Health Economics at UCL
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Perspectives on Russia and Eastern Europe

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UCL SSEES and Health Economics

- UCL SSEES is a multidisciplinary School (Economics, Politics, Languages and Culture, History).
- There are 10-15 economists working in applied fields relating to emerging markets of Russia, China, Central Asia, Eastern Europe.
- Health / health economics provide a natural area of interest.
I established and am currently Director of CHEMP, which is supported by Russian government funding.

A multidisciplinary, research and policy oriented Centre based at HSE University (a UCL partner) in St. Petersburg.

- About 15-20 economists, medical sociologists, social epidemiologists, public health specialists at different levels
Six main areas of research (reflecting my interests!):

1. Health outcomes and HTA
2. Applied Health Econometrics
3. Chronic disease (CVD) – joint project with LSHTM
4. Mental Health Economics
5. Health behaviours and attitudes
6. Health, migration and the labour market
There is no history of health economics in Russia
There are now people using micro data to address health related questions
But there are almost no health economics programmes in the style of UK programmes (there are some healthcare management programmes and some individual health economics modules)
HTA is very new to Russia but is being pushed hard by the Health Ministry (similarly in EE and Central Asia)
An HTA unit has now been established with a remit to introduce HTA in Russia
But this is at the very beginning (UK, early 1990s)
Health Outcomes and HTA

• HTA is not trusted (nor are health economists) among key stakeholders:
  • Clinicians and industry alike represent obstacles to progress.
  • As does the lack of capacity in health economics.
  • So cost-utility analysis / QALYs are for the future.

• But ‘pharmacoeconomics’ has emerged as a field focusing on cost-minimisation

• While pressure from funders has now started, for the first time, to provoke a concern on the benefits side of interventions (increasing use of EQ-5D, SF-36 and so on by hospitals)
• It is on the health benefit side which CHEMP has been working
• CHEMP is working on a value set for use by Russian healthcare decision-makers using an algorithm applied to a recent survey.
• There is a project application underway for a ‘health experience’ project involving a general population survey as well as access to a recent nationwide survey with a large CVD population.
• This is currently being piloted in Moscow and St. Petersburg
• In partnership with major hospitals developing HTA units
How does this relate to today?

- **UCL SSEES:**
  - Maintaining support for and cooperation with CHEMP
  - Involving other UCL collaborators:
    - In supporting the development of HTA in Russia
    - Building Health Economics capacity in Russia
    - Summer schools, study tours and collaboration within programmes
    - Opportunities for new science to be explored (cheap environment to operate in)
    - Links with Centre for Global Health Economics
How does this relate to today?

• At SSEES:
  • Introduction of 2 Health Economics modules in Bachelors curricula (Health Economics; HTA)
  • Introduction of new Masters module in ‘Health Economics for Emerging Economies’
  • Recruitment of PhD students and postdocs in Health Economics
  • Joint projects and programmes with Russian (and regional) institutions