



Conferences: We aim to present BTCCE on different European conferences this year and will let you know the date and place as soon as these have been agreed upon. The presentation of BTCCE on the Cross-border acute care and crisis prevention [Grensoverschrijdende acute zorg & crisisbeheersing] symposium in Enschede on March 24th, 2015 has already been confirmed. If you have specific ideas in mind on where we should furthermore promote our project, we are happy to receive suggestions and invitations.

Stakeholders: In addition to the numerous subscribers of the letter of intent, the Dutch rescue service association (NAZL), the German accident surgery association (DGU) and the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES) expressed their interest in BTCCE last year. Increased support has recently been received from the (among other functions) consultant in Public Health Affairs for the European Commission, Member of the Board of the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) in Stockholm and President of the European Affairs Commission of the European Association of Hospital Managers (EAHM), Prof. Dr. Jacques Scheres. The members of EAHM recently discussed the underlying ideas of the BTCCE project and are interested in future participation.

We are also happy to announce that the University hospital in Aachen, Germany, is willing to become the lead partner organization of the project, represented by Prof. Hans-Christoph Pape who is one of the BTCCE founders. Prof. Pape himself will become the chair of ESTES in May, offering us a broad platform on which to pursue our objectives. Peu à peu, the project is growing on the European dimension, and we hope that this will increase our chances to find suitable long-term funding opportunities for BTCCE.

Europe: We are currently establishing contact with potential project partners in different European countries and hope to amend these regions to the study area. Among others, we got into contact with a stakeholder from Finland who is much interested in establishing a cooperation project similar to BTCCE between Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. We are very delighted about this huge level of interest, as every geographic extension brings us closer to our vision of a European trauma network.

Publications: Two research articles are on the agenda for publication this year. The first has already been accepted by 'Injury' and will approximately be published in April. The second is expected to follow in the second half of the year. Updates will be announced as soon as we know more.

Maastricht, March 10th, 2015