

Curriculum Vitae

Kaija Kasekamp

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Sex Female | Date of birth 28/11/1088 | Nationality Estonian

ROLE IN THE PROJECT: Senior expert

Professional Profile

Health economist and policy expert with more than 10 years of experience in health system financing and coverage policy reforms. Extensive experience advising ministries of health, national health insurance funds, and international organizations on coverage policy, benefit package design, co-payment regulation, provider payment systems, and strategic purchasing reforms.

Currently working as a consultant to the WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Financing, supporting countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Western Balkans in designing and implementing health financing reforms.

Work experience

WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Financing

2020 – Present

Provide technical assistance to ministries of health and national health purchasing agencies on health financing reforms aimed at strengthening universal health coverage.

Key areas of work include:

- Advising governments on **benefit package design and service coverage policies**.
- Supporting reforms to **co-payment policies and financial protection mechanisms**, including analysis of out-of-pocket spending and policy options to reduce financial barriers to care.

- Conducting **health service costing and payment system analysis** to inform revisions of payment rates and provider payment models.
- Providing technical support to **national health purchasing agencies** on strategic purchasing arrangements and contracting healthcare providers.
- Analysing **coverage of outpatient medicines and reimbursement policies** to improve access to essential medicines and reduce household spending.
- Preparing policy briefs, technical reports and analytical studies on health financing reforms.

Health Equity Lead in Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia

2015 – 2021

Led policy analysis and development of reforms aimed at strengthening universal health coverage, reducing financial barriers to care, and improving health system financing.

Key responsibilities included:

- Developing policies to expand population coverage and strengthen financial protection in the Estonian health system.
- Analysing co-payment policies and out-of-pocket spending, and developing policy options to reduce the financial burden of households.
- Designing and implementing reforms to health financing arrangements and resource allocation mechanisms.
- Contributing to national strategies addressing health inequalities and access to care.
- Coordinating policy dialogue with international organizations including WHO, OECD, the European Commission and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

Senior Health Care Specialist in Estonian Health Insurance Fund

2013 – 2015

Worked on health system financing and strategic purchasing functions of the national health insurance system.

Key responsibilities included:

- Managing processes related to primary care financing, contracting and budgeting.
- Developing provider payment models for PHC, including capitation and performance-based incentives.
- Supporting development of costing and pricing methodologies for health services.

- Monitoring provider performance and supporting contracting negotiations with healthcare providers.
- Implementing policy initiatives aimed at improving management of chronic diseases at primary care level.

Education

09/2020 - current	Doctor of Philosophy (health care) University of Tartu
09/2012 – 06/2015	Masters degree (MSc), Business administration Tallinn University of Technology
09/2007 - 06/2011	Bachelors degree (B.S) Business administration Tallinn University of Technology

Other skills

Language:

Estonian	Mother tongue
English	Expert level
German	Intermediate level
Spanish	Beginners level

Computer skills:

Experienced user of SAP Sybase ASE, Operating systems/ERP, Power BI, Statistical analysis software R and Stata, MS Office

Publications

Habicht T, Kasekamp K, Litvinova Y, Hellowell M. The role of EU funds in capital investment for health-care: A case study of Estonia's approach to provider network transformation, 2004-2024. *Health Policy*. 2025 Nov 26.

Dubas-Jakóbczyk K, Davidovics K, Dimova A, Habicht T, Hroboň P, Imre L, Kasekamp K, Minev M, Murauskienė L, Retházi G, Smatana M, Szalayova A, Szetela A, Šlegerová L, Topór-Mądry R. Setting prices for hospital care within public health insurance schemes in seven Central and Eastern European countries – a comparative analysis. *Research Square*. 2025. doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-6518063/v1

Results of costing for provider payments in primary health care in Ukraine: technical report. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2024. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Hawkins L, Kasekamp K, van Ginneken E, Habicht T. Governing health service purchasing agencies: Comparative study of national purchasing agencies in 10 countries in eastern Europe and central Asia. *Health Policy Open*. 2023;5:100111

Reimagining governance for strategic purchasing: evidence from 10 countries in eastern Europe and central Asia. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2023. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Kasekamp Kaija, Habicht Triin, Võrk Andres, Köhler Kristina, Reinap Marge, Kahur Kristiina, Laarmann Heli, Litvinova Yulia. Estonia: Health system review. *Health Systems in Transition*, 2023; 25(5): i–204.

Habicht Triin, Kasekamp Kaija, Webb Erin. 30 years of primary health care reforms in Estonia: The role of financial incentives to achieve a multidisciplinary primary health care system. *Health Policy*. 2023;130:104710. doi: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2023.104710.

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Authors: Winkelmann, Juliane; Gómez Rossi, Jesús; Schwendicke, Falk; Dimova, Antoniya; Atanasova, Elka; Habicht, Triin; Kasekamp, Kaija; Gandré, Coralie; Or, Zeynep; McAuliffe, Úna; Murauskiene, Liubove; Kroneman, Madelon; de Jong, Judith; Kowalska-Bobko, Iwona; Badora-Musiał, Katarzyna; Motyl, Sylwia; Figueiredo Augusto, Gonçalo; Pažitný, Peter; Kandilaki, Daniela; Löffler, Lubica; Lundgren, Carl; Janlöv, Nils; van Ginneken, Ewout; Panteli, Dimitra (2022) Exploring variation of coverage and access to dental care for adults in 11 European countries: a vignette approach *BMC Oral Health*, 22 (1). DOI: 10.1186/s12903-022-02095-4.

Rethinking primary health care financing in Georgia. World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. 2021 <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/350562>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

Habicht, Triin, Reinap, Marge, Kasekamp, Kaija, Habicht, Jarno, Van Ginneken, Ewout, Webb, Erin. (2019). The 2017 reform to improve financial sustainability of national health insurance in Estonia: Analysis and first lessons on broadening the revenue base. *Health Policy*. 123. 10.1016/j.healthpol.2019.05.019.

Habicht, Triin, Reinap, Marge, Kasekamp, Kaija, Sikkut, Riina, Aaben, Laura, Van Ginneken, Ewout. (2018). Estonia: Health System Review. *Health systems in transition*. 20. 1-189.

Atun, Rifat, Gurol-Urganci, Ipek, Hone, Thomas, Pell, Lisa, Stokes, Jonathan, Habicht, Triin, Lukka, Kaija, Raaper, Elin, Habicht, Jarno. (2016). Shifting chronic disease management from hospitals to primary care in Estonian health system: Analysis of national panel data. *Journal of Global Health*. 6. 10.7189/jogh.06.020701.