

Minutes of the 3rd Euregio II “Solutions for improving health care cooperation in border regions” project partner meeting in Cologne, Germany. 19th/20th May 2010.

Introduction

The 3rd Euregio II project partner meeting took place in Cologne, Germany alongside a workshop on local HTAs organized in collaboration with DIMDI (). This was because it was assumed that work package 5 would benefit from the input of the experts assembled there, in terms of technical input and evaluation. The workshop took place on the 19th and the project partner meeting on the 20th. Almost all the associated beneficiaries were there and some of the collaborating partners were present [there](#).

The [agenda](#) of the meeting included updates from the different work packages, challenges, new opportunities, and the next steps to be taken. There were also other presentations to cover a broad range of issues in the field of cross border health care and cooperation. There was a presentation by Martin Guillermo-Ramirez (AEBR) on the priorities and activities relating to health care in border regions. This was followed by a presentation and discussion by Jacques Scheres on the implications of the frozen patient’s directive and the 883/2004 regulation on cross border health care in border regions. The final presentation on issues relating to experiences of health activities in border regions came from Sadie Bergin (CAWT) on working in cross border settings: views from the field in Northern Ireland/ Republic of Ireland.

The agenda of the meeting was re arranged a little to accommodate some of the project partners who had to depart early from the meeting. Work package 2 and 4 were presented first and then the other work packages while issues related to actual developments, coordination, budgets, financing, the interim report, next rates, the venue and time of the next meeting were discussed at the end and the meeting adjourned.

Work Package 2 and 7 (Martin Guillermo-Ramirez: AEBR and Gudula Ward)

The dissemination strategy was discussed and it was agreed that the Euregio II project would be incorporated into the news flash for the AEBR. It was decided to try to get a stand or presentation at the open day of the territories. It was also discussed and decided to get the website to become more interactive and then widely distribute the interactive part of the website so that the visibility of the project can be increased. Other avenues to disseminate the deliverables and products of the project include the executive committee meetings, the task force cross border health, a possible workshop at the general assembly, direct communication to all members, journal articles, participation in conferences, seminars, symposia, dissemination of a generic flyer of the individual work packages at different events, this would enhance and support cross border health work and also increase the visibility of the project.

Work Package 4 (Renate Burger and Martin Wieland: GM)

The in depth interviews in the border regions of key stake holders have been commenced using a questionnaire developed by the GM and optimized by the Maastricht University. The summary of the in depth interviews from each regions will be sent to the work package 4 leaders and used in the preparation of the case studies for each region. The Maastricht University also gave a brief overview of their experiences in carrying out their in depth interviews so far. Unfortunately there has been a low response rate for the surveys which has led to extending the time for the analysis of the results as there are not enough questionnaires returned. Strategies to improve this return rate were discussed and it was agreed to get a dedicated section in the monthly news flash of the AEBR to enhance out reach as well as activate more networks. The structure of the handbook, outline for the chapters and possible publication (including the merits and demerits) of the case studies in the European Journal of Public Health was also presented and discussed. It was decided the case studies would be made into publications so that contributors could benefit from it being published. The form of the handbook (e-book, printed version) and the challenges associated with each were discussed.

Work Package 5 (Gloria Lombardi: HOPE)

In depth interviews have also commenced for this work package among key stake holders in hospitals collaborating across borders in border regions. The work package also got a new HTA expert from the Maastricht University Saskia Knies. She will be contributing expert knowledge in the development of the guidelines and deliverable from work package 5. The current state of work package 5 and the next steps to take were discussed in the work shop the previous day where the project members were represented and had a good attendance. The workshop had 2 sessions, a morning session which concentrated on information uptake by hospital managers and local HTAs. The presentations from this part which we have been allowed by DIMDI to upload to our website include HTA: is there a need by Hans-Peter Dauben (DIMDI), Professions and perspectives, the Mini-HTA experience by Kristian Kidholm, Transferability of HTAs by Saskia Knies (UM) and Uptake of HTAs and information needs of hospital managers: Utilization and usability of HTA products by Silvia Evers (UM). The afternoon session of the workshop focused on HTAs in cross border regions and Gloria Lombardi (HOPE) gave an overview of work package 5 which was followed by a presentation on Cross border HTAs: market needs, evidence and legal framework by Hans-Peter Dauben (DIMDI) . Other presentations featured were Cross border HTAs methods and support by Saskia Knies & Chibuzo Opara (UM) and HTA and cross border cooperation: promoting factors, barriers, challenges and future perspectives. The experience of Veneto region and Padova University Hospital by Massimo Castoro and Anna Cavazzana (Regione del Veneto). During the workshop there was input from HTA experts in the form of an evaluation of what had been done so far. The structure and content of the guidelines were discussed and harmonized during the brain storming sessions and it was also decided that in the next few months a working format would be developed and tested from the material collected.

Work Package 6 (Ingeborg van der Molen: UM)

The work package leader was introduced in person to the project partners. Work had commenced on this work package in March 2010. During the project partner meeting the background for the work package was reviewed, challenges and the future steps to be undertaken in the project were discussed. It was decided that project members would send work package 6 leader a priority list of the legal issues that were considered important so that these could be incorporated into the activities for work package 6 or even substituted with the original objectives. To give the project partners an idea of possible input for cases/problems a few examples were given for both the data protection and liability frame work. These different inputs from the different regions would be collected until the end of June.

Actual Developments (Kai Michelsen and Chibuzo Opara: UM)

The grant amendments that had been made in terms of the evaluators being used for work package 5 and the possibility of a change in the final objectives of work package 6 were discussed. It was also agreed that the changes to the budgetary and work time would be effected after an overview of the whole project's current financial state had been gotten by the finance department of the Maastricht University. The date and venue of the next project partner meeting were also tentatively dated for October in Vienna, Austria pending the notification and acceptance of other members. In the grant agreement it was originally supposed to be in Bad Gastein but due to the last experience at the second project partner meeting where it was organized during the EUPHA conference but project partners just attended the meeting but did not participate in the conference, it was decided that the conference in Bad Gastein would not be appropriate because the logistics involved in organizing it there were quite demanding. The issue of what kind of journals to place the articles to be published from the project in and how to go about this were deliberated. Other coordination issues discussed included the format for actualizing the interim reports which will be posted on the website, the budgets and the financial controlling.

**Annex i: Agenda for the Euregio II project partner meeting 20.05.2010, Cologne,
Germany**

| | 20/05/2010 | Project Partner meeting |
|--|----------------------|--|
| | 09.30 - 09.45 | Coffee |
| | 09.45 - 10.00 | Opening remarks and agenda (Kai Michelsen) |
| | 10.00 – 10.30 | The failed (delayed) patient's directive, the 883/2004 regulation and their implications on cross border health care in border regions (Jacques Scheres) |
| | 10.30 - 11.00 | Presentation on priorities and activities relating to health care in border regions: AEBR's perspective. (Martin Guillermo Ramirez, AEBR) |
| | 11.00 - 11.30 | Working in cross border settings: views from the field Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland. (Sadie Bergin) |
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| | | Presentation of the work packages |
| | 11.30 - 11.50 | Actual Developments and coordination issues (Chibuzo Opara and Kai Michelsen) |
| | 11.50 – 12.20 | Work package 2 (Martin Guillermo-Ramirez, AEBR) Work Package 7 (Gudula Ward, LIGA.NRW) |
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| | <i>12.20 – 13.30</i> | <i>Lunch break</i> |
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| | 13.30 – 14.00 | Work package 4 (Renate Burger/Martin Wieland, GM) |
| | 14.00 – 14.30 | Work Package 5 (Gloria Lombardi, HOPE) |
| | 14.30 – 15.00 | Work package 6 (Ingeborg van der Molen) |
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| | 15.00 – 15.15 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
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| | 15.15 – 15.45 | The budget, financial controlling, evaluations and 2 nd round of funding. |
| | 15.45 – 16.15 | Summary and Next steps |
| | End | |

Annex ii: Attendance list

Sadie Bergin (Cooperation and Working Together, CAWT)

Renate Burger (Gesundheitsmanagement Burger-Wieland OG, GM)

Ioana Daramus (Center for Health Policies and Services, CPSS)

Hans-Peter Dauben (Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information, DIMDI)

Martin Guillermo-Ramirez (Association of European Border Regions, AEBR)

Saskia Knies (Maastricht University, UM)

Gloria Lombardi (HOPE)

Kai Michelsen (Maastricht University, UM)

Inge van der Molen (Maastricht University, UM)

Chibuzo Opara (Maastricht University, UM)

Thea Remers (Euregio Rhein-Waal, ERW)

Jacques Scheres (Maastricht University, UM)

Gudula Ward (Landesinstitut für Gesundheit und Arbeit des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, LIGA.NRW; Regions for Health Network, RHN)

Martin Wieland (Gesundheitsmanagement Burger-Wieland OG, GM)

Massimo Castoro (Regione del Veneto)

Anne Stelzer (Association of European Border Regions/Maastricht University, AEBR/UM)

Anna Cavazzana (Regione del Veneto)