

WORKSHOP 6: Nordic Cooperation

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“ A STRONG PATIENTS’ VOICE TO
DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE ”

Main features of Healthcare systems that support Nordic cooperation

- 1 – Cultural coherence (practices of hospitals are similar, language skills...)
 - 2 – Small population → forces to cooperation
 - 3 – Free Mobility between countries
 - 4 – Public funding to most healthcare & research structures (**Nordic welfare state model**) – put in question with reforms and privatisation
- Rare diseases would benefit most from Nordic cooperation

Elements from success stories that contribute to Nordic cooperation

- 1 – **HIV story:** Cross-border fight against criminalisation, a result of Nordic cooperation
- 2 – **Iceland:** forced to send patients abroad because no treatment available at home (legal agreements with other Nordic countries)
- 3 – **Sharing best practices within Nordic disease-specific umbrella organisations** (e.g. Nordic Asthma and Allergy association)
- 4 – **Coordinating input between and representation of Nordic countries** in European umbrellas

Main barriers to Nordic cooperation

- 1 – Lack of trans-Nordic funding (especially for operating costs)
- 2 - Lack of human resources
- 3 – Lack of political will of national coalitions (don't see the benefits of regional cooperation)
- 4 – Distance! 3 time zones!

Topics where Nordic cooperation has added-value

- 1 – Sharing best practices, inspiration, prepare for challenges
- 2 – Awareness-raising: more people, bigger voice
- 3 – Bigger negotiation power (for price of medicines)
- 4 – Advocacy: more influence when speaking for patients' rights (e.g. adoption)
- 5 – Education and skill-building
- 6 – More opportunities to apply for funds (Nordic Council)

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