

Call for Papers
Journal of Social Economy and Common Welfare

Thematic issue "Shaping transformation processes in the healthcare sector", 2/2025

Due to numerous challenges, the healthcare system is facing *transformation processes* that are unavoidable if it is to fulfill its social mission of ensuring future-proof, high-quality, accessible and affordable care for all. The challenges include the *digital transformation, demographic change, the increase in chronic illnesses, the opportunities and risks of individualized and personalized medicine, the shortage of specialists, the increasing fragmentation of care structures, the growing need for integrated care concepts and the limits of affordability*. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, the conditions in the healthcare sector were characterized by increasing volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. There is a consensus among the players and designers of the healthcare system that things need to change against this backdrop. It is evident that past efforts have not induced our healthcare system adapting sufficiently to the changed framework conditions. An efficient, resilient and modern healthcare system therefore requires *new care concepts, innovative forms of organization and participatory governance structures*.

In order to successfully manage the *transfer processes*, approaches and methods are therefore required that have been little used to date in the *further development of care structures and processes*. Collaboration, agility, rapid validated learning as well as data- and evidence-based, dialog-oriented and integrated communication play a central role for a successful transformation, especially in the context of the speed at which society and technologies are changing. The role that the *public sector*, with its principles of self-management, cooperativism and subsidiarity, can play in *managing these transformation processes* must be addressed and clarified. *Social change and technical and organizational innovations in the healthcare sector* offer the public sector and the principle of the common good the opportunity to play a formative role in the upcoming *transfer processes*.

Contributions are expected that critically examine the challenges and opportunities arising from the upcoming *transformation processes*. The *perspectives of patients, relatives, carers, doctors and other stakeholders* involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of care processes should be taken into account.

Submissions should help to promote *an interdisciplinary dialog between science, practice and politics* that goes beyond the mainstream and demonstrates unusual approaches that expand the existing framework and have the potential to change the healthcare system in the long term. The thematic focal points of the Journal of Social Economy and Common Welfare, such as the *promotion of the common good, distributive justice, democratization, plurality and solidarity*, should also be critically reflected upon. Contributions can include both *empirical and theoretical work* from various disciplines and schools, such as *sociology, political science, economics, ethics, law, psychology or medicine*.

We invite submissions that address the following or related questions:

- What role do *civic engagement, self-help, cooperation and coordination* play transformation in healthcare?
- How can *integrated healthcare processes* be designed and evaluated to improve both quality and efficiency while taking into account the needs and preferences of users and healthcare professionals?
- What are the *ethical, legal and social consequences* of digitalization, participation and integration in healthcare?
- How can *transdisciplinary and transsectoral cooperation* between science, practice and politics in the healthcare sector be promoted and designed?
- What *further development of innovation systems* in the healthcare sector is required in order to generate more sustainable and practicable innovations?
- What *innovative concepts, models and practices* exist in national and international comparison that are transforming the healthcare system and serving the common good and the public economy?
- How can users and service providers be involved in the *design and adaptation of care processes* in prevention, care, rehabilitation and nursing, taking digitalization into account?
- What *innovative approaches exist in the public sector* to productively link health promotion and prevention with medical care at an organizational and funding level?

Publication modalities and schedule

Notes on formatting and submission	https://www.nomos.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ZGuG_AutorInnen-Hinweise_2024.pdf
Language	Both English and German contributions will be accepted.
Deadline for submissions	September 30, 2024
1st review round	November 15, 2024
Resubmissions and 2nd review round	By December 15, 2025 at the latest, new review and resubmission by February 28
Final decision	March 28, 2025
Publication	summer 2025

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