

POLICY, CULTURE AND VALUES: FACTORS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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Background:

No detailed analysis has been conducted on the factors shaping palliative care development in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Accurate information is needed on achievements to date and the implications of socio-economic, policy and cultural factors.

Objectives:

1. To determine levels of palliative care provision in 29 countries within Eastern Europe and Central Asia
2. To assess whether and how palliative care is recognised within health care policy
3. To assess the role of culture and values in shaping palliative care development
4. To identify prospects for further growth in palliative care

Methods:

1. Collating and comparing relevant population and epidemiological data from governmental, public health and NGO sources
2. Questionnaire surveys to palliative care services and educational programmes
3. Interviews with key stakeholders in several countries
4. Case studies of five individual services

Results:

We present: 1) timeline of palliative care development for the whole region 2) data showing current levels of inpatient and domiciliary palliative care provision, by country 3) thematic analysis of interviews with key stakeholders.

Conclusion:

Each country in the region is in the midst of major reforms to its healthcare system, yet notable examples exist of palliative care innovation. At the same time major problems remain of policy recognition, of financial re-imburement and of workforce development.