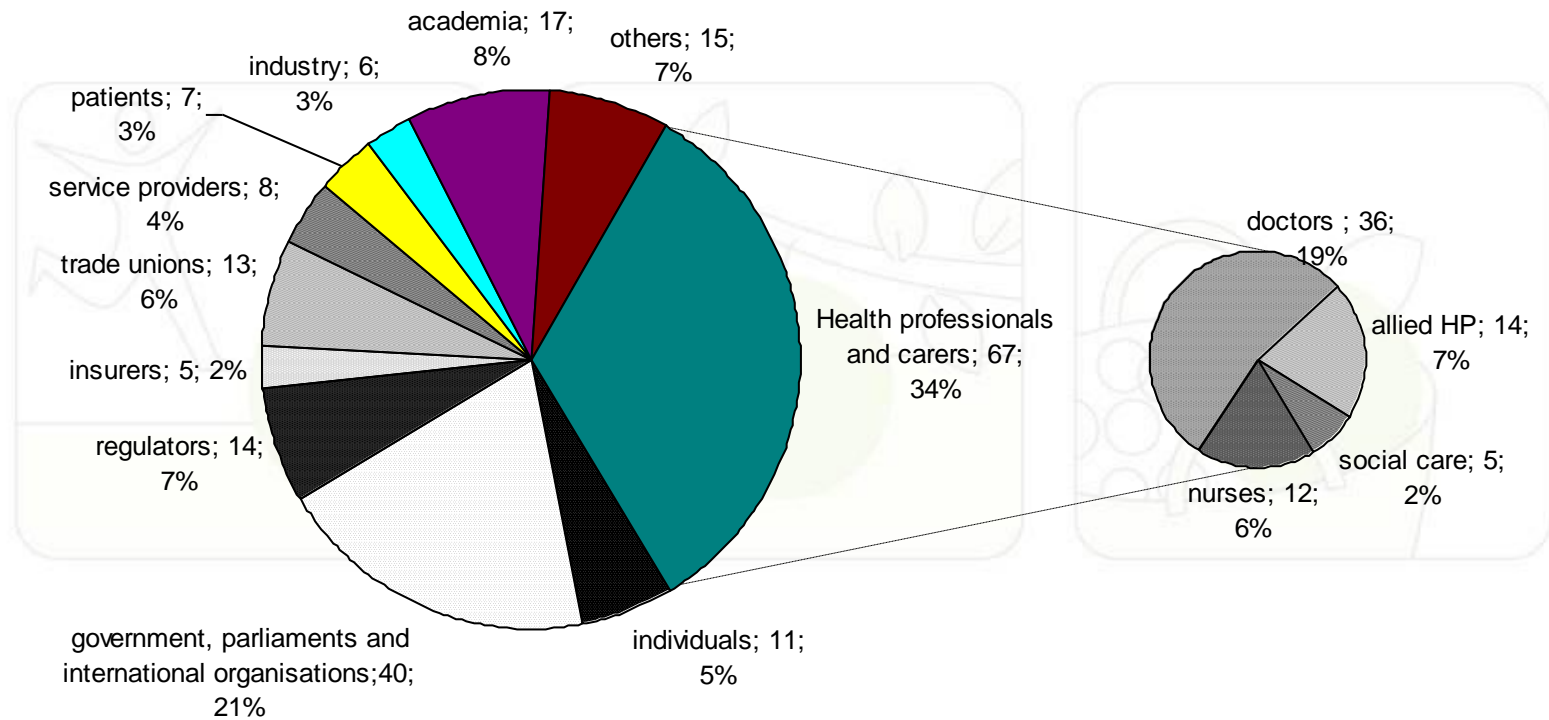
The result

- 202 responses, most recognising European dimension and need for EU action.

EU replies to the consultation on health workforce, by country



Respondents to the consultation on the EU Health Workforce, by type



Early results

- Similar views on certain issues – financial crisis overshadows debate
- Continuing Professional Development
- Ethical issues – recruitment from overseas and from poorer regions of EU
- Data
- Public health capacity



Common problems, shared solutions?

The analysis is ongoing but preliminary results seem to encourage action on:

1. improving **working conditions/retention** throughout EU
2. increasing **public health capacity**
3. guaranteeing **mobility**, while supporting the WHO code on **global migration**
4. gathering **more data** and analysis
5. tackling **barriers to entrepreneurial activity** and encouraging the use of **new technologies.**

Next steps

- We need to present to new Commission
- We need further discussion within Commission
- Aim to publish report in Autumn 09
- We need to carry out more stakeholder dialogues and need test ideas against principles of subsidiarity (Art. 152); Financial impacts; bureaucracy etc

End

■ Thank you for listening

