



Strengthening Patient Rights and Patient Safety in cross-border Health Care?

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AEBR Task Force Cross-Border Care



Multitude of challenges, hurdles, uncertainties for border crossing patients and care providers, *e.g.*

- Information, safety, quality
- Financing and reimbursement
- Continuity of care, prescriptions
- Liability
- Burocratic and logistic hurdles for patients, doctors, nurses, etc.
- Different health systems, languages, traditions, *attitudes*, culture, religions....



**Fortunately,
there were /are the
European Parliament and
European Commission,
to help the patient!**



Actions of EP, EC, MS and AEBR

- EP : Patient Resolution (Bowis, 2004)
- EC / MS : High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care
- EC: Cross-border Health Care in Services Directive! (Bolkestein 2005, Directive 2006/123/EC)
- EP : No! Cross-border Health Care in own Directive
- EC: Consultation on Cross-border patient mobility and health services in September 2006
- EC: First draft Directive of Kyprianou on Patient Mobility in December 2007, but not launched
- AEBR: 2nd Basel conference on Draft Directive in February 2008, without a draft



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 2.7.2008

COM(2008) 414 final

2008/0142 (COD)

Proposal for a

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

(presented by the Commission)

{SEC(2008) 2163}

{SEC(2008) 2164}

{SEC(2008) 2183}



**Brussels,
July 2nd 2008**

3. Baseler Gesundheitskonferenz, 10. Dezember 2009, Lörrach, Deutschland



Actions of EP, EC and AEHR

- EP : Amends and accepts Vassiliou`s Draft Directive in July 2009 (Bowis` Report)
- Health Council : Rejects Draft Directive on 1st of December 2009,
 - blocking minority group a.o. Spain, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Italy
 - their main concern: outflow of patients, increasing costs, uncontracted providers abroad
- AEHR: 3. Baseler Gesundheitskonferenz 10 December : again without a draft!!



What`s next

- HC/MS: Will the Spanish Presidency finish amended draft? Bad guy? Or Belgium?
- EC: withdraw the draft, and build on further ECJ jurisprudence (Vassiliou's option?)
- EC: what does John Dalli, after Vassiliou?
- RegulationDirective 883-2004



Fortunately,

1st December 2009 is not only a
black day for the patients:

The Lisbon Treaty went into power,
giving (new) possibilities for cross-
border health



Title XIII - PUBLIC HEALTH

Article 168 [152]

2. The Union shall encourage cooperation between the Member States in the areas referred to in this Article and, if necessary, lend support to their action. **It shall in particular encourage cooperation between the Member States to improve the complementarities of their health services in cross-border areas.**

The Commission may, in close contact with the Member States, take any useful initiative to promote such coordination, in particular initiatives aiming at the **establishment of guidelines and indicators, the organisation of exchange of best practice, and the preparation of the necessary elements for periodic monitoring and evaluation.**

7. Union action in the field of public health shall fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the definition of their health policy and for the **organisation and delivery of health services** and medical care and the **allocation of the resources assigned to them.**



and there is more legislative support for the mobile citizen/patient

- Modernization of Regulation 1408/71 into 883/2004, on the coordination of Social Security (including social health insurances)
- Comes into power on June 1st, 2010
- Gives more rights not only to cross-border workers, but to all citizen
- Also on cross-border health rights
- And better information



Examples from EMR of co-operation of Euregions to the benefit of patients

- TaskForceNet
- EurSafetyHealthnet



TaskForceNet

GRENZGÄNGER . TRAVAILLEURS FRONTALIERS . GRENSARBEIDERS

Co-operation Project, initiated and lead by Euregio Meuse Rhine, together with

- Oberrheinkonferenz
- EUREGIO (Gronau)
- Sjøndervilland-Schleswig



TaskForceNet

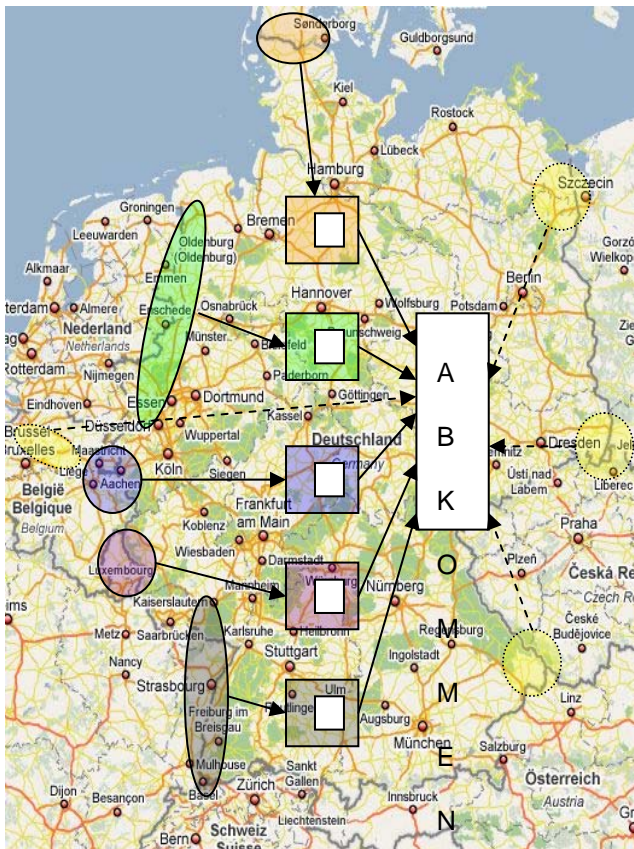
GRENZGÄNGER . TRAVAILLEURS FRONTALIERS . GRENSARBEIDERS

- Improve information (front- and back-office) to people crossing borders, on the modernized social security and health rights (front- and back-office)
- Developing trainings, tools, protocols, best practices
- Developing cross-border networks
- Political Networking and Lobbying
- Legal analyses
- Monitoring and keeping statistics
- Etc.



TaskForceNet

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Förderung der Mobilität am
Arbeitsmarkt

Hürden identifizieren

Lösungen vorschlagen

Gemeinsam mehr gewicht

Hans Niessen, 4/12/2009



Kooperation weiter ausbauen

Geographisch



Thematisch

- Arbeitsmarkt
- Wirtschaftsentwicklung- Regionalplanung
- Sicherheit
- Unterricht - Bildung
- Daten – Statistiken
- Strategien zur Bürgerinformation
- Governancestrukturen
- INTERREG: Prozeduren verbessern
- Lobby zur nationalen Ebene hin
- Gemeinsame Kooperation mit der Länderebene
- Gemeinsam via **AGEG** nach Europa

- Kapitalisierung „good practices“

Hans Niessen, 4/12/2009



EurSafety Healthnet: further field of strengthening patients' safety

- Patient Safety is another focus in the policy of Commissioner Vassiliou (in addition to Directive Patient Rights, and "Europe for Patients" campaign)
- Patient Safety is another field where members of the AEHR work together (and with patient organisations)



Euregio-Projekt

EurSafety Health-net

Euregionales Netzwerk für Patientensicherheit und Infektionsschutz

Euregionaal Netwerk voor Patiëntveiligheid en Bescherming tegen Infecties

Réseau Euregional pour la Sécurité des Patients et pour la Protection contre les Infections



PD Dr. Alex W. Friedrich
Universitätsklinikum Münster

Ron Hendrix, MD, PhD
Laboratorium Microbiologie

Stand: 31.1.2008



Project area



5 Euregios (4 + 1)

38 Regionen

19.2 Mio. Einwohner

32 ÖGD/GGD

12 Expert Centers

ca. 300 Krankenhäuser



Vasiliou's speech when launching the campaign Europe for Patients

....., the same people who are interested in cross border healthcare may also be interested in other health issues such as flu vaccination or cancer screening. They may also want to know about treating rare diseases in Europe.

This is why I hope and expect that the Europe for Patients campaign will be a success. It provides a simple entry point to the often complex world of EU healthcare policies and actions. It will better explain what we are doing at European level and how it can benefit our citizens in the field of public health.



In conclusion:

Even without the so eagerly wanted european legislation, the patient's position is empowering, especially in co-operation with the border regions



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Thank you !