Local Health Units in Portugal: key factors for successful implementation of an integrated care model

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Local Health Units: *What they are?*
- Methodology
- Principal Findings
- What’s next?
Portugal’s National Health Service (NHS) is a universal, tax-financed health system, covering all residents.
Until 31st December 2023

Hospitals

Primary Care Units

From 1st January 2024

39 Local Health Unions
Local Health Units: *What they are?*

LHU’s are *organizations that integrate hospitals and primary health care* under a single management umbrella.

Each LHU concentrates the organization of human, financial and material resources, making it easier for people to access and move between primary healthcare and hospitals according to their needs. The new LHUs will reinforce the focus on health promotion and disease prevention.
Methodology

Review of international experiences

- Accountable Care Organizations, USA
- Integrated Care Systems, UK
- Experience of New South Wales, Australia
- Experience of Quebec, Canada
- Organizaciones Sanitarias Integradas, Basque Country, Spain
Methodology

Principal Questions:

- What?
- For whom?
- Why?
- What was the strategic objectives?
- How was the implementation process carried out?
- What was its framework?
- What was the financing model?
- What was the impact of the experience?
Principal Findings

- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Strong leadership and team involvement
- Functional instruments aligned with objectives
- Innovation-promoting environments
- Health outcomes essentially arise from clinical integration
- Medium-long term process
- Need for investment
Next Steps

1. Diagnosis of the current situation of LHU’s

2. Definition of a strategic development framework
Thank you

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