
What does an outsider have to offer?

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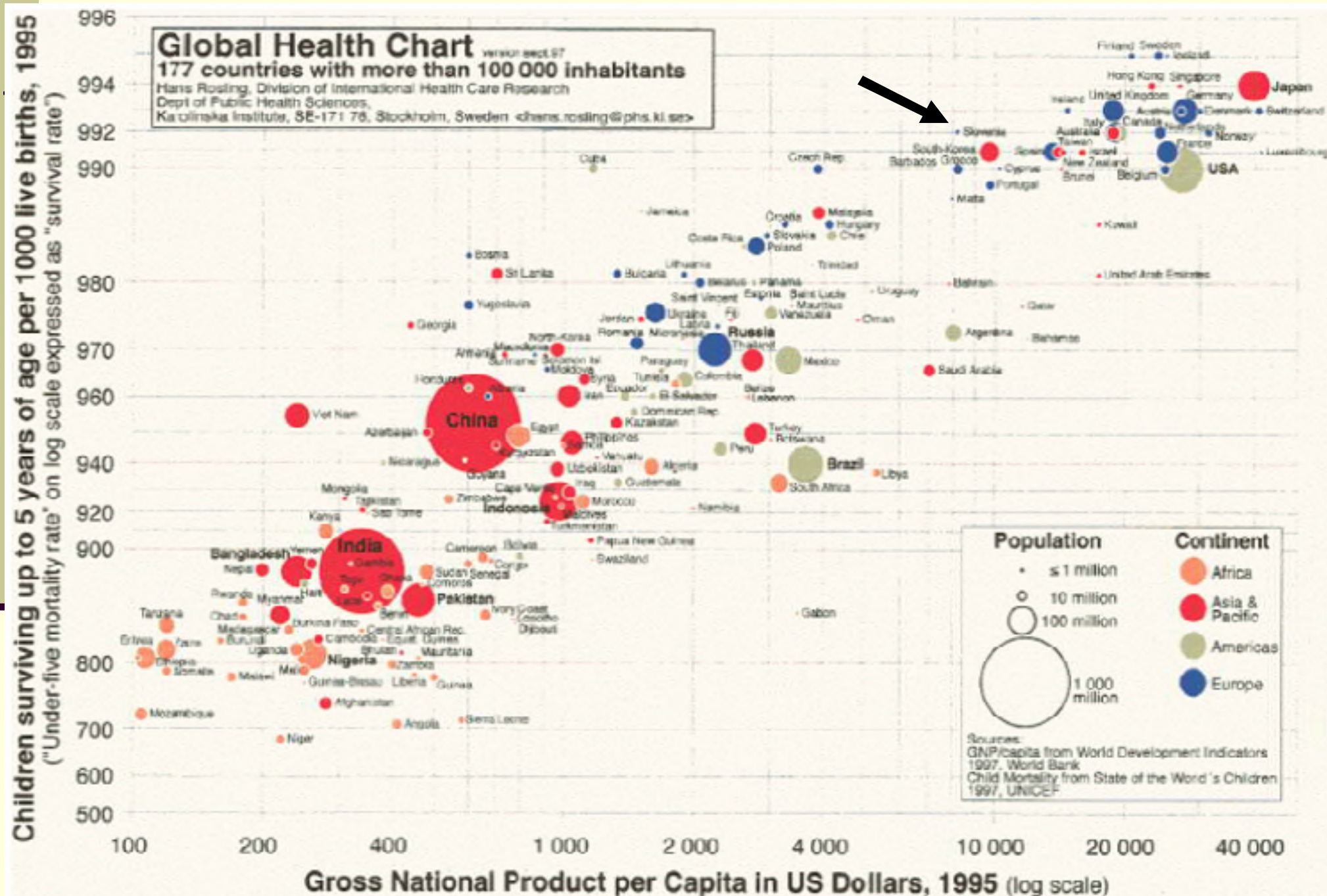
WONCA Europe

Background

- 2 million inhabitants
- Independence since 1991, before that a part of YU
- Major reforms in 1992/93
- Primary care based on health centres
- 80% physicians salaried
- National health insurance
- Joined EU in 2004



HEALTH OUTCOMES



Problems of the Slovenian system before joining EU

- Overall lack of doctors
- Uneven geographical distribution
- Fashionable and non-fashionable specialities
- Too much bureaucracy
- A relatively rigid system



Harmonization process

- Revision of legislation, including health
- A need to revise postgraduate training
- Free movement of doctors



Specialisations and vocational training

- Family medicine is an obligatory speciality since 2000
- Reduction of number of other specialist disciplines



Continuous professional development

- Re-licensing every 7 years, based on points, collected from CME “activities”
- An enormous increase in CME activities, not followed by an increase in quality (= an increase in congress tourism and pharma marketing)
- Modest attempts of introducing personal development plans

First effects of joining EU on manpower

- No import (<10/ year) from EU
- No export to EU
- More interest from non-EU countries to come to work in Slovenia



What about Bologna?

- Curriculum reforms are being (slowly!) introduced in Ljubljana
- New medical school in Maribor
- Revision of PhD and MSc programmes in Ljubljana, funded by EU structural funds



New problems of the Slovenian system

- Overall lack of doctors
- Uneven geographical distribution of doctors
- Fashionable and not so fashionable specialities
- Too much bureaucracy, leading to a reduced consultation times in family medicine (7 minutes!)
- Still a relatively rigid (stable?) system

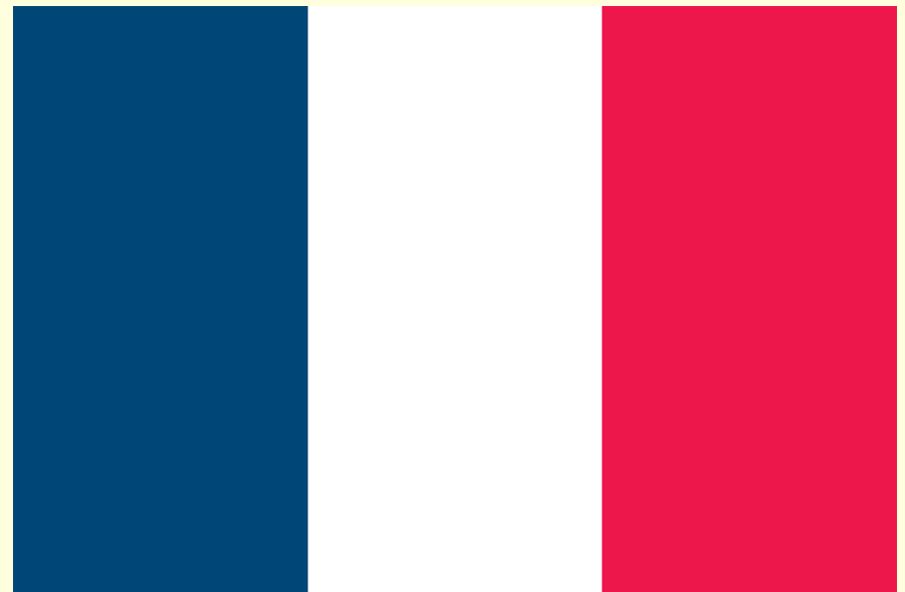
New developments: money talks

- A series of structural reforms is being introduced
- The aim is to increase competitiveness of Slovenian economy and to adopt EURO in 2007
- There is a “health system group”, its main concern is the budget of health organisations. Other problems are not addressed.



CONCLUSION

- Joining EU has not solved almost any of the problems of the health care system....
- ...but at least it has also not created a lot of new ones
- Plus ça change...



What does an outsider have to offer?

- Regardless all the problems, Slovenia still represents an example of a relatively smooth transition in health care.
- Can Slovenian experiences help other countries in the region in solving the problems they are facing in reforming their health care systems?

