



Association of European Border Regions
Enscheder Str. 362
D-48599 Gronau

Phone: +49 - 2562 – 70219,
E-Mail: info@aebr.eu
Internet: www.aebr.eu

Fax: +49 - 2562 - 70259

Application form “AEBR-Cross Border Award” 2017
Deadline: 31st July 2017

Please, fill in the grey gaps and return this form by e-mail!

Periphery – In the Centre of Cohesion
- CBC in the light of the 7th Cohesion Report
- CBC – driving force for the future European Cohesion

1. General information

1.1 Applicant border / cross-border region:

Lower Austria (AT), South Moravia (CZ) and South Bohemia (CZ)

1.2 Title of the cross-border measure* [project(s), programme(s) / strategy(ies)]:

EU co-funded project “Gemeinsam Grenzenlos Gesund – Společně ke zdraví“ (Unlimited Health Together)

The project is a transnational cooperation project within the framework of the Interreg V A Austria - Czech Republic programme.

1.3 Period:

The project started on 01.04.2016 and lasts till 30.06.2019.

1.4 Lead Partner:

Health and Social Fund of Lower Austria

Contact:

Judith Kramer, judith.kramer@noegus.at

1.5 Partners:

Jihomoravský kraj / Region of South Moravia

Jihočeský kraj / Region of South Bohemia

Contact:

Luboš Císař, cisar.lubos@kr-jihomoravsky.cz,

Ivana Turkova, turkova@kraj-jihocesky.cz

1.6. Was there any financing of the measures/projects?

If so, what kind:

The project is a transnational cooperation project within the framework of the Interreg V A Austria - Czech Republic programme. 85% of the total costs are co-financed through ERDF Fund, 15% are national funds through the project partners.

1.7 Links to other projects, measures (only if applicable):

Two forerunner EU co-funded projects defined the principles for this project: The "Zdraví – Health" project (2008-2011) set the first step in cross border cooperation between Lower Austria and its neighbouring region, South Moravia. Cooperation topics in health-care provision were established, identifying those problems that need to be resolved in order to effect cross-border health-care provision. The follow-up project “health without borders” (2012-2014) elaborated a strategic plan for cross-border hospital cooperation in the border region. These results formed the theoretical and legal basis for going one step further into practice within the project “Gemeinsam Grenzenlos Gesund”.

2. Contents

2.1 Objectives of the measures/projects (strategy?) with regard to the motto 2017:

The project aims specially to improve quality of care and access to care:

Equality of opportunities of accessing to health care, through close cooperation among service providers in the project region; improve quality of life and living conditions, through access to specialised health care; optimum use of synergies and of resources; inform people about the possibility to use health-care services across the border; exchange experience between health care specialists.

Final results of project should be:

- Standard operating procedures in the field of endometriosis and radiotherapy treatment.
- The hospital of Melk should become the first approved endometriosis centre in Lower Austria (with level-1 medical certification).
- 15 patients from Lower Austria should receive radiotherapy treatment in the hospital of Znojmo.
- In the field of cross-border emergency cooperation the emergency control centres from Lower Austria, South Moravia and South Bohemia should be linked together. This enables, that citizens who need medical attention in either country will be treated by the closest ambulance.

2.2 Organisational structure and activities to implement the objectives (e.g. joint secretariat, contract, etc.):

The project has a clear partner structure- it follows the lead partner principle. All partners are members in the steering group which decides on general management and communication tasks. Furthermore there are two thematic groups on cross border hospital cooperation and cross border emergency care.

2.3 When have the measures/projects (strategies) been implemented?

As the project started on 01.04.2016 the first initial results are:

Building up a network of involved stakeholders and experts, joint surgeries between experts from the hospital of Znojmo/CZ and the hospitals in Melk/AT, information campaign concerning the illness of endometriosis in Lower Austria, kick-off meeting and information events for the outpatient sector/ gynaecologists.

2.4 Special framework conditions (a. geographical, political, etc. / b. only rural area (no regional metropolis), mountainous areas, external border).

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, Lower Austria has moved closely to its neighbours, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Unfortunately, health care is one of the few aspects of daily life that does not work well in cross-border aspects. Therefore cross-border cooperation is gaining in significance in the health sector. Cooperation arrangements between hospitals can help balance out regional demands and guarantee a better provision of health care to the population to reduce health and social inequalities. It can also help in optimizing costs due to the shared use of resources and a better return on resource investment. By leading and carrying out EU-co-founded projects, Lower Austria, through the Health and Social Fund of Lower Austria (NÖGUS) has not only taken responsibility for its own population but also for the population of the neighbouring regions: It's not about moving borders, but about reducing their separating character.

3. Contribution of the measure (added value) to the improvement of the border/cross-border region:

(not more than half a page)

The project has three approaches:

- Building up an certified endometriosis centre in Lower Austria with the help of the hospital in Znojmo
- Radiotherapy treatment in the hospital of Znojmo of 15 patients from Lower Austria
- Linking together emergency control centres for common dispatching of ambulances

For transferring medical methods and competencies, standard operating procedures will be developed which can be used for other projects. The framework for radiotherapy treatment will be elaborated during the project with the aim to continue it after the project has ended to a long term patient treatment. The linking of the emergency control centres continues also after the project has ended. In addition, the project partners ensure that all project results are still available.

4. Added value for the development of cross-border cooperation at European level

(not more than half a page)

