

Kent County Council  
Kent Brussels Office  
International House

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EUROPEAN REGION  
World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy

Roland Craps  
Secretary General  
AKB Belgium

# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

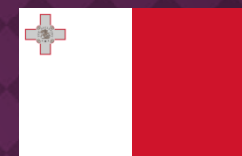
A Physiotherapy view  
in

The Netherlands

Malta

&

Belgium



# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

## Physiotherapy Associations

### **KNGF – Koninklijk Genootschap voor Fysiotherapie**

#### **The Netherlands**

- Approx. 16.000 members
- 30.000 in the Netherlands



### **Malta Association of Physiotherapists**

#### **Malta**

- Approx. 85 members
- 270 in Malta



### **AKB – Algemene Kinesitherapeutenvereniging van België**

#### **Belgium**

- Approx. 3.000 members
- 28.000 in Belgium



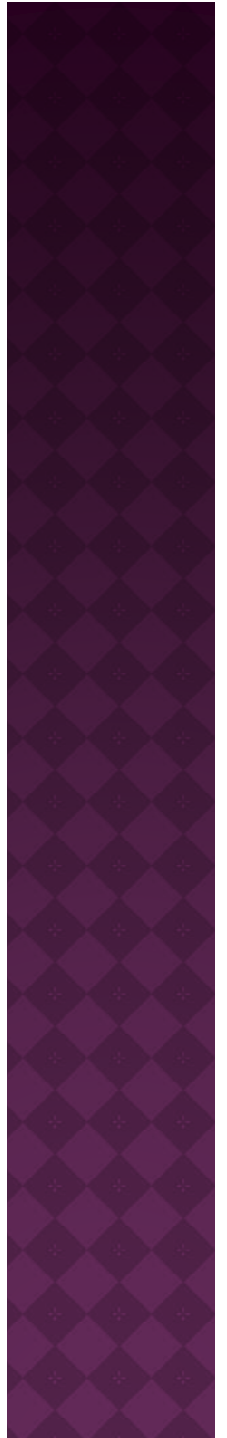
# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

- ◎ All 3 associations are member of the
  - World Confederation for Physical Therapy
    - WCPT: 100 member organisations
    - 300.000 members
  - The European Region of WCPT
    - ER-WCPT: 36 member organisations
    - 150.000 members



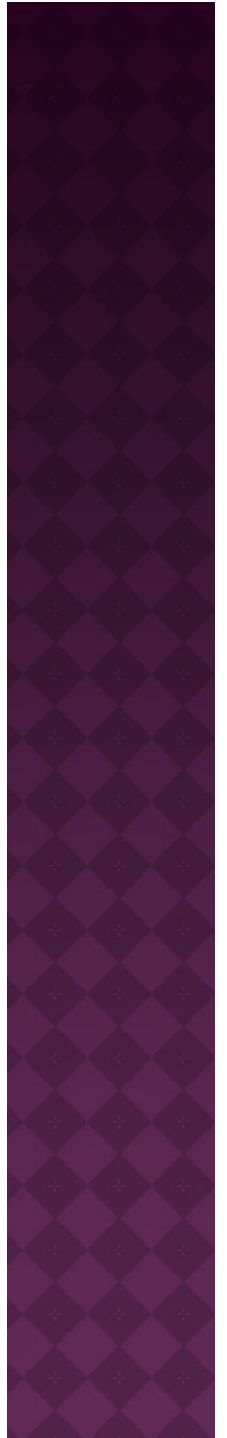
# DIRECTIVE ON THE APPLICATION OF PATIENTS' RIGHTS IN CROSS- BORDER HEALTHCARE

- Greater legal certainty for the patients
- Clearer information for the patients
- Closer collaboration between Member States



# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

- The ER-WCPT stresses that Cross Border Health Care can be successful if applied in a regulated free market environment, where the basic services are guaranteed for all.



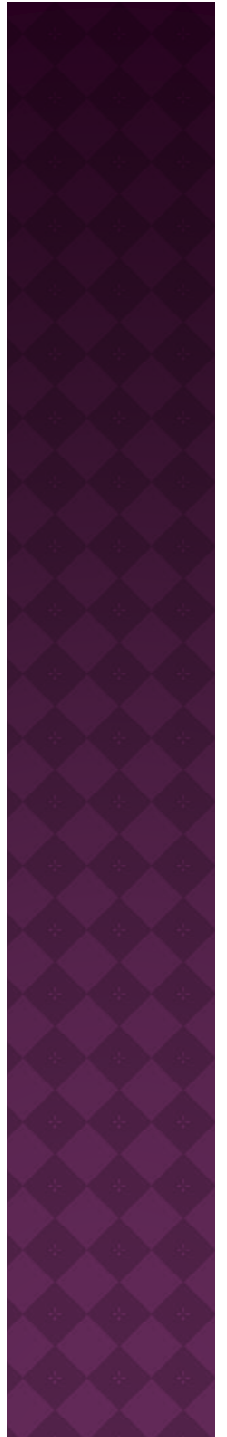
# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

- ◉ Although being very positive towards the proposal in Cross Border Health Care, the Physiotherapy Associations of the Netherlands, Malta and Belgium need to put forward some questions for clarification.
- ◉ These questions are situated on 3 different levels
  - Administration - Financial - Liability - Insurance
  - Quality of care and Professional qualification
  - Exchange of information and medical records

# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

## 1. Administration-financial-liability-insurance

- Practical implications for health professionals
  - Permanent information point for the professionals or via the National Contact Points ?
- Patient rights: what about patient obligations ?
- Level of financial coverage: level or amount ?
- Free choice of the patient
  - Hospital care ?
  - Non-hospital care ?
- Rehabilitation post-hospital care
  - Prior authorisation ?





# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

## 2. Quality of care and professional qualification

- Safety and quality standards
  - Correct and continuing application
  - European Standards of Physiotherapy Practice
- Composition of the national contact points
  - Autonomous professions to be represented by themselves
- Continuity of Care
  - Physiotherapy of the same quality as expected
  - Specialisation in Reference Networks
    - Who will be responsible for physiotherapy?
    - Harmonize standards of practice
    - Training and Development needs



# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

## 3. Information exchange - medical records

- Language: an obstacle to gaining clear information
  - Ref. IMI-project
- Challenge: eHealth & Interoperability
  - Data security and confidentiality-encryption ?
  - How in non-hospital care ?
- In general
  - European Social Insurance Platform ( ESIP )
    - ‘Resident foreigners’
      - = eg. retired people who live abroad
    - Increasing population of patients !

# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

## ○ Physiotherapy

- Assessment
- Role of the professional bodies
- Information on rights & obligations
- Continuity of information
  - Ombudsman system proposal

With the kind assistance of  
The Physiotherapists' Association of Montenegro  
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy - UK



# CROSS-BORDER HEALTH FOR EU PATIENTS

Thank you !



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for Physical Therapy**

