



Conferences: The presentation of BTCCE on the Cross-border acute care and crisis prevention [Grensoverschrijdende acute zorg & crisisbeheersing] symposium in Enschede on March 24th, 2015, was a good opportunity to raise awareness for the BTCCE project while getting to know the problems and solutions of cross-border health care found in the EUREGIO around Enschede and Twente.

Stakeholders: The BTCCE project is continuously gaining new supporters. After the Dutch rescue service association (NAZL), the German accident surgery association (DGU), the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES), and the European Affairs Commission of the European Association of Hospital Managers (EAHM), now the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) expressed their interest in BTCCE. BTCCE partners from the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, from Saar-Lor-Lux-Westpfalz, from the German-Czech border and from the DGU joined together in Brussels in July to discuss the project's further strategic planning with KoWi, complemented by an Irish stakeholder who joined the discussion online. The committee agreed to focus specifically on the following three main goals:

1. to define common standards to improve the quality of trauma care on an EU-covering level,
2. to standardize and strengthen emergency communication channels between EU countries, and
3. to design a comprehensive certification scheme for trauma service supplies and suppliers.

Even though no project calls suit the BTCCE ideas and needs at this moment, KoWi will keep us up to date and backs a future application under the Horizon2020 funding with the University hospital in Aachen, Germany, as the project leader.

Europe: Despite the lack of approved solutions to the project's long-term funding, we obtain insight into cross-border trauma care settings in different European countries. A representative from Croatia allowed us to extend our network to Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia. After Poland and the Czech Republic had been the last ones missing among Germany's neighboring EU countries, stakeholders experienced in trauma care along their borders established contact with BTCCE now. More effort will be put into the European extension of BTCCE and into research in these countries specifically. By

creating a pool of researchers in the medical, life sciences and policy disciplines, the BTCCE-team will continue to conduct research in the study field. This pool shall be open to researchers at all stages of their academic careers who wish to explore (cross-border)trauma care standards, policy, law and strategy in Germany and its neighboring EU countries, Scandinavia, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia or in countries which are not yet linked to the BTCCE project.

Publications: The first BTCCE research article has been published this year. We are very proud that *Agreements and practical experience of trauma care cooperation in Central Europe: The Boundless Trauma Care Central Europe” (BTCCE) project* is the editorial of the April issue of ‘Injury’ (*Injury, Int. J. Care Injured* 46 (2015) 519–524). We hope to succeed in a similar manner during the coming months.

Maastricht, September 8th, 2015