Solutions for improving health cooperation in border regions

EUREGIO II

www.euregio2.eu

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Health Programme
2008-2013
Together for Health

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences

Universiteit Maastricht

Still a marginal phenomenon, but …

- mobility of patients across Europe's borders: a somewhat marginal phenomenon – but important e.g. in border regions

- need to support
  - planning, implementation, monitoring
  - actions to ensure transparency and to reduce legal ambiguity (cf. Baeten/McKee/Rosenmöller 2006: 179)

- border regions also as "laboratories" for cross border activities

- consequences of future development, e.g. "A Community framework on the application of patient's rights in cross-border healthcare"?

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Support (mutual) learning

- Need to
    - monitor and explore activities and experiences
    - exchange and disseminate experiences: some border regions have collected many experiences over years, others not
    - support capacity building (programme / project management)
    - ensure the effective and efficient utilisation of supportive programmes, tools etc. (e.g. EU SF "INTERREG" programmes)
    - identify opportunities and challenges
    - develop solutions
    - analyse the transferability of solutions, projects, good practice

EUREGIO II ...

... follows the project "Evaluation of cross border activities in the European Union", EUREGIO).

... runs from 2009 to 2011

... will deliver

- a handbook to support cross border activities in border regions (beside others: "Interreg IVA")

- a guideline for Health Technology Assessments (HTA) in small regions with multiple health systems ("local HTA")

- an analysis of legal challenges linked with data protection and liability/tort rights

A handbook to support cross border activities

- Possible topics of the handbook (with examples of good practice, failures):

  - ➢ infrastructure, programme and project management
  - ➢ challenges of cross-border cooperation, e.g. funding/reimbursement, language and other cultural differences, legal and contractual regulations, staff etc.
  - ➢ transferability of experiences / projects
  - ➢ utilization of EU Structural Funds ("INTERREG")

- Experiences in project partners regions show that more information and supportive tools have become available over the last years.

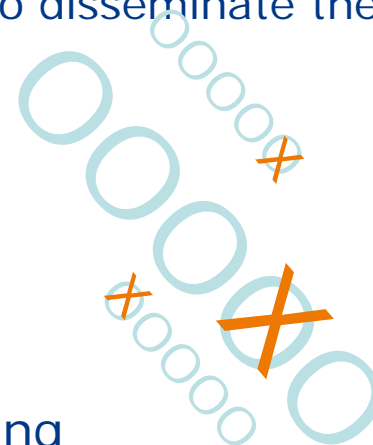- What are the major challenges and needs to be addressed today?

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Surveys and interviews …

… with people involved in progamme and project management

- ➢ Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) members have been asked to participate (dissemination over annual conference, AEBR webpage, information about AEBR newsflash)
- ➢ European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) members (hospital associations, ministries) have been asked to disseminate the questionnaire to hospitals in their border regions

… about

- ➢ ongoing activities
- ➢ status of programme and project management
- ➢ actors and engagement
- ➢ problems, risks, challenges, barriers
- ➢ supportive structures and tools in place / missing
- ➢ usability and utilization of EU SF ("INTERREG")

Local HTA

- Decisions in small regions with multiple health systems
  - ➢ investments and cross border health needs (the "market")
  - ➢ cooperation between hospitals
  - ➢ the interface between in- and outpatient care in cross border settings
  - ➢ ...
- Should a technology be used in a certain context?
  - – finding information, knowledge, expertise
  - – translating and reinterpreting existing knowledge, taking specific context into account (qualification, resources, interfaces, health needs, regulations etc.)
  - – documentation, monitoring, evaluation

1.
2.
3.

Local HTA

- Next steps
  - ➢ to identify decision makers and decision making processes which can be used to develop and test the local HTA guideline
  - ➢ to explore the decision making process and the information needs of decision makers
  - ➢ to test the local HTA guideline (at least two cases)
  - ➢ to evaluate the HTA guideline and the results of the tests with HTA experts

1.
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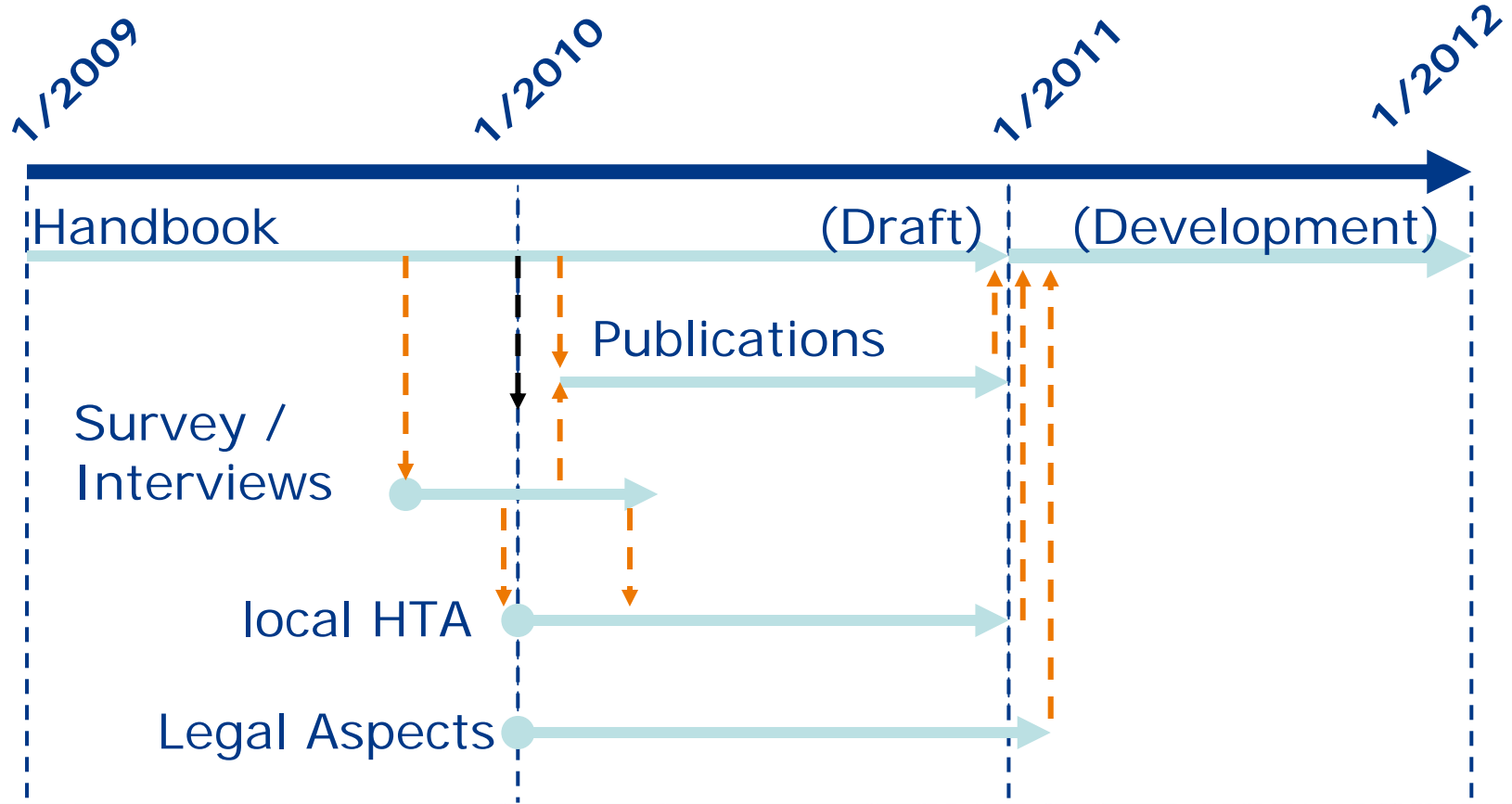
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Data protection, liability / tort rights

- Challenge: to handle problems with data protection and liability/tort rights

- Experiences not only of relevance for activities in border regions, but for all cross border activities

  ➢ What experiences exist?
  ➢ What solutions have been found?
  ➢ Is there a need for (European) regulations?

Time schedule

1/2009 1/2010 1/2011 1/2012

Handbook   (Draft)   (Development)

Publications

Survey /
Interviews

local HTA

Legal Aspects

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EUREGIO II partners

Maastricht University, Department of Int. Health (The Netherlands) (project leader)

Gesundheitsamt Kreis Heinsberg (Heinsberg, Germany)
Euregio Rhein-Waal (ERW; Kleve, Germany)
Gesundheitsmanagement Burger-Wieland (Vienna, Austria)
European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE; Brussels, Belgium)
Association of European Border Regions (AEBR; Gronau, Germany)
Landesinstitut für Gesundheit und Arbeit NRW (LIGA.NRW; Düsseldorf/Bielefeld/Münster)

Deutsches Institut für Medizin. Dokumentation u. Information (DIMDI; Köln, Germany)
ECORYS Research Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
WHO Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen, Denmark)
Regione del Veneto, International Health Social Affaire Office Venice (Venice, Italy)
Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT; Londonderry, Ireland)
Medical University Sofia, Faculty of Public Health (Sofia, Bulgaria)
Center for Health Policies and Services (Bucharest, Romania)