



EPECS

European Patients Empowerment for Customised Solutions

More and more patients/insured persons/citizens in Europe are making use of the health services of other European countries; either as citizens living in a border region or as holidaymakers in another country or deliberately for diagnostics or therapy. Citizens living in border regions and Euroregions have a particular interest in breaking down unnecessary barriers to the use of the health system in the neighbouring country.

EPECS has connections to citizens/insured persons/patients and self-help organisations that are also familiar with healthcare in border regions. EPECS has an expert group and the foundation collects citizens' experiences through various channels in order to jointly contribute these experiences across countries to the development of better health and healthcare in the EU. The foundation aims to give the structural input of citizens its full weight in the construction of a healthy Europe.

Since 2009, the EU and its member states have endorsed improving the consultation of citizens as the most important stakeholder in healthcare in their own country and in healthcare that crosses borders in the EU. The Epecs Foundation was established to organise and mobilise this citizen input.

Mission statements EPECS

- * EPECS wants to contribute to improving health and healthcare in the EU, based on the experiences of citizens and the need for good health and healthcare for those citizens, also cross-border if necessary, by organising, inputting, strengthening and further developing citizens' voice in all areas of (cross-border) health care.
- * improving the quality and accessibility of (cross-border) healthcare, and strengthening transparency and the exchange of information, for and with citizens.
- * to monitor and improve the rights and duties of citizens as patients and insured persons in general and in cross-border healthcare in particular.

- * to organise and mobilise citizen input as an independent foundation, including through questions, opinions, complaints or comments, and to bring these to the EU stage.
- * To stand up for the interests of citizens and to remove obstacles when it comes to cross-border care.