

DISCOVER EUREGHA'S BEST PRACTICES

Comparison of healthcare structures, processes and outcomes in the Northern German and Dutch cross-border region (CHARE-GD projects)

Cross-border Institute of Healthcare Systems and Prevention (CBI)

REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The organization and structure of the **Dutch and German healthcare systems shows striking differences**. Although these structural and organizational differences have been examined on a macro-level, their implications on patients and health professionals have not been broadly examined at a regional level. We need to **investigate and address these differences** in order to identify potential health and care challenges and to detect best practices and opportunities to facilitate cross-border health services and to learn from each other.

The CBI, launched in February 2019, is a joint initiative of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Oldenburg and the University of Groningen / University Medical Center Groningen. The Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health in Groningen and the Department of the Health Services Research of the University of Oldenburg serve as coordinators of the CBI.

Vision: To become a top institute on cross-border health and healthcare research in Europe.

Mission: To improve the health and healthcare of citizens living in the Northern Dutch-German border region through the delivery of evidence-based knowledge and meaningful cross-border health research results.



BEST PRACTICE

The **CHARE GD project** aims to firstly develop a **Cross-border Health Data Compass** as a data infrastructure for reliable scientific comparisons of health and healthcare data within the Ems-Dollart region, which shall be made available to policy-makers and citizens as well. Secondly, the project aims to **identify and explain cross-border differences** in healthcare structures, processes and outcomes regarding some healthcare areas: e.g. primary care (management of urinary tract infections and antibiotic resistance), hospital care (rehabilitation after total hip arthroplasty) and nursing home care (healthcare provision for nursing home residents). Thirdly, the project aims to **build the basis for longitudinal prospective comparisons of patient-relevant outcomes** within the Ems-Dollart region. The project consortia are interdisciplinary, cross-national, experienced research teams from data science, social, clinical and public health research.



KEY RESULTS AND LESSONS

- Creation of cross-border consortia, including around 40 researchers from both sides of the Northern Dutch-German border region.
- 10 cross-border health research projects ongoing.
- Courses and seminars about the Dutch and German health systems and qualitative research.
- Organization of 3 cross-border health research meet-ups.
- Release of a position statement on cross-border cooperation in health in the Northern Dutch-German border region.

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