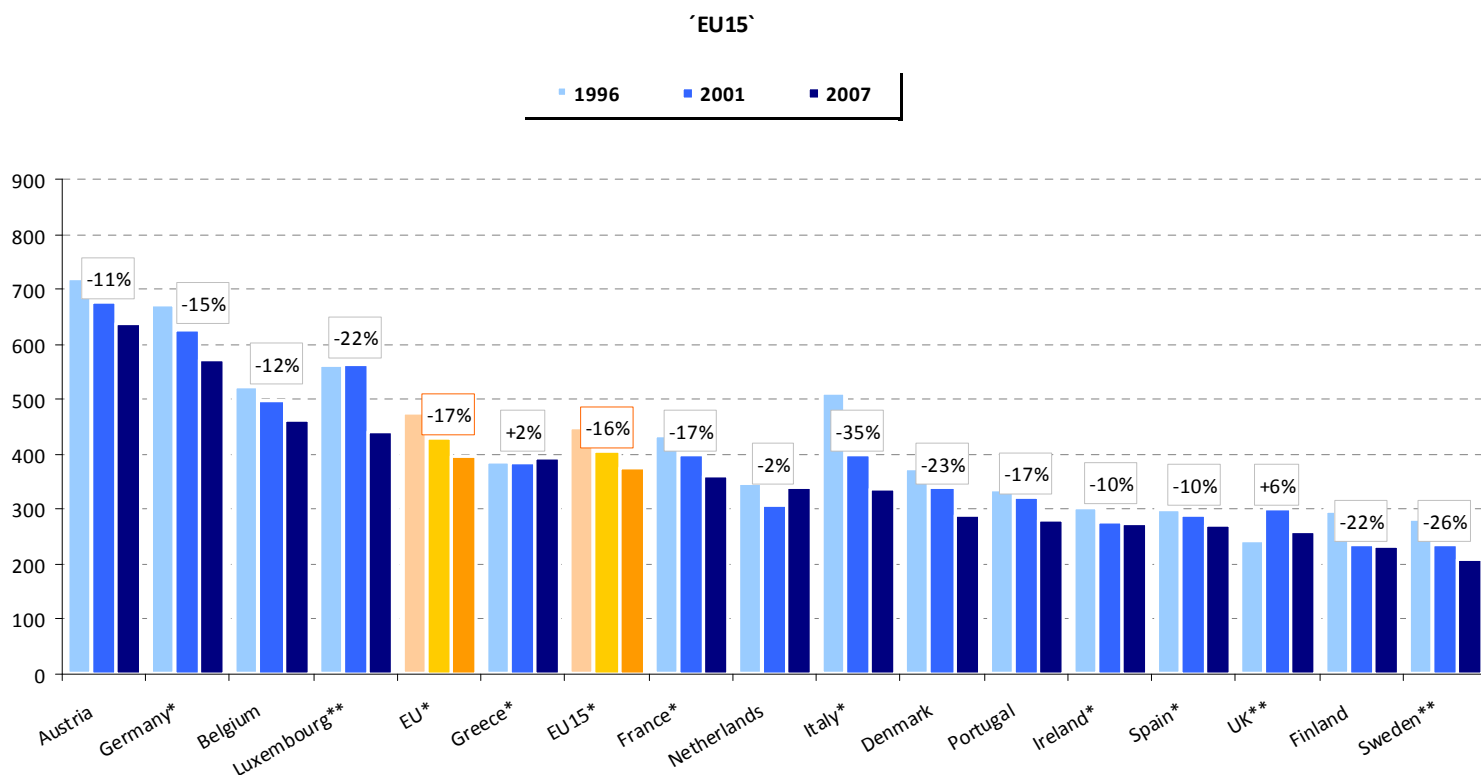


ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL BEDS PER 100.000 INHABITANTS – TREND OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



NOTE. The differences in percentage given for each country refer to the entire period: 1996-2007.

Main source of data: WHO/Europe, European HFA Database, August 2009

For countries marked by a star, last year available is 2006 instead of 2007.

For countries marked by two stars, data 2007 are taken from the *OECD health data 2009*; among those, data concerning Denmark is an OECD estimate.

For the United Kingdom the data 2001 is from the *OECD health data 2009*.

Acute care (or short-stay) hospitals are all general and specialised hospitals with relative short average length of stay (normally equal to less than 18 days).

They represent at least half of the total number of hospitals in each European Member State (except Ireland). In 2007, Cyprus had the highest rate of acute care hospitals (98,9%) and Lithuania had the lowest rate (49,1%).

Over the last decades most European Member States, fostered by the increasing demand of healthcare and by the resource constrains, operated a huge reduction in the number of acute care hospital beds and facilities.

Between 1996 and 2007, the number of **acute care hospitals** decreased by more than 200 in Germany, France and Italy and more than 30 in Austria, Belgium, Greece and Spain; in central and eastern European Member States, where this process began more recently, acute care establishments decreased by 67 units in Lithuania, 48 in Hungary, 44 in Latvia, 33 in Estonia, 16 in Czech Republic. Instead, in Slovakia they increased by 12 units.

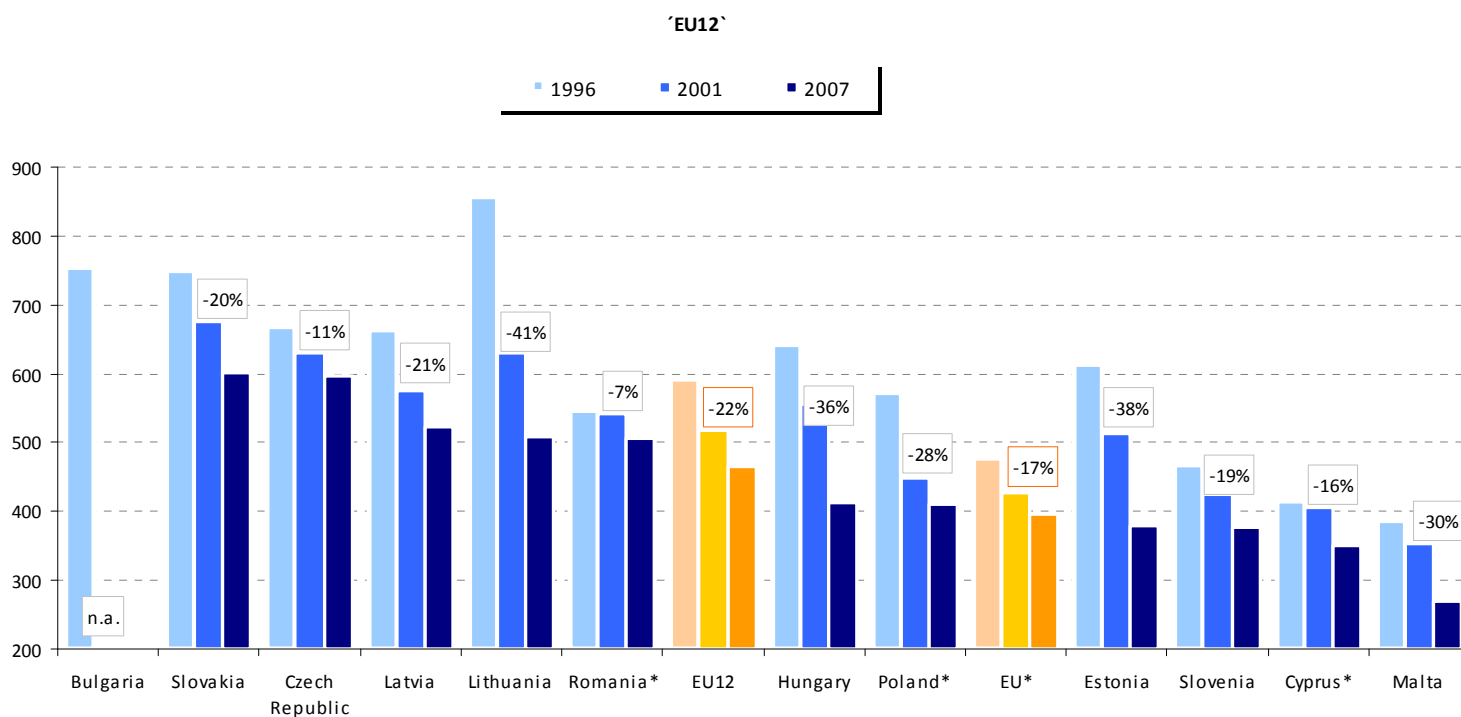
Between 1996 and 2007, the **acute care beds per 100.000 inhabitants** decreased on average by 17%, slightly faster between 1996 and 2001 (-10,3%) than between 2001 and 2007 (-7,7%). The two exceptions were Greece (+2%) and the United Kingdom (+6%).

In 'EU15', as showed by the chart above, the average decrease remained encompassed between -2% in the Netherlands and -26% in Sweden; only Italy had a more significant trend, with a decrease up to 35%.

In 'EU12', as showed by the chart below, the average rates of reduction in acute care hospital beds were quite diverse: lowest rates of decrease in Romania (-7%) and Czech Republic (-11%), highest rates of decrease in Lithuania (-41%) and Estonia (-38%).

However, in 2006 there was still a 22% difference in the total number of acute care beds per 100.000 inhabitants between 'EU15' (on average 375 beds) and 'EU12' (on average 482 beds), but this process is still ongoing and these data are going to further converge during the next years.

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NOTE. The differences in percentage given for each country refer to the entire period: 1996-2007.

Main source of data: WHO/Europe, European HFA Database, August 2009

For countries marked by a star, last year available is 2006 instead of 2007.

In Latvia, the first available data refers to 1998 instead of 1996.

In Malta, the first available data refers to 1997 instead of 1996.

`EU15` - Countries joining the European Union between 1952 and 1995: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

`EU12` - Countries joining the European Union in 2004 or in 2007: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.