

FREE MOVEMENT AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPE: Trends and activities since the 2003 report

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SUMMARY

HOPE ACTIVITY:

BEFORE 2003: -Before 1998

-Between 1998 and 2003

BETWEEN: 2003 – 2011

BETWEEN: 2011 - 2014

BEFORE 1998

- 1. Migrations and borders: infection control and first projects in border regions**
- 2. Social protection regulation 1408/71: information to hospital on reimbursement and tourism information leaflet**
- 3. Specific activities: a report on transplantation and organs crossing borders**

BETWEEN 1998 AND 2003

Kohll and Decker and the hospital cases

First discussion in the Belgian and Spanish presidencies

Mapping cross-border cooperation in border regions

« Hospital cooperation in border regions in Europe »

A report carried out by the HOPE Working Party on CB Co-operation, with the support of the European Commission June 2003

« Free movement and cross-border cooperation in Europe: the role of hospitals & practical experiences in hospitals » Hope Conference & Workshop, Luxembourg June 2003 3

What we learned

A lot of experience on the complexity of receiving foreign patients (emergency/elective) but other projects not limited to that

A lot of experience on organising it (information/communication) and learning from it

But this was becoming a a legal and EU-wide issue, in the context of new enlargements, in the context of professional mobility as well

What happened since 2003?

In the first period until 2011

Digging the border region issue: workshops and EUREGIO I and EUREGIO II

Participation in the high level process of reflection and then in the high level group

Providing information and develop a certain lobbying

HOPE Workshop On Cross-Border Co-Operation In Border Regions 25 October 2005 - Venice

HOPE- Veneto Regional Government (Italy) and Local Health Authority – Feltre
Best practices and obstacles

Cross-Border Territories: Day-To-Day Europe

8-9 November 2007 - Lille

HOPE - Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)
Political and operational issues of cross-border co-operation.

12 workshops on issues, projects, good practices, etc., leading to concrete proposals in the form of recommendations

EUREGIO I Evaluation of cross border activities in the European Union Co-financing DG SANCO Public Health Programme

Identification of existing cross-border projects and activities in the health sector;

Identification of good practice models;

Supporting the exchange of experiences and information between health care actors and promoting the setting up of networks;

Generating hypotheses on promoting and hindering factors of successful projects.

EUREGIO II Project “Solutions for improving healthcare cooperation in border regions”

Co-financing DG SANCO Public Health Programme

Dec 2008 – Nov 2011

High level group on patient mobility (2003)



report 8 December 2003



**Communication of the Commission
on patients mobility (April 2004)**



**High level group on health services
(from July 2004)**



Report to Council of Ministers every year

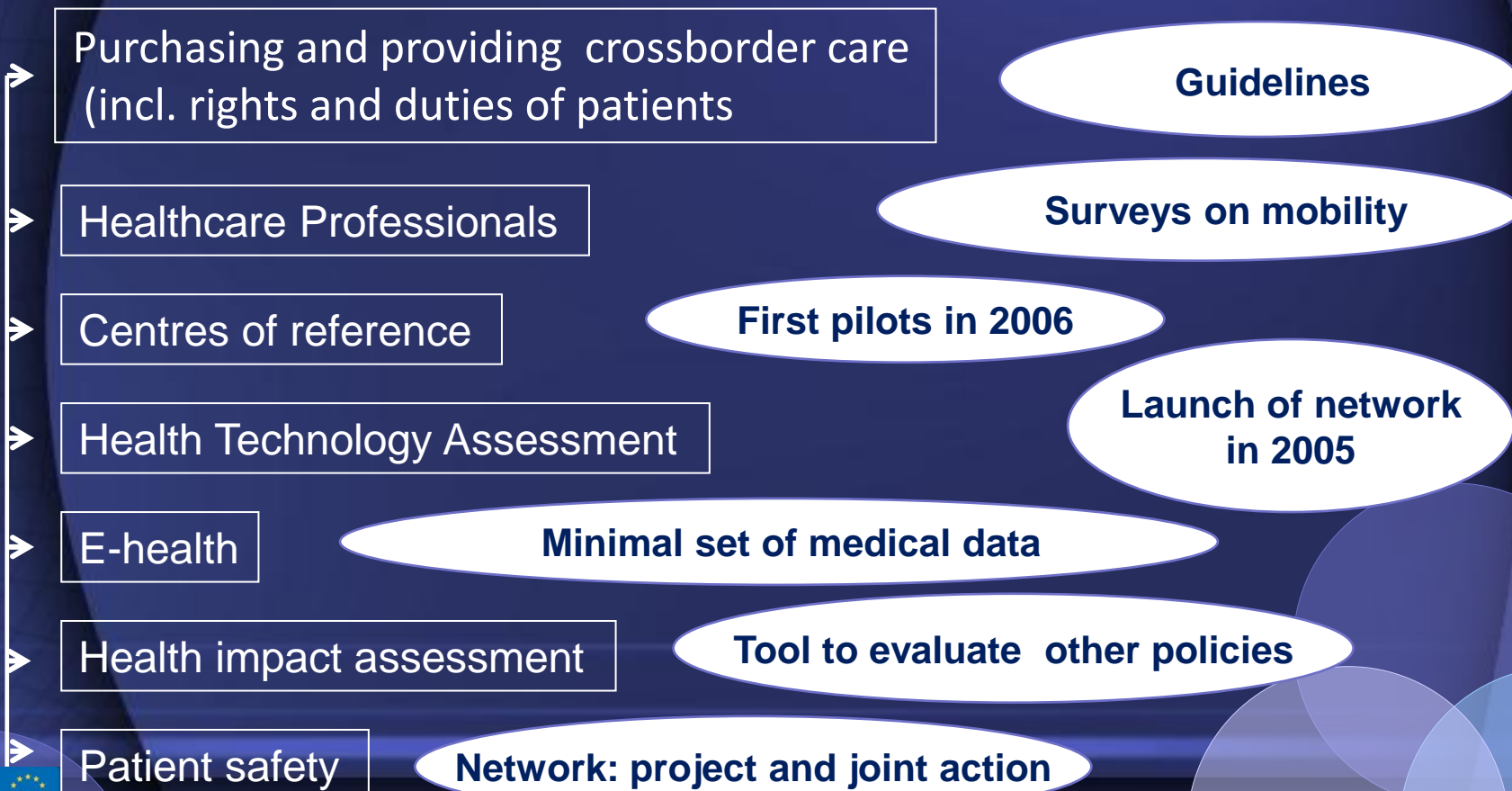


Working groups



WORKING GROUPS

High level group on health services and medical care



SINCE 2011

Following the transposition on the reimbursement part of the directive

Following the cooperation activities of the other part of the directive

HOPE key points

- Not something new ...
- What can we learn from past experience?
- More complexity in an already complex environment
- Continuity of care is the most important element

What is at stake for hospital and healthcare services?

More transparency at member state level

National contact points: information to patients

Definition of benefits: what is reimbursed or not

Quality: Member states would define standards and guidelines on quality and safety

Price: Apply to patients of other MS same scale of fees for healthcare paid for domestic patient in comparable situation

What is at stake for hospital and healthcare services?

More transparency at provider level

Healthcare providers would provide individual patients with relevant information on:

- availability,
- quality and safety of the healthcare they provide,
- price,
- authorisation or registration status,
- insurance cover or other means of personal or collective protection with regard to professional liability,
- written or electronic medical record of treatment for patients

Do we do it today?

More transparency at provider level?

- availability?
- quality and safety?
- price?
- authorisation or registration status?
- insurance cover or other means of personal or collective protection with regard to professional liability?
- written or electronic medical record of treatment for patients?

What does availability mean?

Treatment available? To which level of complexity?

Specialists? To which level of sub-specialisation?

Practice numbers? What about possible complications?

Waiting lists? Waiting time?

QUALITY OF CROSS-BORDER CARE: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Did we care before?
- What about the consequences in the present crisis?
- Future sustainability?

What about prices?

Sometimes mistaken with costs...

Different prices for hospitals in the same country

Different prices within the same hospitals

The myth of DRGs (EURODRGs results)



Some conclusions of EURODRGs

Some considerations based on EuroDRG experiences:

- International comparisons in Europe are complicated by:
 - Different DRG systems and additional (supplementary) payments
 - Different Classification Systems for Procedures (and partly Diagnoses)
 - Different Cost Accounting Standards
 - Different Coding Practices (e.g. recording of secondary diagnoses)
- A comparison of differences in payment levels for similar patients can:
 - Raise questions about adequacy of payment
 - Illustrate difficulties in paying for cross-border care patients

Cooperation between health systems

□ European Reference Networks

Networks bringing together specialised centres accross Europe helping citizens to better access highly specialized and complex healthcare and to disseminate information and expertise

Cooperation between health systems

□ eHealth Network

Steering group for EU eHealth policy (interoperability; data sharing and patient summary records; public health data; transferability of data across borders)

□ Health Technology Assessment

A permanent EU structure of cooperation to take forward co-operation on HTAs

Report on the Directive on Patients rights' in CB HC

NCP { Organisation responsible for the transposition
Website
Languages
Work force involved in NCP
Involvement of stakeholders

Services { Availability
Quality
Prices
Prior authorisation
List of HC services with prior authorisation

Starting procedure and possible infringements

Problems identified

Perspectives : report on Medical Tourism

Opportunities?

To attract patients/to retain workforce

Challenges?

Proven quality of care/cost efficiency

Threats?

Losing patients, professionals

Increase frustration

Further increase inequalities

Open door to litigation and increased premiums

Perspectives: Interreg

Structurals funds have been key in developing a lot of crossborder care projects in border regions

The new Interreg will start soon and despite the fact health is not mentioned as a general priority as before there will be resources for new projects

Perspectives: HonCab project

A system for exchange of information for hospitals
Analysis of hospitals' information systems on foreign patients by data collection

A system to receive feedback from patients receiving CB care with a focus on reimbursement issues

A hospital network with a functioning system for information exchange on the practical application of the Directive

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