



Healthacross project HEAL NOW was first step for cooperation with Hungary in the health sector

The Healthacross initiative has been promoting cooperation with neighbouring regions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for years. With the Interreg project HEAL NOW, cross-border cooperation with Hungary in the health sector was launched for the first time two years ago. Although HEAL NOW ends this winter, the cooperation is to be continued.

"In Lower Austria, thanks to the Healthacross initiative, we have been focusing on cross-border cooperation in the health sector for years. Patients benefit from new possibilities, but above all from the exchange of knowledge and experience between experts from both sides of the border. In the course of the HEAL NOW project, two digital slide scanners were purchased at the Wiener Neustadt Regional Hospital," emphasises **Provincial Councillor Martin Eichtinger**.

"Our patients need a complete histological and molecular diagnosis so that we can start a targeted therapy," explains **Prim. Dr. Wolfgang Hulla**, head of the Institute for Clinical Pathology and Molecular Pathology Thermenregion. Thanks to the new scanners, samples can be digitised and experts from outside the hospital can be consulted. Tumour diseases can be detected at an early stage, and the time to diagnosis can be shortened to save patients' lives.

"The use of this digital technology not only corresponds to the current zeitgeist, but above all offers many more possible applications for the future," emphasises **Dr Birgit Ringelhan**, Head Physician of the Pathology Ward, Elisabethen Teaching Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre Sopron.

Cooperation Agenda 2030

"The aim of cross-border cooperation is to promote care for the population close to the border, to use synergies and to create added medical value for both countries," explains **Florian Lochner**, MA, Lower Austrian Regional Health Agency - Initiative Healthacross. The development of hospital cooperation was one focus of the project. But: "We want to cooperate even more across borders," says **Ferenc Weigl, M.Sc., Drs**, National Directorate General for Hospitals in Hungary. Therefore, another focus of the project was the establishment of a network with various health stakeholders and the cooperation agenda 2030, i.e. the identification of further areas in which cross-border cooperation would be useful.

State Treaty between Austria and Hungary

Negotiations are also underway for a cross-border rescue agreement between Austria and Hungary in coordination with Burgenland. As thanks to the agreement with the Czech Republic, this should make it possible for rescue transports to cross the border in case of emergencies.

More about the projects of the "Healthacross" initiative: www.healthacross.at

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