

Summary

Case: The WHO (World health organization) recommended all countries to make sure that their policy affecting a flu pandemic was in order. The policy should describe the task of all parties involved when the pandemic accurse. With the arrival of the bird flu the threat of a next pandemic is very real and when it comes millions of people will get sick. The LCI (national co-ordination structure for the prevention of infectious diseases) wrote one policy handbook and three sub handbooks. Those handbooks needed to be translated to regional policy. The IGZ (health care inspection) investigated all 24 GHOR regions (medical assistance at accidents and disasters) and concluded that the state of preparation of three of those regions was less than insufficient and five other regions had to make a large effort to get their policy straight. The insufficient state of preparation in those regions gave motive to investigate the regional policy making and had as goal to discover where problems or troubles arose.

Goal: This inquiry's purpose is to describe the forming of regional policy affecting a flu pandemic and which problems had occurred. Also is looked into the origin of these problems and how they can be solved.

Methods: Along with a study of the relevant literature, the data is collected by interviewing policy makers of involved organizations. The region Hollands Midden was chosen as investigation setting and therefore contact was made with the GHOR, the fire-brigade and the GGD (regional health services). Also an employee of the LCI was interviewed.

Results: The policy makers mostly use the following policy instruments: information (stimulating communication) and command (command and control). It also turns out that being seated in one building and having a friendly working relationship with your colleagues, improves team-work. All parties admit that a lack of organization behind general practitioners makes them a very difficult partner to involve in the decision-making. And finally the observation was made that although all respondents think that participation of the other parties is the best method to realise team-work, this method was not put into use very often. At first the GHOR did not intend to involve all other parties in the decision-making. Also the involvement of these parties was found to be very low.

Conclusion: The forming of regional policy exist of multiple specific characteristics and is made with the help of policy-instruments that where used to emphasis the high priority of the policy. The participation of all parties seems to be an idealistic aim from policy-makers to realise good team-work, because in reality it is hardly used due to numerous factors.