

Cross Border Harmonization, January 21, 2011

European Academy of Sciences and Arts

European Institute of Health

**Cross Border Health Care: Harmonization in European Regions
Task Force**

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Cross Border Health Care: Harmonization in European Regions

In the spirit of a common market according the Lisboa and Maastricht criteria, cross border medicine should be introduced in neighbouring two European Regions to create a single market used by the patients supported by the doctors with his auxiliaries. It is a remove of frontiers contributing to the cohesion of Europe. Today the regions at the borders of a state suffer on a deficit in medical provisions. The medical centres are mostly in a distance and inside the state. The medical provisions are central directed, the catchment area is reduced compared to regions inside a state. This can be overcome in the alignment of two neighbouring regions, where the catchment area will be doubled at least giving the incentive to organize health care on a normal scale. This gives a prompt medical care in a short distance, a patient flow without any borders. In addition it is a contribution to a united Europe enhanced by the Euro and Schengen.

To achieve this goal many hindrances are to overcome. This is the task force of this project to contribute to the cohesion of Europe on a medical level. This is a lived level and gives people a new feeling for Europe.

30% of Europe's population lives now in rural areas. The medical infrastructure and the environmental aspects need help to reduce the regional social and environmental disparities. Medical care gives many people work. Mostly such regions are beautiful too and are ideal for creating new centres for special care as rehabilitation.

The frame of this project comprises different aspects, which have to be defined, evaluated for recommendations how to overcome the existing hindrances.

1. Identification of neighbouring European regions by name and demography
2. Identification of the patient flow, their demands and catchment area for care
3. Cascade of Medical care:
Ambulatory:
General Practicioners,
Specialists,
Doctor clusters,

Day clinics
Special long term care in
Diabetics,
Oncology
Dialysis etc.

Diagnostics:
Blood lab,
Microbiology
X-Ray, MR, CT

Stationary:
Regional Hospital

4. Prophylaxis
Mobile Coronary Care Units
Mobile Units for Apoplexia
Rare diseases.
5. Information: E-Health: key issue in transferring the findings over the frontier, additionally E-Care and Telemedicine
6. Education: common conferences and training in the Euroregion
7. Safety and liability
8. European law, cross border activities of doctors and his auxiliaries
9. Recommendations for actions.

The harmonization of medical care in a European Region comprising two neighbouring national regions of Member states comes to meet the natural patient flow. It enhances enlarging the catchment area and allows a better use of all medical provisions. It gives incentive and a new competition in medicine. The

scope of health care is enlarged and allows the mutual exchange of knowledge gained by different medical schools.

The overall concept in Health Care within a European Region has to be born by the two regions. It has the potential optimizing and reducing the total costs in health care by splitting them. The services can be better utilized and maintained. In case of new structures the costs can be splitted, so that the burden of investment is reduced.

The special winner is the patient. The most modern medicine can be offered in his region, the distances are short. It requires a continuous education in all areas of medicine. The mutual information for the doctors on the individual case history cross border is essential. E-Health will be the most efficient tool.

The harmonization of health care within a European Region gives the impact of a true European cohesion growing from inside by the people who live in those areas. The political dimension is to stabilize the rural areas, giving there work and a future. Medicine is the biggest entrepreneur, 25% oft he GNP is devoted to health.