The **average length of stay** represents the proportion between the total occupied hospital bed-days and the total number of admissions or discharges.

Since 1980 the average length of stay in acute care beds has been constantly reducing in all EU Member States. Between 2000 and 2011 it dropped off by 1 bed-day in ‘EU15’ and ‘EU13’.

The most significant reductions happened in the Netherlands (-3,2 bed days), Latvia (-2,5 bed days) and Germany (-2,2 bed days).

*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.

*EU13* - Countries joining the European Union in 2004, 2007 or 2013: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

**NOTE.** All data refer to years 2000-2011.

Last data available for Belgium is 2010, for Denmark is 2005 and for Greece is 2008.

*Main Sources of data: WHO/Europe, European HFA Database, January 2014*