Summary Session 1 – European Policies in the healthcare area and the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

Conference "Putting Science into Standards"
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Context

• Set the policy scene for healthcare policies and accreditation with perspectives of different stakeholders

• Limited competence at EU level in the field of health and services - support to Member States and exchange of best practice

• Overview on European policies in the healthcare area which also form the basis for the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer.
Presentations and Discussion

• Overview on European policies: EU policy on cancer as part of a wider framework of policy on health, single market perspective, eHealth and cross-border healthcare

• Overview on the existing schemes as well as presentation of terminology of accreditation and standardisation

• Overview on different generations of standards and problems of measuring outcomes (including from patient point of view)
Results of the session

- Participants agreed that there is a potential to improve quality assurance and tackle inequalities through action at EU level.
- Details and modalities of such an approach still remain to be defined.
- There was a general move towards increased cooperation to address horizontal aspects of future action on quality assurance at European level.
- Experts to define the quality assurance system need to be transparently selected.
- Adapting to change and based on evidence.
Thank you!