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Study on cross-border cooperation in the field of healthcare

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The study investigates past achievements (2007-2017) and potential future developments in the field of cross-border healthcare collaboration.

Apart from the analysis of past projects, the study provides practical tools to assist stakeholders, including local and regional authorities, who intend to start a cross-border healthcare collaboration project. It gives answers to questions such as: what are the administrative regulations to be fulfilled, what are the costs to be taken account of, etc.

Some key lessons learnt from the past period:

- Cross-border healthcare initiatives are more effective in regions where ease of cooperation is already established, e.g. due to similar welfare traditions or close historical ties.
- Support should be given to key players such as regional policy-makers or hospital managers to reduce transaction costs of cross-border healthcare. The toolbox developed in this study can provide help.
- There are several scenarios for future cross-border healthcare, one of the most realistic ones being one which builds regional networks oriented towards addressing local and regional needs.

Cross-border collaboration projects in the field of healthcare can have several thematic subjects. In the past period (2007-2017), 'knowledge sharing/management' has been the dominating subject of projects (50 %), while 12 % of the projects focused on 'health and care workforce/training'.

With regard to the latter thematic subject, the study tries to give an answer to the question of 'What to keep in mind when starting a collaboration project in the field of Health and Care Workforce and Training' (tool 12).

Other tools are: How to identify the need for cross-border collaboration (tool 1)? Checklist: Lead partner qualities (tool 4). Checklist: How to fund the cross-border healthcare project (tool 9) ...

The "Study on Cross-Border Cooperation - Capitalising on existing initiatives for cooperation in cross-border regions" was carried out by the Austrian Public Health Institute 'Gesundheit Österreich Forschungs und Planungs GmbH'.

To read the report in full in English ([PDF](#)), see the Cross-Border Healthcare website:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/cross_border_care/key_documents_en

Un [sommaire en français \(PDF\)](#) est aussi disponible sur ce site Web.

Eine [Zusammenfassung in deutscher Sprache \(PDF\)](#) kann auch auf dieser Website eingesehen werden.