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„HEAL NOW” the first cross-border cooperation health project between Austria and Hungary is launched

„ **Heal Now** project will significantly contribute to increase the general public’s quality of life living in the cross border region between Austria and Hungary, and may serve as best practice for other regional and cross border health programmes.”- was emphasised by Dr. Zoltán Csiki, Deputy Secretary of State for Healthcare Management, from the Ministry for Human Capacities at the online kick-off conference of the cross border health project, held in Budapest.

In line with existing regulations, ambulance cars are not allowed to cross the border between Hungary and Austria, even if it is a matter of life or death. The Heal Now project under the Interreg VA Austria- Hungary Programme, is financed by the European Regional Development Fund, co-funded by the EU and the Governments of Austria and Hungary, aims to lay a solid foundation for long-term cooperation in the Austro-Hungarian border region. It will create a bilateral health network seeking solutions to overcome legal and administrative obstacles of cross border healthcare services, and negotiate possibilities of the actual cross border technical cooperation. It will also contribute to the formulation of a three-tier agenda "Cooperation Strategy 2030" with short-, medium- and long-term goals. This will serve as a base for long term cross border cooperation. .

The project is implemented by a consortium comprising of the National Healthcare Service Centre (ÁEEK), the mid-level institution of the Ministry for Human Capacities of Hungary and the Health Agency of Lower Austria (NÖ Landesgesundheitsagentur) as the lead partner, also including the Province of Burgenland as a strategic partner. Total budget of the project is EUR 680 286,90.

Besides elaborating a bilateral agreement on cooperation in emergency services to be signed by Austria and Hungary, HEAL NOW project will also implement a pilot between the Austrian Landesklinikum Wiener Neustadt and the Hungarian Medical Centre in Sopron (Soproni Gyógyközpont - Erzsébet Oktató Kórház és Rehabilitációs Intézet). Thus, the turn-over time of clinical diagnosis will be reduced and it will facilitate the early recognition of tumorous diseases.

„We are really pleased by the fact that health cooperation to be implemented in the HEAL NOW project will tie the relationship even closer among Sopron, Burgenland and Lower Austria, contributing to a quicker and more sustainable healthcare in the cross border region. In recent years several state-of-the-art developments have taken place at the Sopron Hospital (Soproni Gyógyközpont), which serve the citizens of Sopron now, with highly trained and qualified teams and modern facilities.” - said Dr. Ciprián Farkas, the mayor of Sopron, in his welcome address.

„In the future a rapid medical consultation mechanism of big-volume data access to E-consultation and E-diagnosis in pathology will be established between the two hospitals and will result in increasing the quality of care and reducing the length of diagnostic time. The new system will facilitate a flexible expansion in terms of number of pathologists and their capacities hence will be for the direct benefit of end-users, the actual patients living in the border area. It will play a prominent role in emergency services, treatment of chronic diseases or in the event of an emerging lack of specialists.” - Dr. Birgit Ringelhan, Chief Pathologist of the Sopron Medical Centre, Erzsébet Teaching Hospital and Rehabilitation Institute, highlighted in her presentation.

His Excellency Dr. Alexander Grubmayr, LL.M. ambassador of Austria to Hungary honoured the online kick-off event with his participation.

More information on the project:

[HEAL NOW](#)

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www.healthacross.at

<https://www.interreg-athu.eu/en/>

