

Possibilities of Patients Empowerment

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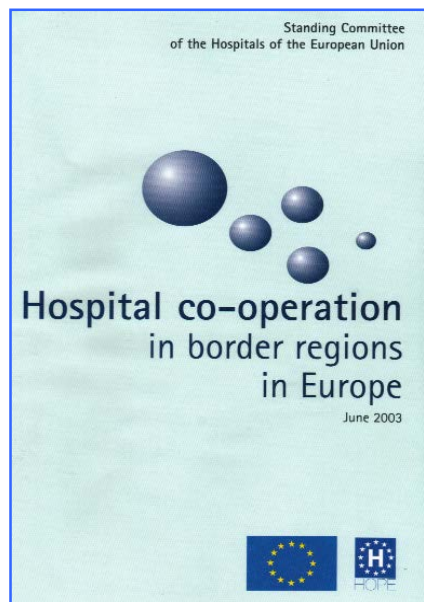
**European Patients Empowerment
for Customised Solutions**

AGENDA

- Present role of patients in European crossborder-healthcare
 - Why the European healthcare-system needs an active role of patients – four reasons
 - The EPECS-Idea
 - Cross-border health-care – laboratory of future
-

Present role of patients in European cross border health care

In 2003 HOPE and in 2007 LÖGD had analysed the cross-border health care projects and initiatives in Europe... **200!**



...some examples:

- Simplified permission and payment procedures
- Cross-border Health Care Network
- Quality circle of Euregional hospitals
- Cross border alliances of University Hospitals
- International Health Card
- Cross border e-Health and Telemedicine
- EMR-IC (= crisis intervention & ambulance)

Cross border health care is a matter of...

- ...hospitals, doctors, other health care providers
- ...funding agencies in health care
- ...public health services
- ...authorities (national, regional, European) permission and payment procedures

**Only few projects were organised from the patients view.
The present situation in the border-regions of Europe
mirrors the health-care system in Europe.**

At present the role of patients in the European health care systems is

- more passive than choosing actively
- more an object of treatment than independent and autonomous
- more in a predetermined framework than in self-determined conditions

Our opinion

Cross-border health care in Europe should primarily be about the patient - because the patient is the first stakeholder of the health care-systems (Markos Kyprianou) in Europe.

Why the European healthcare-system needs an active role of patients – four reasons

Four reasons for an active role of patients – first...

In face of the demographic challenge we have to rise the productivity of the health care system.

That is not only a technological affair: It is also a social question.

It is a question of a new professional understanding and a new relationship between professionals and patients in the European health care system.

Four reasons for an active role of the patients – second...

The „I-know-it-better“-approach is running out. Modern service providers in personal services include their clients and are interested to have them as well-informed partners – partners in a shared-decision making.

Four reasons for a active role of the patients – third...
Patients, who will have to pay more for their health care,
want to get ...

 more information,

 more rights and

 more choices.

Four reasons for an active role - fourth...

In the global competition even of care systems a strong impact of patients will help to manage necessary changes, e.g. integrated care and quality. Patients empowerment can be regarded as a specific European element of developing expert systems.



The EPECS-Idea

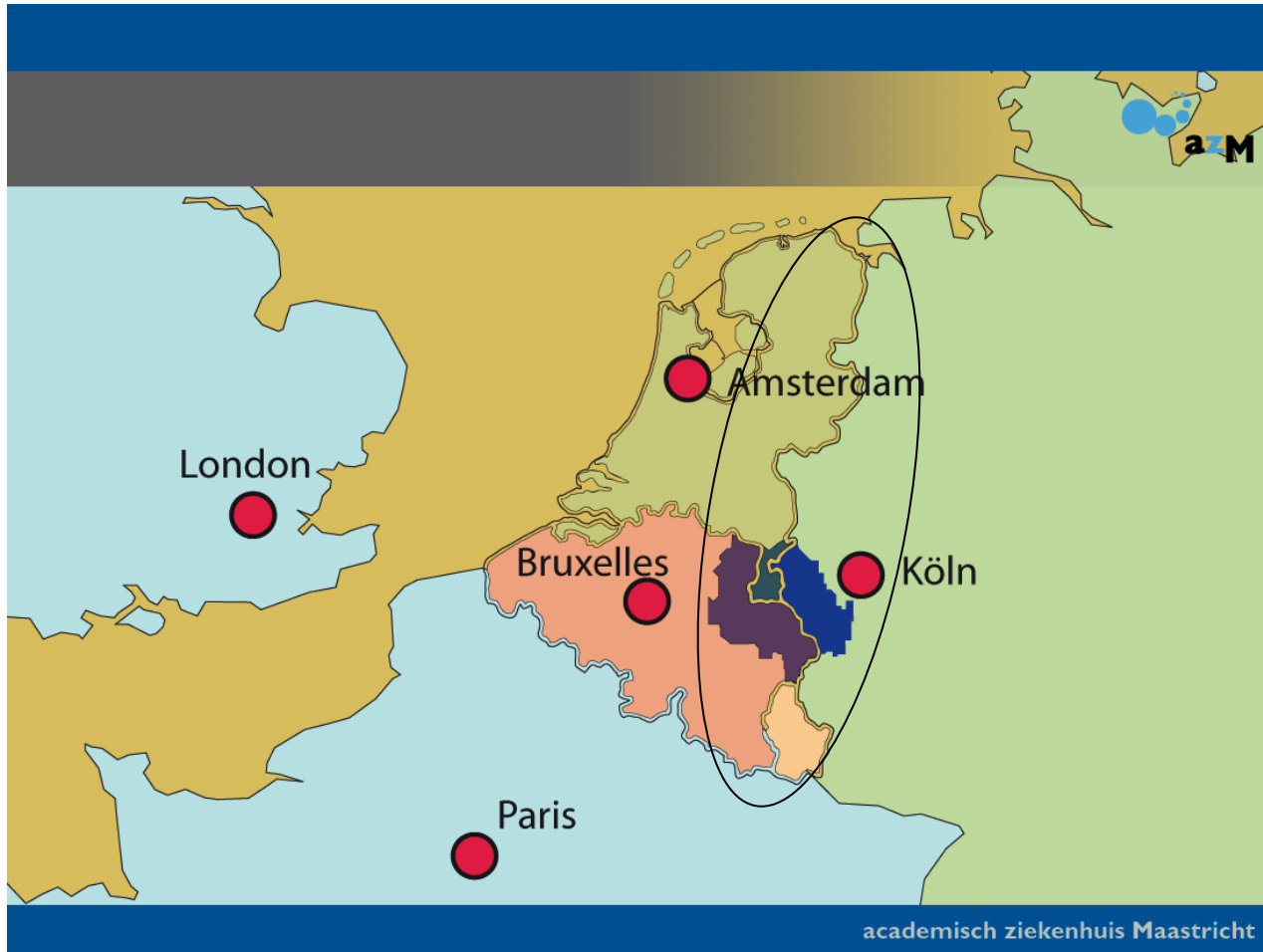
EPECS - started by partners in German-Dutch border area

- Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Nord-Rhine Westphalia (Germany)
- Huis voor de Zorg (Netherlands)
- Zorgbelang Gelderland (Netherlands)
- Zorgbelang Overijssel (Netherlands)
- Individuals (Nicolas Decker, Luxemburg)



EPECS

European Patients Empowerment
for Customised Solutions





The EPECS idea

State of affairs

- Declaration of intent is signed
- EPECS Foundation is established (11.09.2007)
- 1st conference (22th of June 2007), supported by Bundesgesundheitsministerin Ulla Schmidt (G)
- Board-member Nicolas Decker (Kohl-Decker ruling)
- 1st meeting of the network of patient organizations
- first projects

Patients Empowerment

-  as an independent party, asking the patients for their opinions, questions, and complaints related to cross-border care
-  guarding and improving the patients rights and obligations in general and the patients rights to cross-border care in particular

European

 putting the patients interests on the European podium

The EPECS idea

Customised Solutions

- improving of the accessibility, transparency, and quality of care and providing insight into the information exchange between care organisations

Cross-border health care – laboratory of future

The NRW-Example

- ❖ New development of „Gesundheitswirtschaft“ (health economy means competition, market)) is initiated by the government.
- ❖ It seems - centralized on the urban regions of NRW (Ruhrgebiet, Köln-Bonn).
- ❖ At the same time strong interest of cooperating with the Netherlands.

Will they forget the border regions?

USP of the Euregios as a laboratory

Bye, bye: Traditional way of cooperation!

A lot of interesting projects with no real connection to each other.

Hello: Next step - to an integrated cross-border health care system!

Elements of a new Euregio USP

- ❖ To learn from each other - ok, well-known...
- ❖ To have more Euregional integrated projects which deal with similar problems: That needs ideas and planning (and entrepreneurship?).
- ❖ To be courageous and build up a cross-border system – against local egoism: That needs political courage.
- ❖ To integrate a strong impact of patients: That needs EPECS as partner.



Please help us to
find more partner
organisations (e.g.
patients
organisations,
selfhelp-groups)

Thank You!

See more: www.epecs.eu
