



„Cross-border health activities in European regions: Good practice for better health“

Results of the project „Evaluation of border regions in the European Union“
with regard to potential fields of action for cross-border health initiatives
(EUREGIO)



Project term: 1 June 2004 – 31 May 2007

Project Team:

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Project aims

- to give an overview of cross-border activities in the field of health
- to evaluate existing cross-border health-related projects
- to identify models of good practice
- to support cooperation among project actors
- to identify promoting and hindering factors
- to give recommendations for actions



Methods and project development

- Written survey among 67 Euregios & 53 Interreg IIIA-Secretariats
- Survey among about 300 projects (in writing and online)
- Preselection of 40 “models of good practice”
- Workshop with representatives of the 40 projects (January 2006)
- In-depth interviews with selected “models of good practice”
- Final EUREGIO conference (March 2007)
- Recommendations / Final Report



Euregio-Survey: Results (overview)

Interviewed: 67 Euregios and similar structures (30 countries)

Response: 47 questionnaires (28 countries)



- Heterogeneity of Euregios and similar structures
- for 76 % health is a very important or important issue
- 37 cross-border structures which are/were active in the health sector (at least one working group or one project)



different kind of activities:

- working groups
- projects
- events
- agreements



Euregio-Survey: Working groups



-  Working Groups in Health (N=27)
-  No Working Groups in Health (N=18)
-  No information (N=20)
-  Special case (N=3)



Euregio- and Interreg-Survey: Projects in exemplary cross-border regions



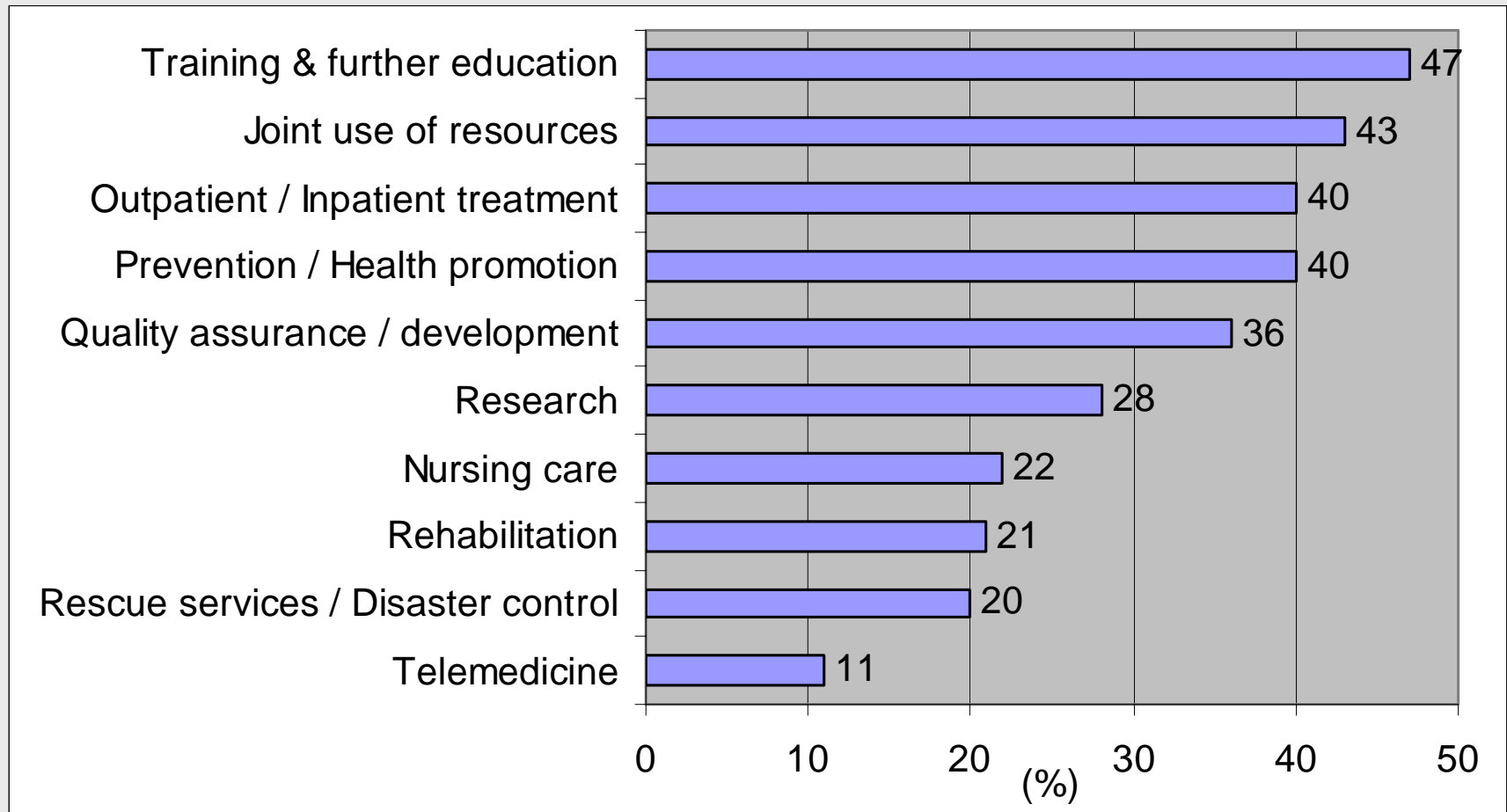


Survey among the projects: Content of the questionnaire

- general information
- target groups
- project description (e.g. subjects, starting position, objectives)
- project partners and cooperation
- public relation/interest of the public
- project evaluation
- continuation of project activities
- project financing
- promoting and hindering factors



Survey among the projects: Areas of activities



Multiple answers possible, N=122



Survey among the projects: Strengths and weaknesses

Projects are very heterogeneous: issues, duration, number of partners etc.

- + lots of activities to ensure sustainability
- + nearly all projects meet two or more “partnership-criteria”
- Information about the projects (reports, Internet) is only partly available
- Project-evaluation is not generally common
- Some projects work without partnership agreements
- Projects rely very much on the personal commitment of actors involved



Survey among the projects: Promoting and hindering factors

Assessment of Promoting Factors

Commitment of actors (mean 3.8)

Experiences of partners (3.5)

Recognizable benefit (3.4)

N=104

Assessment of Hindering Factors

- Financial problems (mean 3.3)
- Application procedure (3.2)
- Amount of administrative work (3.1)
- Legal problems (2.7)
- Data protection problems (2.3)

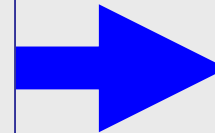
N=105

Four scale assessment from “not promoting/hindering” (1) to “very promoting/hindering” (4)



Conclusions

- Legal certainty
- Cooperation agreements between actors
- Access to subsidies
- Reduction of bureaucratic hindrances
- Exchange of experience and information
- Documentation and public relations
- Project evaluation



Recommendations
for action for:

(a) project actors

(b) to European,
national
and/or
regional actors



Recommendations for project actors

- Determine the need for and effectiveness of the project
- Ensure the availability of sufficient staff and financial resources
- Ensure the cross-border added value for the region
- Ensure early and continuous cooperation based on partnership
- Create a sense of commitment and define responsibilities
- Pay more attention to public relations & project documentation
- Ensure good political and senior management support
- Evaluate projects adequately
- Initiate steps to ensure sustainability of the activities at an early stage
- Use the experiences of other projects
- Reduce bureaucratic hindrances for Interreg



Recommendations to actors at European, national and regional level

- Create a legal basis
- Ensure partnership-based cooperation
- Promote the exchange of experiences and information
- Facilitate access to grants / funding
- Reduce bureaucratic hinderances for Interreg
- Strengthen the role of the Euregios and similar cross-border structures
- Quality assurance of the projects



Models of good practice

- Hospital collaboration
- Prevention / health promotion
- Telemedicine
- Disaster control / rescue service
- Patient mobility





Examples for potential fields of action (1)

FR-ES: Common Cross-Border Hospital Cerdanya and Capcir (2005-2008)

Aims: Ensure provision of medical care for the local population & tourists and provide special treatment (e.g. dialysis) by building up a joint cross-border hospital.

DE-NL: State-of-the-Art Medicine along the borders (since 06/2004)

Aims: Improve the hospitals' efficiency, effectiveness and quality of top clinical services, secure competitive advantages and to become a "European Centre for State-of-the-Art Medicine and Research"

DE-NL-BE: "Risicogedrag adolescenten" (10/2001-12/2005)

Aim: Promote cross-border cooperation within the Euregio Meuse-Rhine in the field of risk behaviour prevention in adolescents (alcohol, drugs, tobacco)

DE-PL: Telemedicine network to support tumour care in the POMERANIA Euroregion (since 2002)

Aims: Improve patient care in the project area: quality and time lapse in diagnosis, therapy and medical care; efficient use of scarce resources; cost reduction



Examples for potential fields of action (2)

IT-FR: Standardisation of treatment in patients with HIV, HVC and other infectious pathologies (09/2004 - 09/2006)

Aim: Improvement and standardisation of medical care for patients with infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis etc.)

DE-NL-BE: EUMED (01/2005 – 12/2007)

Aim: Immediate assistance in the event of emergencies and serious accidents: cross-border cooperation is vital

FI-SE: Cross-border dental care (12/2002 – 12/2004)

Aims: Ensure the provision of dental care close to the place of residence for Swedish and Finnish patients; step up efficiency by the joint usage of resources and strengthen the development of the region



Products:

Project-Portal

Provision of information on about 100 cross-border projects in health in the Internet

Workshop Documentation

Workshop „Cross-border activities – Good Practice for better Health“, January 2006, Bielefeld, Germany

Interim Report

Final Report

Products available at: www.euregio.nrw.de





Thank you for your attention

Further information:

www.euregio.nrw.de

www.liga.nrw.de

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