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# Implementation of European Reference Networks

# The road to ERNs



European  
Reference  
Networks

## Chapter IV Cooperation between MS Article 12 European Reference Networks



**Networks of healthcare providers aiming at**  
**Improving quality and safety and access to highly specialised healthcare**

✓ **Patients affected by rare or low prevalence and complex diseases**

✓ **multidisciplinary approach (different specialities/areas of knowledge)**

✓ **Added value at EU level**

✓ **Need of cooperation:**

- **Scarcity knowledge**
- **Need education**
- **Complexity / high cost**
- **Effectiveness in the use of resources**

# ***European Reference Networks (ERN): aim of Article 12: (Directive Patient's Rights to Cross border Healthcare )***

***Support the development of ERN***

**Commission**

**Member States**





17.5.2014

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 147/71

**What**

## COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION

of 10 March 2014

setting out **criteria and conditions** that European Reference Networks and healthcare providers wishing to join a European Reference Network must fulfil

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2014/286/EU)

17.5.2014

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 147/79

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10 March 2014

setting out **criteria for establishing and evaluating** European Reference Networks and their Members and for facilitating the exchange of information and expertise on establishing and evaluating such Networks

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2014/287/EU)

**How**

Entry into force 27 May 2014

# Key features of the Networks

- ✓ *Patient centered and clinically lead*
- ✓ *10 Members in at least 8 Countries*
- ✓ *Strong independent (3rd party) assessment*
- ✓ *Fulfillment of Network and Members criteria*
- ✓ *Endorsement and approval by National Authorities (grouping and strategic value)*





# How to assess and approve the Networks?



# Players

*Healthcare providers*

*Member States*

*Commission*

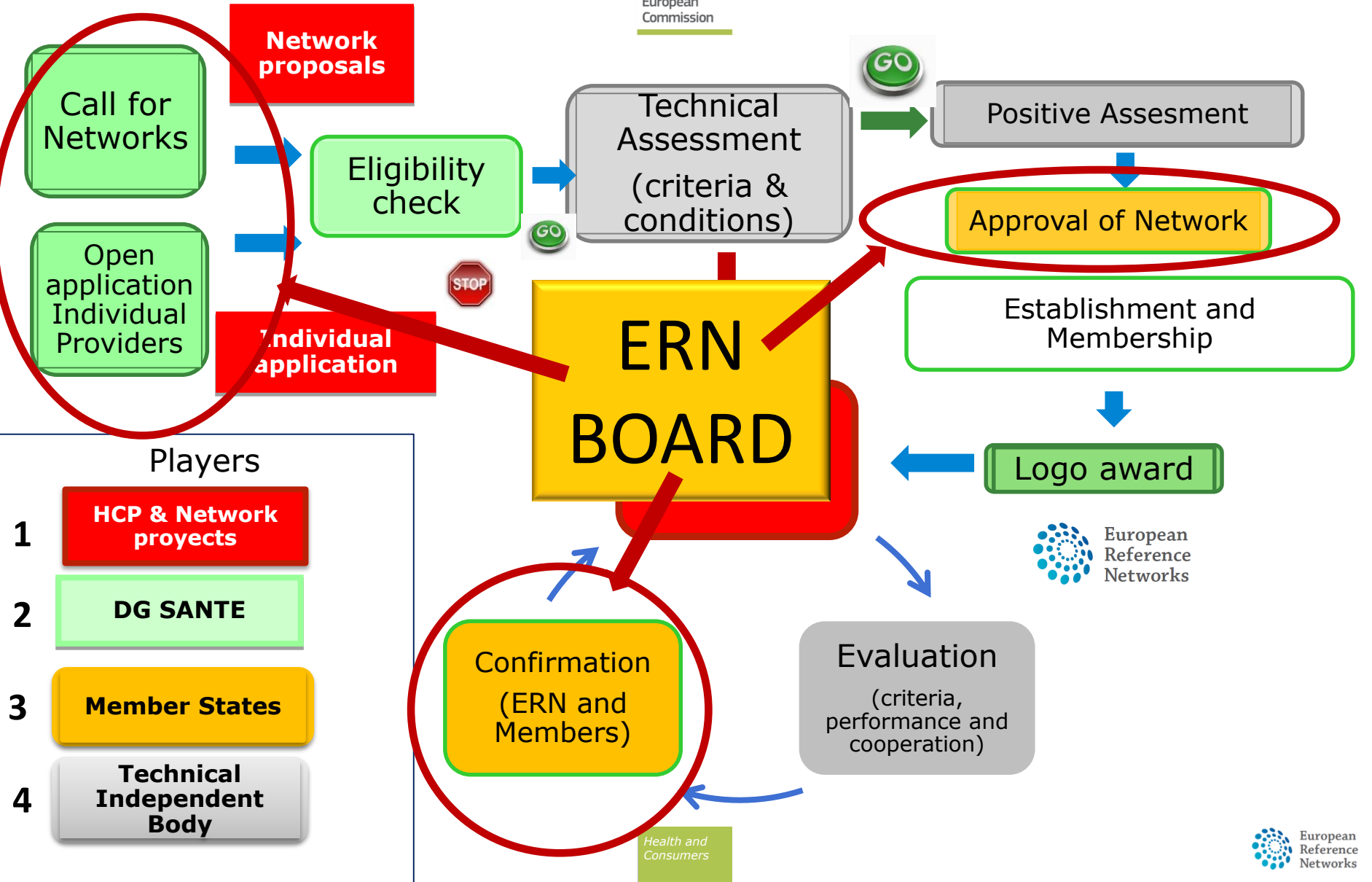
*Assessment process and Assessment Bodies*





# ERN Scenario

## Implementation process



- Players**
- 1 **HCP & Network projects**
  - 2 **DG SANTE**
  - 3 **Member States**
  - 4 **Technical Independent Body**

# The Board of MS



- *Executive Body*
- *5 meetings so far (December 2014 – March 2016)*
- *Strong commitment of MS*
- *Strategic paper on approval criteria of the Board*
- *Definition of national processes (mostly developed or final steps)*

# Strategic role ERN Board of MS



✓ **Integrative approach of ERN: Strong message** on fragmentation overlapping (already having an impact on the potential candidates)

✓ **Issues under discussion**

- o Common template endorsement of HCP
- o ERN relation with Industry - conflict of interest
- o Criteria/processes to designate affiliated partners
- o ERN IT platform and CEF



### Assessment Manual and tool box

- Application forms*
- Operational criteria*
- Guidance & tools for applicants and assessment bodies*



### Independent Assessment Bodies

- solid background in assessment/certification Healthcare providers*
- Task: to perform the assessment of Networks proposals*
- Contracted through a competitive Call*



# ✓ Study ERN services



- The role of ERNs in specific patient cases;
- Draft catalogue of services to be provided by ERN;
- ERN services cost drivers and structure
- Workshops with clinical experts, potential networks and national authorities

[www.pwc.com/pt](http://www.pwc.com/pt)

## *Study on the services to be provided by the European Reference Networks and its members – Catalogue of Services*

CHAFEA – Consumers,  
Health, Agriculture and  
Food Executive Agency

24 of February, 2018

Advisory Services



## Health Programme – Work Programme 2016

- Approved ERNs (eligibility criteria)
  - **Call for Grants** jointly with the ERN Call for interest
  - **Patient registries projects**
- For **technical assistance** for the assessment of applications
- **3rd ERN Conference** (February 2017) Kick off meeting approved ERN

## Connecting European Facilities: IT Platform

## ***ERN Approval***

- 1. Call* **16 March 2016**
  - 2. Assessment for ERN*
- Positive assessment***
- 3. Approval of the Board* **October 2016?**
  - 4. ERN established* **November 2016**

## ***Grant***

- 1. Eligible for funding* **November 2016**
- 2. Evaluation of the grant proposal*
- 3. Positive evaluation Framework - Partnership Agreement (FPA)*
- 4. Eligible for Specific Grant Agreement (SGA) **February 2017***



# Call for ERN

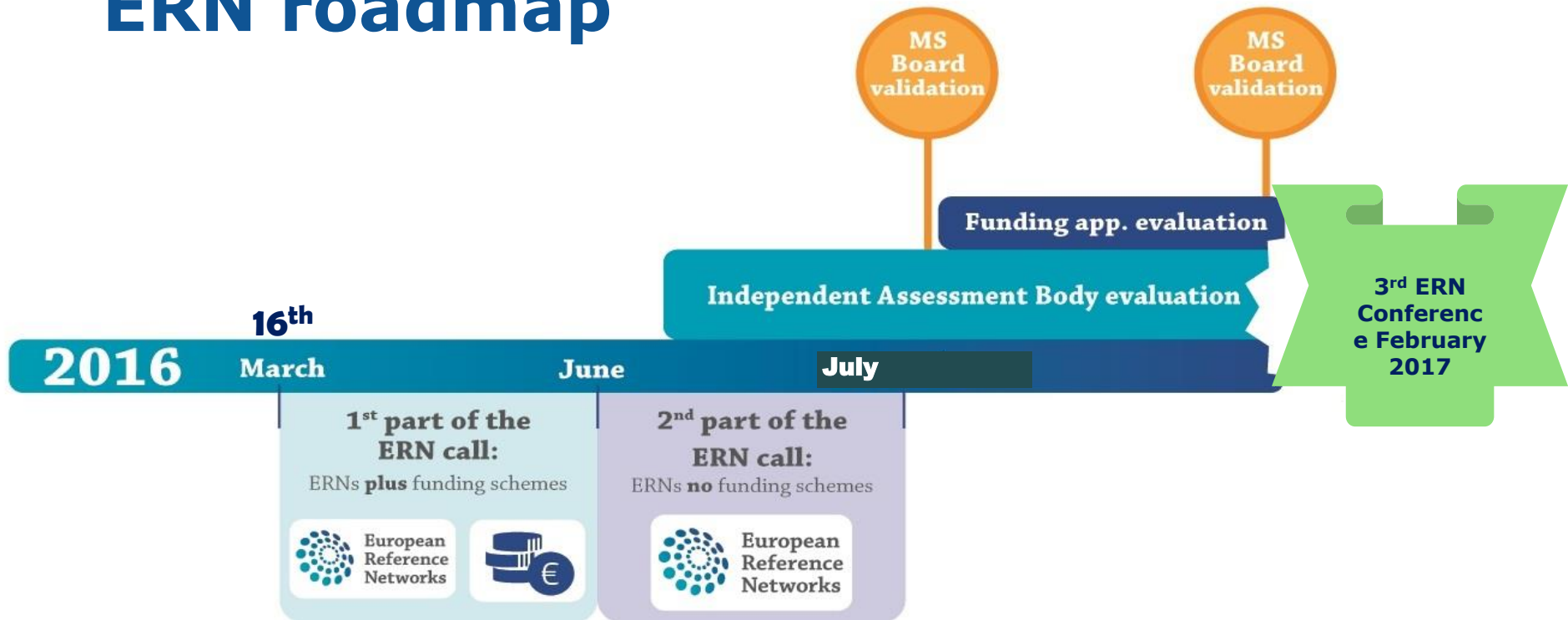
**16 March - 21 June 2016**





European Commission

# ERN roadmap



# Communication & awareness activities



# Info Day

Third European Union Action Programme in the field of Health - National Focal Points Meeting 18th March

ERN Info day 7th April



**European Reference Networks**

Share your expertise for the best healthcare

Anna Carta  
DG SANTE  
Directorate B  
European Commission

**European Reference Networks**

Directive of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

10.03.2016

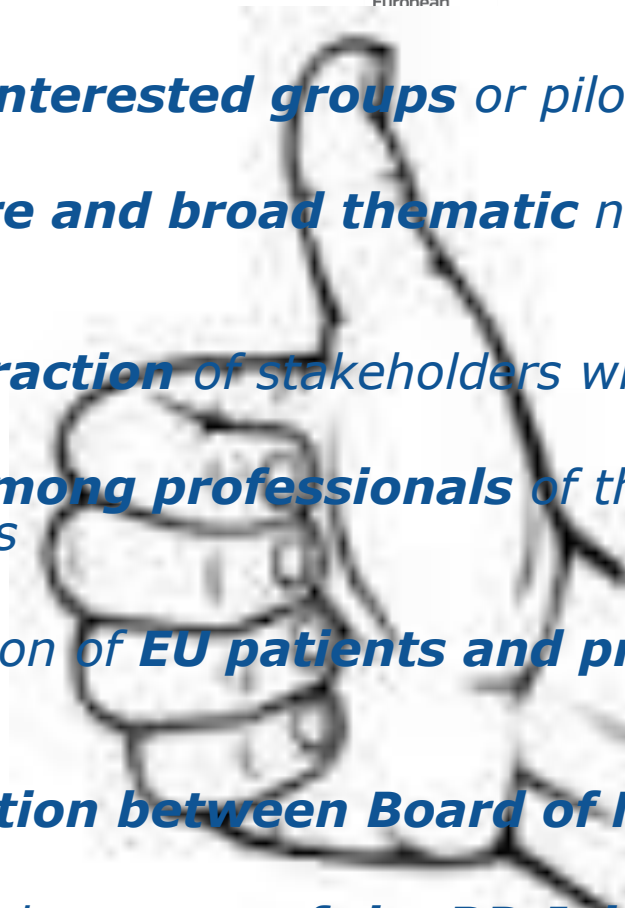
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# How are things going?



- ✓ More than **50 interested groups** or pilot networks identified
- ✓ **12 - 14 mature and broad thematic** networks potential applications
- ✓ **Dynamic interaction** of stakeholders with MS and Commission
- ✓ **Interaction among professionals** of the same thematic diseases groups
- ✓ Active implication of **EU patients and professional/scientific societies**
- ✓ Close **cooperation between Board of MS and Commission**
- ✓ Cooperation and **support of the RD Joint Action to the ERN implementation**





European  
Commission

# Thank you!



European  
Reference  
Networks



[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/policy/index_en.htm)



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