

# Right to equitable access to healthcare in the EU and freedom of choice?

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20.2.19 tp

## What should we talk about?

- Access to health and healthcare is a universal problem!
- Can mobility of patients or services help to respond to the problem?
- How the digital transformation of health and care influences access?



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## Examples of barriers to access

- Geographic distance to care
- Financial resources to provide care
- Lack of experience or facilities to provide care

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## European Parliament February 2019

Whereas

- health can be regarded as a **fundamental right** under Articles 2 (on the right to life) and 35 (on healthcare) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- **affordable-to-all health systems** in the EU and its Member States are crucial for ensuring a high level of public health, social protection, social cohesion and social justice, by preserving and guaranteeing universal access, ...;

European Parliament resolution 2018/2108(INI)

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Romanian  
Presidency of  
the EU  
—  
Health priority



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**Ensuring access to healthcare for all European citizens**

Promoting universal access to treatment for all those who need it

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Romanian  
Presidency of  
the EU  
—  
Health priorities



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1. Fighting antimicrobial resistance and associated infections
2. Improving vaccination coverage
3. Patient access to medicines
4. Patient mobility
  - Exchange of views on the implementation of Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
  - Encourage cooperation in the treatment of patients under the age of 18 who suffer from rare diseases
5. Digital health (digital access to health)
  - a meeting of ministers and the eHealth Network

Legislative: Proposal on coordination in health technology assessment.

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## HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON THE SILVER ECONOMY



# High-Level Forum on the Silver Economy July 2019, Helsinki

ActiveHealthyAgeing Retweeted



**EU\_eHealth** @EU\_eHealth · Oct 26

Commissioner [@V\\_Andriukaitis](#): [@EU\\_Commission](#) is committed to overcome barriers for **free movement** of patients & [#data europa.eu/IHN93cn](#)



2018 tp



5

6





# Cross-border mobility of patients and services

- Coordination of social security in the EU (Regulation)
- Directive on patients rights in cross-border care

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# Cross Border Healthcare



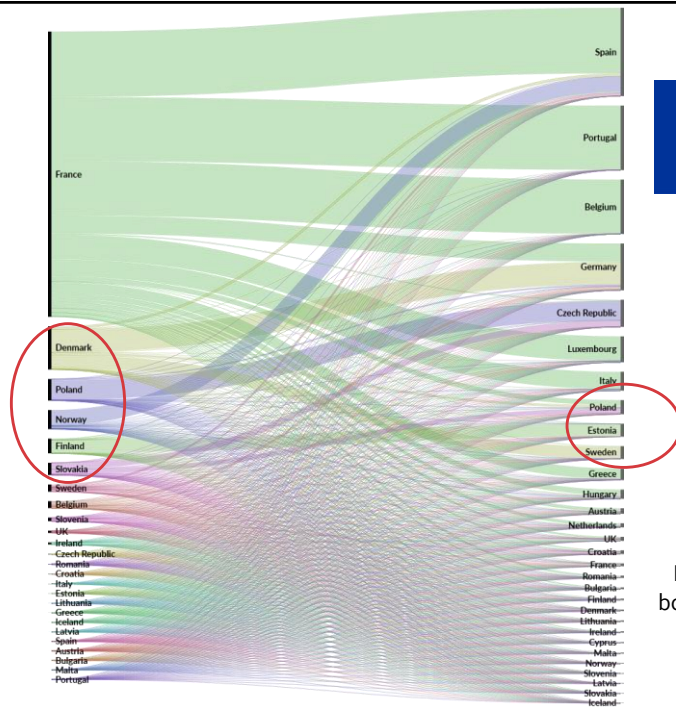
European Reference Networks



Commission/20.2.19 tp

# Patient Mobility Not Requiring Prior Authorisation in 2015-2017

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Report on cross-border healthcare  
COM(2018) 651

# Cooperation of border regions Article 10

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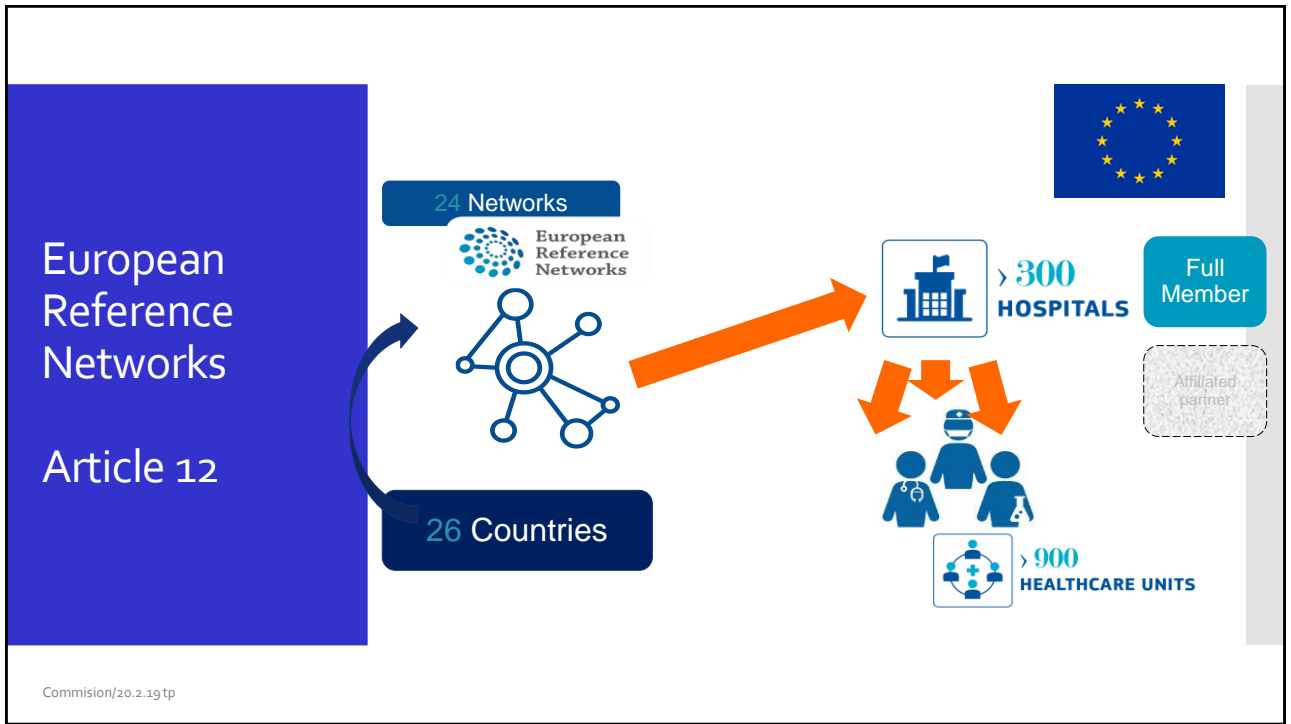
How to improve the  
#EUCrossBorderHealthcare cooperation?  
#EUBorderRegions @RegioInterreg  
@EUinmyRegion

Join us live from 9 CET for a #crossborder  
#healthcare conference in #Brussels  
Live streaming: [europa.eu/!Qw44pC](http://europa.eu/!Qw44pC)  
Info: [bit.ly/2yVdYeV](https://bit.ly/2yVdYeV)



9:45 AM - 4 Dec 2018





**Tapani Piha**  
@tapani\_piha

@V\_Andriukaitis says #EU Reference Networks #telemedicine solution can lead to new ecosystem nationally and in EU @EU\_Health @EU\_eHealth

6:10 AM - 17 Oct 2017 from Tallinn, Estonia

2017 tp

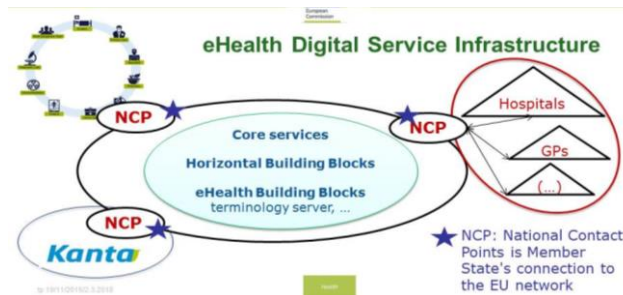
# Digital transformation of health and care



Communication on digital transformation of health and care COM(2018) 233

Commission/20.2.19 tp

# eHealth DSI builds the means for cross-border exchange of health data



- In progress
- E-Prescriptions
  - Patient Summaries
- In the future
- Laboratory results
  - X-Ray/imaging
  - Discharge letters



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- Regrets the fact that application of the directive with regard to telemedicine –health services provided remotely –has led to a certain **lack of clarity concerning reimbursement schemes**, as some Member States do reimburse or provide consultation with general or specialised practitioners at a distance, while others do not;
- Calls on the Commission to support the uptake of the reimbursement rules, in accordance with Articles 7(1) and 4(1), so that they also apply to telemedicine, where appropriate; encourages the Member States to align their approaches to the **reimbursement of telemedicine**;

European Parliament resolution 2018/2108(INI)

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## Legal issues in telemedicine



Brussels, 6.12.2012  
SWD(2012) 414 final

### COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

on the applicability of the existing EU legal framework to telemedicine services

Unfinished business!

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## Conclusions

- Access to health and healthcare is a universal problem.
  - Do we have political courage to accept cross-border solutions to national problems?
- We need to find EU instruments for the mobility of patients and services.
  - Legal, organisational and financial
- The digital transformation of health and care provides new opportunities for citizens and health systems.
  - Technology - organisational disruption
  - Do we tolerate the change? Do we embrace it?



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Thank you!

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