



European  
Reference  
Networks

Share.Care.Cure.

# The European Reference Networks An overview

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# The ERNs

Objective of this presentation:

- update on the establishment of the ERNs
- procedure for new HCPs joining existing ERNs
- role of NCPs in relation to ERNs

# The ERNs

- voluntary cooperation in healthcare established by Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
- focus on rare, low prevalence and complex diseases
  - 6 – 7 000 rare diseases
  - 30 000 000 patients (6 – 8 %)
- 2 main objectives of ERNs
  - facilitate diagnoses and treatment
  - promote research



# The ERNs

## 24 ERNs – Vilnius (9 March 2017)

- BOND - bone disorders
- ERKNet – kidney diseases
- EuroBloodNet – haematological diseases
- RND – neurological diseases
- Skin
- EYE
- GUARD HEART



# The ERNs

- more than 900 units
- from more than 300 hospitals
- in 26 countries:
  - 25 Member States (- MT SK EL)
  - + Norway
- the role of the Member States

# The ERNs: how do they work ?

- the patient is addressed to the ERN by a health care provider  
the "referral system" is in the process of being developed in each Member State  
national competence !
- no "auto-referral" by a patient
- free of charge advise

# The ERNs: how do they work ?

- virtual consultation panel
- advise on diagnoses / treatment
- patients are not travelling, knowledge is!
- a smart, efficient and cost-saving system of pooling knowledge and expertise from excellency centres across Europe and make it available where needed

# The ERNs: Mobility?

- the exception, not the rule
- current legal framework
- rather limited number of patients
- based on the advice of excellency centres !





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# Invitation process for new HCPs to join existing ERNs

Our objective:

- ensure an objective, transparent and effective enlargement process
  - matching the development needs of each ERN in terms of special expertise as well as diseases and geographical coverage
  - bringing into the ERNs clinical and technological excellence
- thorough assessment process / clear and transparent selection criteria.



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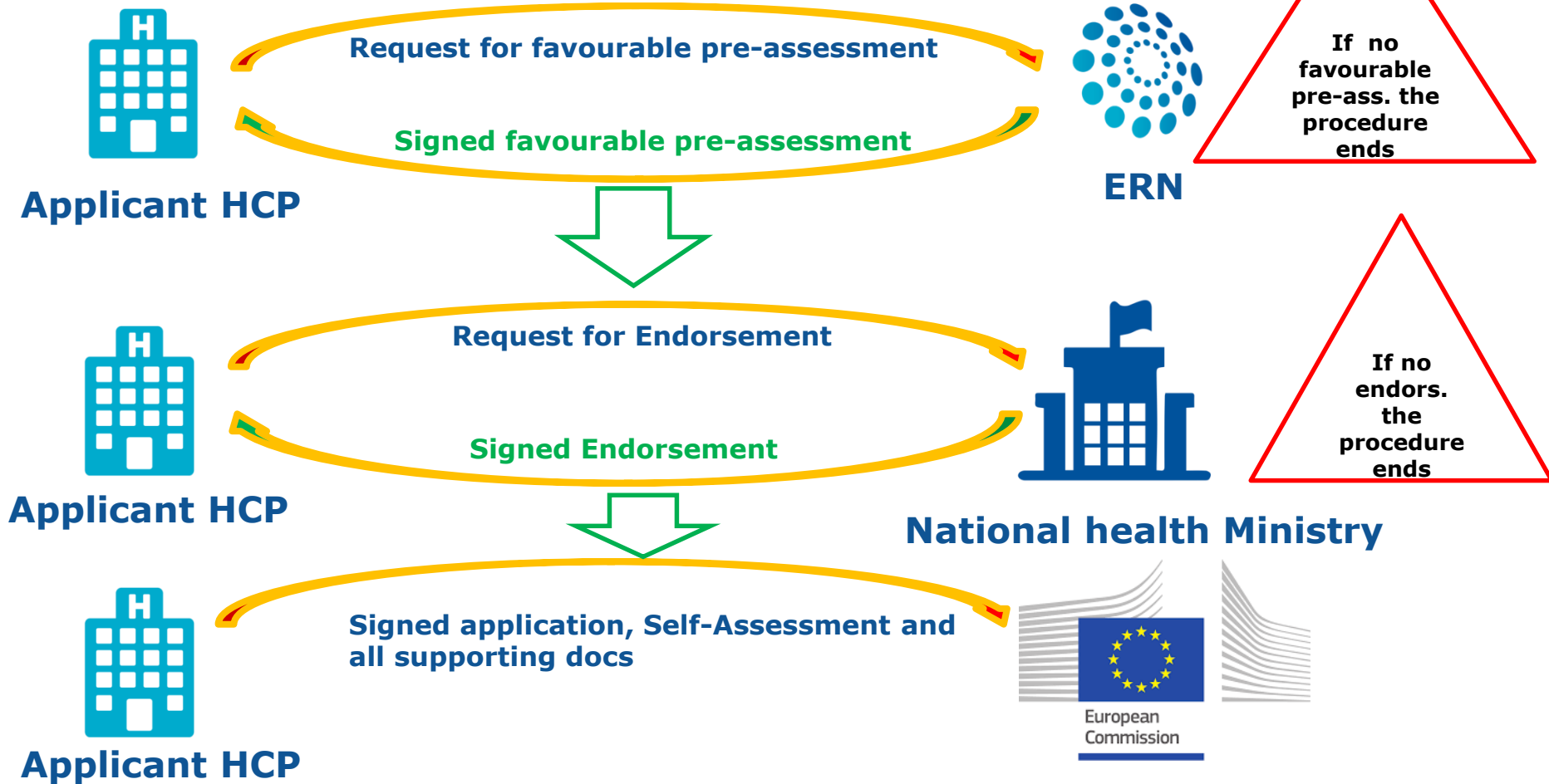
# Invitation process for new HCPs to join existing ERNs

## Preliminary steps:

invite the Coordinators to

- update, if necessary the network-specific selection criteria that were prepared by each of them in 2016
- prepare a Mapping document assessing the geographical and scientific/diseases gaps for each network and defining the network development needs  
(types/number/geographic origin of wished for members)

# The envisaged procedure





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# Assessment of the applications



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Eligibility check



Technical assessment



Independent Assessment Body



ERNs BOMS

ERN members' approval





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# Invitation process for new HCPs to join existing ERNs

Amendments  
to the Commission Implementing Decision  
2014/287/EU of 10 March 2014

First debate in the meeting of the ERN BoMS  
(10/10/2017)

Your view?

# Role of NCPs in relation to ERNs

- ERNs were presented to the NCPs in their last meeting
- great interest raised
- questioning about the role that NCPs could play
- ad-hoc group (DE, EE, IE, UK)

