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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(7.7.2020)

Article 14 of Implementing Decision 2014/287/EU sets out the timing and procedure for evaluating the European Reference Networks (ERNs)<sup>1</sup> at the latest every five years after their approval and in a recurrent manner thereafter. As the ERNs were launched in March 2017, the Commission will perform the complete evaluation process in 2022-2023, including the angle of patient mobility flows.

Meanwhile, the executive agencies in charge of the management of the ERNs granted projects<sup>23</sup> are assessing the use of the funds with a positive result so far. Moreover, the Commission, together with the national authorities and the ERNs Coordinators, has elaborated 18 indicators to improve monitoring. Accordingly, outcomes of monitoring corresponding to years 2018 and 2019 will be validated and made public by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety on the Commission's webpage.

The application of patients' rights in the cross-border healthcare Directive<sup>4</sup> does not oblige Member States to report on the type of condition patients were treated for in another country; therefore the Commission does not have the data requested. As regards ERNs, 1097 clinical cases have been discussed using the Clinical Patient Management System IT platform set up for the ERNs since November 2017. Although not all of these cases are necessarily cross-border contacts, they do provide a useful yardstick.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014D0287&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/chafea/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/chafea/index_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0024&from=EN>