

Clinical guideline activities in Western Europe



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AGREE

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WOK
CENTRE FOR
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CARE RESEARCH

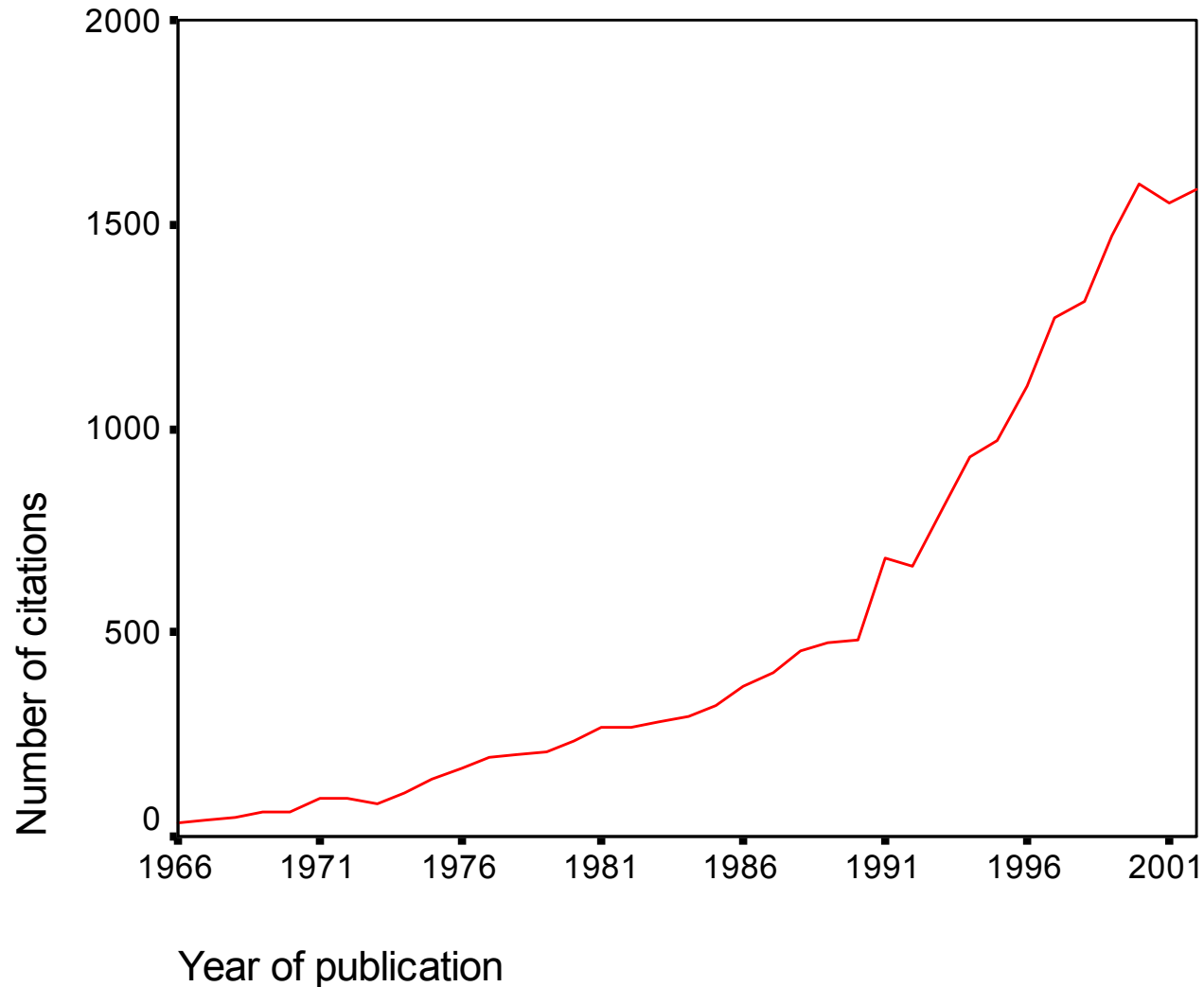
Outline of presentation

- ✓ Background to guideline efforts in Western Europe
- ✓ Review of European collaboration projects
- ✓ Overview of guideline activities in European countries

Background to growth of guidelines

- ✓ economic crisis in Western health care and focus on cost containment
- ✓ growing concern about variation and evidence of effectiveness
- ✓ extra-professional interest: purchasers (governments, insurance companies) and patients
- ✓ national or regional government funding of guideline programmes

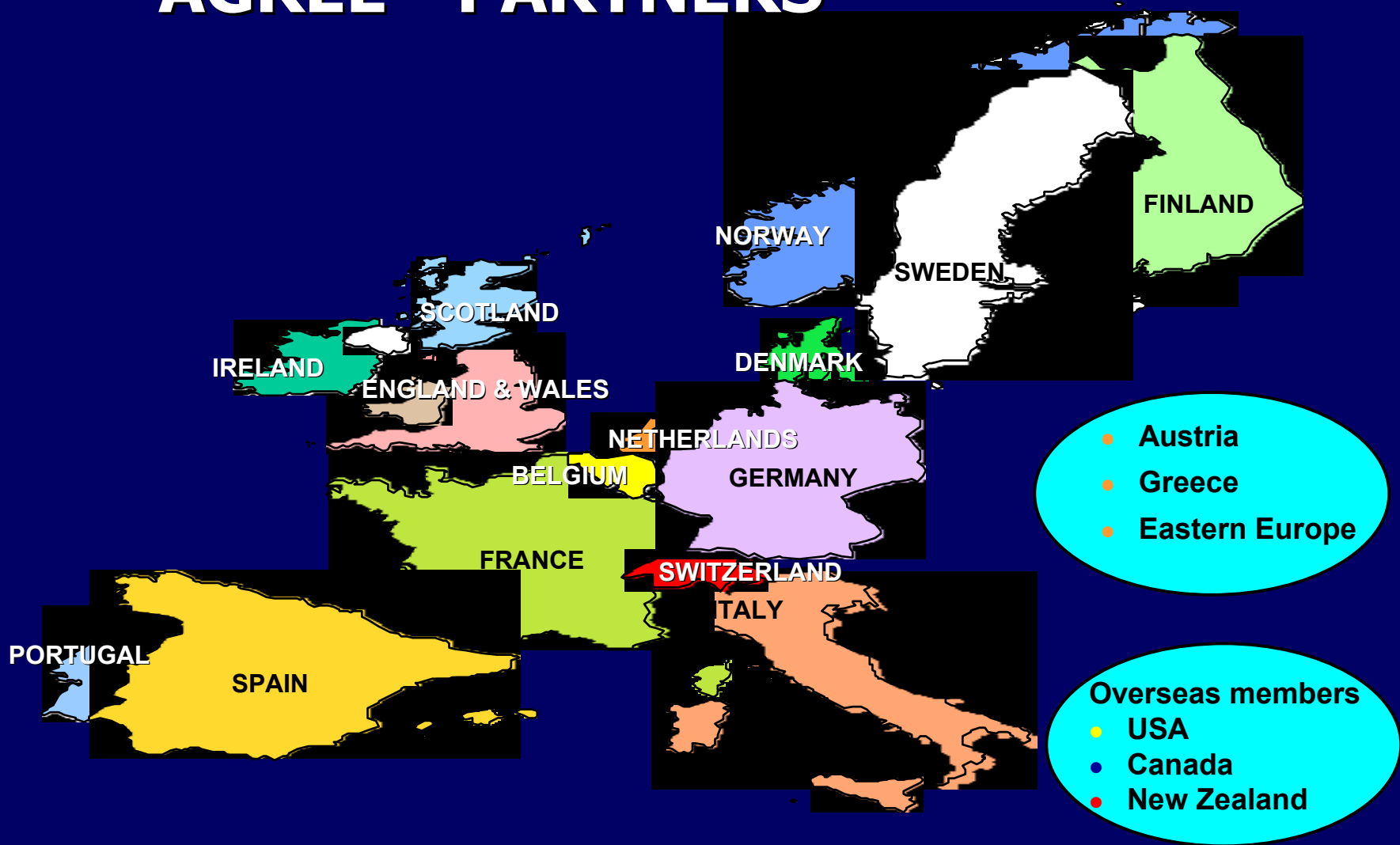
Citations of 'guideline(s)' in PubMed



Why international collaboration?

- ✓ Clinical guidelines play an increasingly important role in healthcare practice in most countries
- ✓ Ensuring their quality is a shared concern
- ✓ Proliferation of guidelines using different development methods
- ✓ There is a need for international guidance on guideline development
- ✓ 'The whole is greater than the sum of its parts'

AGREE - PARTNERS



AGREE

- ✓ Develop compatible approaches for the creation of clinical guidelines
- ✓ Establish a structure for the appraisal and monitoring of clinical guidelines
- ✓ Define quality criteria relevant to guidelines
- ✓ Promote and encourage the diffusion of these criteria through international exchanges and collaborative links

AGREE Instrument

- **23 items**
- **4-point Likert Scale**

**Overall
assessment**

User guide

Six domains

1. Scope & purpose (3)
2. Stakeholder involvement (4)
3. Rigour of development (7)
4. Clarity & presentation (4)
5. Applicability (3)
6. Editorial independence (2)

Outcomes of AGREE project

- ✓ AGREE Instrument and Training Manual
 - Dissemination in 8 languages, 22 countries
 - Systematic evaluation and validation
- ✓ National guideline programs accept AGREE Instrument as a tool to produce high-quality guidelines
- ✓ All EU-funded projects requested to assess guidelines with the AGREE Instrument
- ✓ Council of Europe has formally recommended its use
- ✓ WHO has endorsed the AGREE Instrument

GIN - EUROPEAN PARTNERS



CPG partners in Europe (among others)

Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Society Duodecim	www.duodecim.fi
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• L'Agence Nationale d'Accréditation et d'Évaluation en Santé (ANAES)• Fédération Nationale des Centres de Lutte Contre le Cancer (FNCLCC)	www.anaes.fr www.fnclcc.fr
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ärztliches Zentrum für Qualität in der Medizin (ÄZQ)• Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften (AWMF)	www.aeqz.de www.awmf.org
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dutch Institute for Healthcare Improvement (CBO)• Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG)	www.cbo.nl nhg.artsennet.nl
UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)• Sowerby Centre for Health Informatics (SCHIN)• Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)	www.nice.org.uk www.schin.ncl.ac.uk www.sign.ac.uk

Actual guideline activities

- ✓ More than 100 guideline developing organisations in most of the European countries
- ✓ Professional organisations / specialist societies and government agencies at national, regional or local level
- ✓ Mono- or multidisciplinary or disease specific
- ✓ Target : physicians, nurses, patients, policy makers
- ✓ Scope : prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, follow up

Trends over time

From	To
sporadic guidelines from professional groups	national programmes
informal consensus	evidence-based
monodisciplinary	multidisciplinary
focus on development	focus on implementation
limited life-expectancy	'living guidelines'
paper versions	Internet
guidelines for clinicians	patient versions and patient involvement

Country-specific developments

- ✓ Finland: 10 year anniversary of Duodecim Current Care guidelines, focus on updating, implementation by computer reminders
- ✓ France: evaluating use and impact of guidelines, preparation of European oncology guidelines research network (ERA-NET)
- ✓ Germany: Guideline Clearinghouse, CPG programme implementation system, logic-, consensus-, evidence- and outcomes- based CPGs
- ✓ Netherlands: establishment of national network of guideline organisations (EBRO)
- ✓ United Kingdom: cooperation of NICE and SIGN, NICE CPG development series reviewed, implementation workshops, methodology for assessing resource consequences of NICE clinical guidelines to NHS

Country-specific developments

- ✓ Active professional organisations in Belgium (GP's), Ireland (surgeons) and governmental organisations in Iceland, Norway, Sweden
- ✓ EBM Centres in Belgium and Italy
- ✓ HTA in Denmark, Finland, Spain, Sweden
- ✓ Austria: Qualitas journal promoting and disseminating evidence-based guidelines
- ✓ Switzerland (Cepic, Lausanne & SMA): guidelines for guidelines
- ✓ Italy: regional guideline development, database (www.guideline.it)
- ✓ Spain: regional guideline development, very active dissemination of AGREE Instrument, Spanish network for research on guidelines

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Most West European countries are very active in guideline development
- ✓ There is a growing international convergence of key methods for guideline programmes
- ✓ International collaboration is increasing rapidly
- ✓ Increase in efficient guideline production and research is promising
- ✓ Appropriate funding strategies need to be sought