

## ATTENDANCE

CATALONIA	Toni Dedeu
	Marta Gallardo
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	Aki Ishiwa
FLANDERS	<i>via proxy to Ingrid Jansson</i>
LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON-MIDI-PYRENEES	<i>via proxy to Toni Dedeu</i>
LIMBURG	Petra Vranken
LOWER AUSTRIA	Brigitte Van Der Zandern
	Judith Willerts (via video link)
SKÅNE	Mikaela Nordenfelt
TUSCANY	Antonella Pollazzi
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND REGION	<i>via proxy to Ingrid Jansson</i>
VENETO	<i>via proxy to Ingrid Jansson</i>
VYSOCINA	<i>via proxy to Ingrid Jansson</i>
WALES	Nick Batey
EUREGHA SECRETARIAT	Ingrid Jansson
	Freja Hagsund

### **1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

EUREGHA Chair Toni Dedeu welcomed the participants to the 2016 EUREGHA General Assembly. He extended a special welcome to the new members, Wales and Limburg, represented by Nick Batey and Petra Vranken respectively. He thanked Emilia-Romagna for kindly hosting the General Assembly.

The draft agenda was endorsed by the participants.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND OFFICIAL RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair informed that two new members have joined EUREGHA since the last General Assembly. The new members are Wales (UK) and Limburg (NL).

*The ratification of the new members was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

### **3. ELECTIONS**

The Chair informed that there would be elections for the positions of EUREGHA Executive Board, Vice-Chairs, Chair and Treasurer.

#### **Executive Board**

The Chair informed that the outgoing Executive Board members were:

- Scotland (UK)
- Lower Austria (AU)
- Region Skåne (SE)
- North of England (UK)
- Catalonia (ES)

- Veneto (IT)
- Tuscany (IT)
- Emilia Romagna (IT)
- Västra Götaland Region (SE)
- Flanders (BE)

*The resignation of the Executive Board was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

The Chair informed that all members had had the opportunity to express interest to join or remain on the Executive Board. The suggested new Executive Board were:

- Catalonia (ES)
- Lower Austria (AU)
- Wales (UK)
- Region Skåne (SE)
- Tuscany (IT)
- Emilia Romagna (IT)
- Västra Götaland Region (SE)
- Flanders (BE)
- Veneto (IT)

*The new Executive Board was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

### **Vice-Chairs**

The Chair informed that the outgoing Vice Chairs were:

- Region Skåne (SE), represented by Mikaela Nordenfelt
- Lower Austria (AU), represented by Judith Willert

He thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairs for their valuable commitment and devotion to EUREGHA during the past years.

*The resignation of the Vice-Chairs was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

The Chair informed that all EUREGHA members have been given the opportunity to candidate as Vice-Chairs. The suggested new Vice-Chairs were:

- Lower Austria (AU), represented by Judith Willert
- Wales (UK), represented by Nick Batey

*The new Vice-Chairs were endorsed by the General Assembly.*

### **Chair**

The Chair informed that nobody had volunteered to take on the role as Chair with immediate effect. He further informed that he had changed positions and moved from Scotland to Catalonia. He therefore suggested to remain as Chair, representing Catalonia for one more year, before handing over to Wales, represented by Nick Batey for the remaining year of the two-year mandate. This would give

Wales, as a new member, some time to get better acquainted with EUREGHA before assuming the role as Chair.

*The resignation of Scotland as Chair, represented by Toni Dedeu, was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

*The arrangement of Catalonia, represented by Toni Dedeu, acting as Chair for one year, followed by Wales, represented by Nick Batey as Chair during the second year of the two-year mandate was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

### Treasurer

- The Chair informed that nobody had yet volunteered to take on the role as EUREGHA Treasurer and that it was imperative to elect a new Treasurer as soon as possible, since this is mandatory for a non-for-profit organisation according to Belgian law. The role of Treasurer has been vacant since 2015, when North of England shut down their office in Brussels and hence their EUREGHA membership. Meanwhile, the responsibilities of the Treasurer have been carried out by the Secretariat.

- The role of the Treasurer is to supervise the administration of the finances carried out by the secretariat and, together with the Chair, take responsibility for EUREGHA's financial activities. In addition, the Treasurer collaborates with the Secretariat and the accountant regarding the closure of final accounts and presents financing and budget at Executive Board and General Assembly meetings.

- North of England is still formally Treasurer, but a new Treasurer needs to be elected prior to submitting the new Executive Board to the Belgian authorities.

- The Secretariat will again ask for volunteers. To date, only Emilia-Romagna has confirmed their unavailability.

## 4. BUDGET

- Ingrid Jansson gave an update about the budget. She informed that the closure of the 2015 accounts were delayed and were only circulated to EUREGHA members this morning. Copies of all budget documents were distributed to the participants. A more transparent overview will be circulated in due time.

BALANCE SHEET		2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed assets	€	173
Other receivable	€	15.084
Trade receivables - Memberships of 2014	€	-13.822
Cash assets	€	51.308
Charges to be reported		
Products to be included		
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>52.742</b>

LIABILITIES	
Net income of the period	€ 25.742
Net income reported	€ 15.452
Trade payables - Suppliers	€ 1.326
Taxes, salaries and social liabilities	€ 10.222
Advances on members fees	
Charges to be included	
Products to be reported	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>€ 52.742</b>

INCOME STATEMENT	
Membership fees	€ 66.000
Donations - members	
Subsidies	€ 53.607
Other revenue	
Office rent	€ -2.105
Repayments expenses	
Internet / website expenses	
Postal charges	€ -7
Office supplies	€ -1.276
Copies	
Membership packages	
Insurance	€ -10
Accounting	€ -2.440
Translations fees	
Consultancy costs	€ -6.504
Professional fees (European policy)	€ -454
Legal publications	
Travel & accomodations	€ -5.611
Meeting costs	€ -638
Hospitality & presents for speakers	
Salaries, wages, social expenses and pensions	€ -74.597
Depreciation	€ -363
Differences of change (+)	€ 14
Financial expenses (-)	€ 125
<b>Profit of current accounting year</b>	<b>€ 25.742</b>

- Ingrid Jansson gave an overview of the 2016 budget.

- The two main income posts are the annual membership fees and the project incomes. EUREGHA is involved in three projects where we receive funding (*Joint Action CHRODIS* (funded under the EU Health Programme 2008-2014; *SUNFRAIL* (funded under the EU Health Programme 2014-2020); and *RegHealth-RI* (funded under Horizon 2020)). Moreover, EUREGHA is committed to participate in a tender on scaling-up in Active and Healthy Ageing, which will start in July 2016. An additional project income was the final instalment from the EUREGENAS project, which ended in 2014, where all costs have already been covered.

- She showed a table of the status of membership fees payment and informed that the members who have not paid will receive reminders in the upcoming weeks.

- The Chair suggested to approach the unit within his organisation working on European projects to see if they can assist the Secretariat in the management of project funds, an area where the Secretariat and the accountant has limited expertise.

<b>INCOME: EUREGHA Membership Fees 2016</b>			
	<b>REGION</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>PAID</b>
1	Lower Austria	€ 5,000	X
2	Skane	€ 5,000	X
3	Vastra Gotaland	€ 5,000	X
4	Catalunya	€ 5,000	
5	Flanders	€ 5,000	X
6	Podlaskie	€ 5,000	X
7	German Speaking BE	€ 1,000	
8	Veneto	€ 5,000	
9	Vsyocina	€ 5,000	X
10	Emilia Romagna	€ 5,000	
11	Languedoc-Rousillion-Midi-Pyrenees	€ 5,000	X
12	Tuscany	€ 5,000	
13	Scotland	€ 5,000	
14	Wales	€ 5,000	X
15	Limburg	€ 2,500	X
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68,500.00 €</b>	

<b>INCOME: EUREGHA Projects 2016</b>	
<b>Projects</b>	<b>2016</b>
EUREGENAS	€ 14,384.41
CHRODIS	TBC
SUNFRAIL	€ 15,447.60
RegHealth-RI	€ 33,382.17
Tender Scaling-up	€ 21,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 85,014.18</b>

- The main expenses consist of the salaries of the secretarial staff. The Operations Manager's salary is covered by the membership fees, whereas the Communication and Membership Officer's salary is covered by the project incomes.

- A more transparent overview of expenditures from the project incomes will be provided by the Secretariat. In addition to the salaries, this budget covers costs for external consultants related to the projects (i.e. design and translation services) and travel and accommodation related to project activities.

- The total forecasted costs for 2016 amounts to €62 282 (excluding the salary of the Communications and Membership Officer, and costs for travel and activities related to the European projects).

#### **Accommodation of EUREGHA Secretariat**

- Office space for the Secretariat remains an issue. Up until now, and in accordance with the statutes, the Secretariat has been generously hosted by the member regions on voluntary and rotating basis.

- The Secretariat is currently temporarily hosted by Flanders, at 35, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, until the end of June 2016 and it remains urgent to find a long-term solution until then. Previous discussions have shown that many members, despite their good will, have difficulties in hosting the Secretariat because of internal administrative issues and the process has in many cases turned out to be legally complicated.

- The Chair suggested to again raise the question if anyone would be volunteering to host the Secretariat. If this still shows difficult, alternative scenarios need to be explored, such as renting an office space with a long-term lease.

- Ingrid Jansson informed that such opportunities had already been looked into, for instance co-sharing offices, which have an average rent of €800 per month. For this to be a tenable solution, €800-1000 need to be set aside monthly. She emphasised that the system of the rotating Secretariat has worked very well in the past and that regions have showed great willingness, but who have been hindered by complicated legal aspects.

- The project funds are unfortunately not eligible to use for accommodation costs. A possibility may be the Operating Grants from the EU Health Programme, which may be worth looking into.

- Wales offered to look into the possibilities of hosting the Secretariat in the Wales House.

### Communications and Membership Officer

- Given the workload during the upcoming months and not least the project activities, it is essential to keep the manpower in the Secretariat to two full-time employees. Freja Hagsund's one-year contract ends in May 2016, and will be prolonged with the approval of the 2016 budget. Details will be discussed together with Ingrid Jansson, the Chair, Vice-Chairs and Executive Board.

*The General Assembly endorsed the closing of the 2015 accounts. The 2016 budget was approved, under the provision that the Secretariat provides a more detailed description of how the project income is spent.*

## 5. EUREGHA SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

- Freja Hagsund informed that during the Executive Board meeting on 25 February, the idea of drafting a EUREGHA sustainability strategy, including a membership strategy was raised. The aim of the strategy would be to ensure a long-term sustainability for the network, notably through recruiting new members.

- As an example, the strategy could cover and elaborate on: how to identify prospective members (*Who?*), what EUREGHA may offer (*What?*), what message to convey to prospective members (*Why?*) as well as suggesting promotional tactics (*How?*).

- The Chair said that increasing membership has been a prioritised issue for years, and that membership base has indeed been growing slowly. EUREGHA is increasingly well-known to external actors. A sustainability strategy is however an important issue. A step in this direction was the recent change of the membership fees structure to appeal more to the municipal/local level. Consequently, the strategy should include a specific section on how to appeal to the local level.

- Limburg, the only member representing the local level, agreed that it is important to put a specific effort into reaching out to the local level. This could be done in a first instance through reaching out to representatives and ask them what kind of information they need. The Chair informed that there has been contact with several local authorities, notably Liverpool (UK) and Oulu (FI) that should be followed up. Lower Austria highlighted that the difference should be made clear between EUREGHA and other networks targeting cities, such as the WHO's Healthy Cities.

- The Chair also emphasised that the strategy and external communication should highlight what EUREGHA has achieved so far, such as being invited on behalf of the network to important international fora, such as the Health Systems Performance Expert Group where normally only

Members States are invited, and to WHO event and roundtables. This opportunity of accessing fora that would be inaccessible for individual members is a strong case for EUREGHA.

- Another thing to push for is the possibility of shaping EUREGHA's agenda and prioritised policy areas, which are fluid and defined on the basis of the individual members' interests. With new members, new policy areas are conceivable.

- The strategy should also include the proposed target groups. Key regions to address are the members of the formed ENRICH network, which is an informal network with a similar aim as EUREGHA. The Secretariat was previously in contact with the ENRICH coordinators, and the future of this network seems unclear. The Secretariat therefore proposed that the preferred approach would be to contact all members bilaterally.

- It was decided that each member should think of a few regional and local authorities that could be approached either by the Secretariat, or by the members themselves. These authorities will form a list of the regional and local health authorities that will be approached first.

- The Secretariat proposed for a small group of members to form a working group to draft the proposed strategy. Catalonia, Wales, Lower Austria and Skåne volunteered to participate. It would be preferable to have a one-pager ready to present during the International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC) which takes place in Barcelona 23-25 May, where many stakeholders will be present.

- The Secretariat will circulate a Doodle to set a date for the group to come together for some initial brainstorming and drafting in May/early June.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EUREGHA MEMBERS

### Wales – Nick Batey

Nick Batey works at the health department of the Welsh government, where he is responsible for European and international funding.

Wales has 3,1 million inhabitants and the regional authority is responsible for a whole range of services, including health, education, social services etc. There are 24 local authorities (which are currently reviewed to be reduced to half), seven health boards and three health trusts (primary care, community care and mental health care).

Two strong relevant pieces of legislation provide the framework for health policy; the Social Services Act (governing the relationship between health and social services) and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (mandating the whole of the public sector with the legal obligation not to harm future generations and to promote well-being).

Some key principles in organising health and wellbeing include: prudent healthcare, coproduction (citizens, patients and healthcare workers working together), care of the greatest need first, doing only what needs to be done and the principle of no harm.

Wales is currently investing in integrated care and innovative technology through a new HTA unit. One of the aims is to open up the previously closed systems and to better link data and information between sectors (health, social care, housing etc.).

Wales is increasing their work at the European level, for instance by signing up to the AAL scheme and having submitted an application to become a Reference Site in the EIP AHA.

### **Limburg – Petra Vranken**

Petra Vranken works as Senior Policy Advisor at the GGD Zuid Limburg (Regional Public Health Service South Limburg), which is one of the 25 Regional Public Health Services (RPHS) in the Netherlands. The RPHS in turn represent the municipalities, where the public health competencies lie. GGD Zuid Limburg represents 18 municipalities comprising a total of 600 000 inhabitants.

The RPHS are responsible for youth healthcare; public mental health, health promotion and education; prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, environmental health; emergency health; and data collection regarding risk behaviour. They also provide input for local policy of their respective municipalities.

The Department of Knowledge and Innovation in the RPHS is responsible for data collection and analysis as well as for health policy making and advise. Epidemiological information is collected every four years in all age groups, which is used for policy-making. The results are presented in a booklet that is published every four years.

Health status, life expectancy and socioeconomic status in the south of Limburg is worse than in the rest of the region. The region used to be a mining region and many features are more similar to bordering regions than to the rest of the Netherlands.

Limburg has a close cooperation between policy, research and practices, not least through the academic collaborative centre which informs regional policy-making.

Limburg is currently preparing to submit a proposal for the Interreg Europe call and is working on local and regional projects on integrated care.

## **7. PRESENTATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF EUREGHA WORK PROGRAMME 2016**

The Secretariat presented the EUREGHA Work Programme 2016 which had been circulated to all members along with a detailed annex of foreseen activities.

### **RegHealth-RI**

As dissemination partner in the [RegHealth-RI project](#), EUREGHA is in charge of organising the final conference of the project, which will take place on 20 October. The Secretariat requested input from the members on proposed angles and ideas for this conference. The draft conference programme will be circulated to the members for feedback.

Ahead of the final conference, the third, and last, project workshop will be organised in Zagreb 30 May – 1 June, which the Secretariat and the Chair will attend.

### **SUNFRAIL**

[SUNFRAIL](#) is a 30 months' project which is coordinated by Emilia-Romagna. Also EUREGHA member Languedoc-Roussillon-Midi-Pyrénées is a partner. The aim of the project is to develop a model on how to detect and treat frailty. We now enter the second year of the project, and a pilot model will start being tested during the summer. EUREGHA is the lead partner of Work Package 2 on Dissemination.

### **Tender on scaling-up innovation in Active and Healthy Ageing**

EUREGHA participates in a tender on scaling-up of innovation in Active and Healthy Ageing, which is a DG CONNECT project. The tender was set to start in January 2016, but has been postponed until July. The Commission wishes to present the results of the study during the EIP AHA Partners' Conference in December.

### **Interreg Europe proposal**

- It was previously proposed to submit a project proposal for Interreg Europe with the aim to organise study visits between regions for mutual learning and exchange of experiences in the framework of integrated care. Since deadlines were short and since no partner took ownership of the proposal drafting in time, the proposal could not be submitted. Instead, the Secretariat proposed to submit a Sprint proposal within the framework of the EIP AHA building upon the same content. A Sprint would not take as much effort to submit as an Interreg proposal, and the Secretariat will circulate a draft based on the Interreg proposal for members' feedback, and notably from the Chair who initiated the idea in the first place. The Secretariat further informed that the Commission will free up some resources for twinning activities which could be an opportunity to help financing costs related to the study visits.

- The Chair asked whether it would still be possible for EUREGHA to take part in the Interreg proposal that is being developed by Lower Austria and where Limburg is a partner. This would be difficult at this stage, but EUREGHA could still be involved as a stakeholder in the final product. Lower Austria informed that their project addressed 11 countries and that they need stakeholders in all these countries, including European ones. EUREGHA could be included as a Belgian stakeholder. The Chair suggested for Lower Austria to explore this further.

### **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA)**

- EUREGHA has resubmitted our commitment to the B3 Action Group on Integrated Care of the EIP AHA, with the aim to organise a conference on good practices in integrated care. Among the present members who have applied to become Reference Sites in the second cycle of the EIP AHA were Emilia-Romagna, Skåne, Flanders, Wales, Limburg and Tuscany.

### **Joint Action CHRODIS**

- As Associated Partner in the Work Package on Communication, EUREGHA is committed to organise a workshop on chronic diseases, which will take place during the fall. The theme will most probably be the launch of the Platform for Knowledge Exchange (PKE), which is one of the main deliverables of the Joint Action, consisting of a database for the collection of good practices for the prevention and management of chronic diseases and multimorbidity.

### Upcoming projects

Tuscany informed that they intend to submit a project proposal for the EU Health Programme (2014-2020) call for "[Migrants' health: Best practices in care provision for vulnerable migrants and refugees](#)", which will be coordinated by the Centre de Salute Globale. Tuscany is looking for partners to complete the consortium and will circulate a form to EUREGHA members to this aim. They are also looking into projects managed by DG Devco (EuropeAid) and will circulate information about this as well.

### Other

- The Secretariat encouraged members to investigate whether colleagues from their regions would be interested in receiving information and updates from activities from specific projects.
- The Chair informed that the EUREGHA Work Programme is flexible and if new items come up during the course of the year, they can be included. Moreover, he suggested to create a group of local communities in EUREGHA, something he previously discussed with Liverpool.
- Catalonia suggested to do an activity on the Juncker plan applied to health projects.
- Emilia-Romagna mentioned the thematic platform for smart specialisation as well as the urban agenda initiative that was introduced under the Dutch Presidency. Since this is an open partnership, it would be interesting to see where the issue of health can be included.

*The EUREGHA Work Programme 2016 was endorsed by the General Assembly.*

## 8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing

- The Secretariat briefly presented the past meetings of the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing. During the Open Days week in October 2015, the group organised a well-attended and appreciated seminar on Health and Migration, including speakers from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and examples from regions. The December meeting was on the topic Active and Healthy Ageing and contained a presentation on the Active Ageing Index, a tool developed by DG Employment. In February, a meeting was organised on the topic of European Structural and Investment Funds for Health Investments, including presentations from DG Sante and DG Connect.
- The forthcoming meeting of the group will take place on 16 June on the topic of Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA). The Secretariat invited members to investigate to see if they would be interested in giving a presentation during this event.
- Catalonia informed that they have ongoing work in monitoring primary care, mental health care, hospital care and long term care, and would check if they would be interested in participating in the meeting. Also Wales informed that they are undertaking activities of assessment of different areas of implementation.

### **International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC), Barcelona 23-25 May**

- The Secretariat asked who would participate in the ICIC. A delegation from Skåne will attend as well as a delegation from Flanders. Wales would possibly attend as well. The Secretariat will soon take a decision on whether to attend. The Chair noted that it would be a good idea for the Secretariat to attend to be able to put a group together and discuss, since policy-makers will be there.

### **Cross-border activities**

- Lower Austria has presented a roadmap for a number of workshops relating to cross-border health. The first workshop was due to take place in April, but they suggested to postpone the whole roadmap one semester, keeping the content, but thus starting on 1 January 2017 and ending in the first semester of 2018. The first workshop will address the cross-border directive and its concrete implications for cross-border regions and their different experiences. The second workshop will treat the EU strategy "Together for Health" and its links to cross-border healthcare. They also suggested to conduct bilateral meetings on this topic with DG SANTE, to bring forward cross-border regions as pilots and to develop dissemination material about EUREGHA and cross-border healthcare. Lower Austria proposed to have some initial discussions with the Secretariat regarding the organisation of the first workshop.

- The Chair proposed to include the unit of DG Sante working on cross-border healthcare, who he had previously led some discussions with.

- The Secretariat proposed that the first workshop would be organised in September. Lower Austria agreed and proposed to aim at 10-20 people for a half-day event.

### **eHealth briefing 10 May**

- The Secretariat informed that they will organise an eHealth briefing on 10 May with Peteris Zilgalvis, head of unit at "eHealth and Wellbeing" at DG CONNECT. The event could be expanded to also include a regional presentation on a good practice they wish to showcase. Wales informed that they have a new strategy in place, but given the short notice, it was unlikely that somebody would be available to travel in.

### **EUREGHA high-level conference**

- The Secretariat informed that during the Executive Board meeting in February, potential topics for the EUREGHA Annual Conference which takes place yearly in December, were discussed. The Secretariat informed that previous conferences have been on the themes: Health Research (2013), Integrated Care (2014) and Chronic Diseases and Frailty (2015).

- For 2016, migration and Health was proposed and agreed by many to be a pertinent topic. Also cross-border healthcare was brought up as a potential theme. It was decided that Migration and Health would be the topic of the high-level conference of 2016 and that next year's conference would focus on cross-border healthcare.

**A.O.B**

- The question was raised whether EUREGHA is still a member of the European Policy Forum (EPF), an EU policy think tank organises seminars open to paying members for a fee of €500 annually.
- The Secretariat informed that the membership had not been renewed, since the accounts of last year had not yet been closed. The Chair suggested to end the membership of the EPF, which served a purpose at the time, but less so today.
- It was agreed by the General Assembly not to renew the EPF membership.

**END OF MEETING**