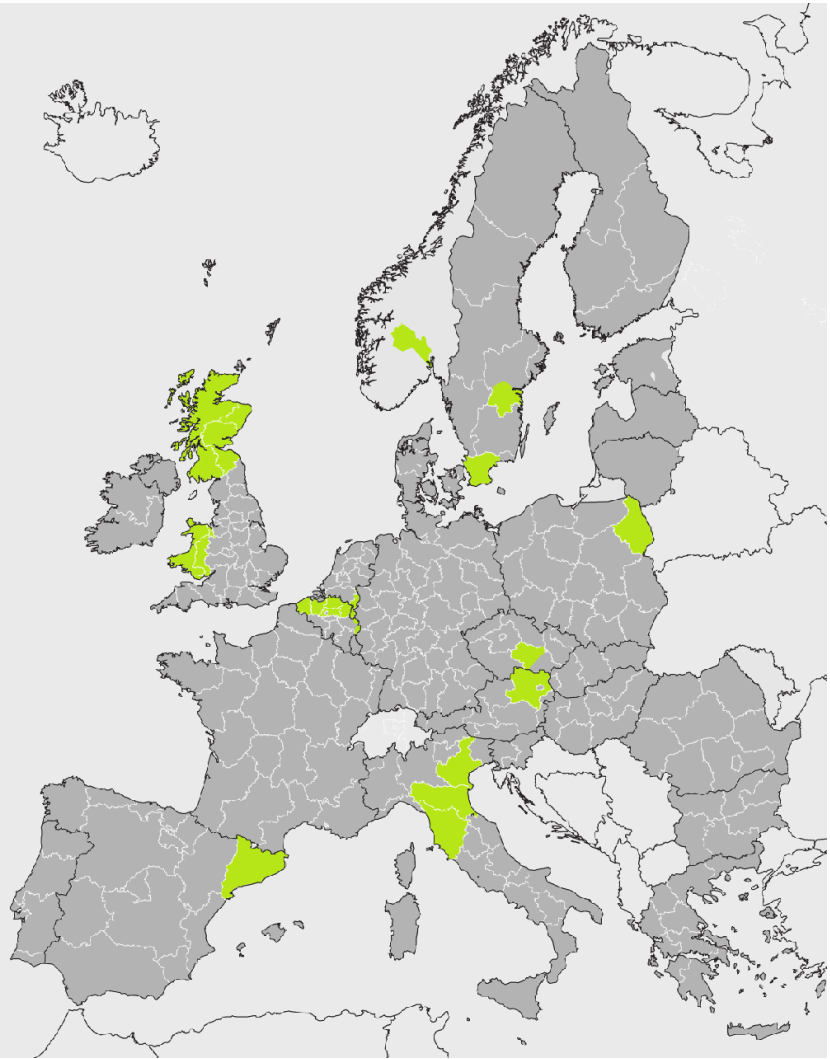


# EUREGHA'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

General Assembly 2014



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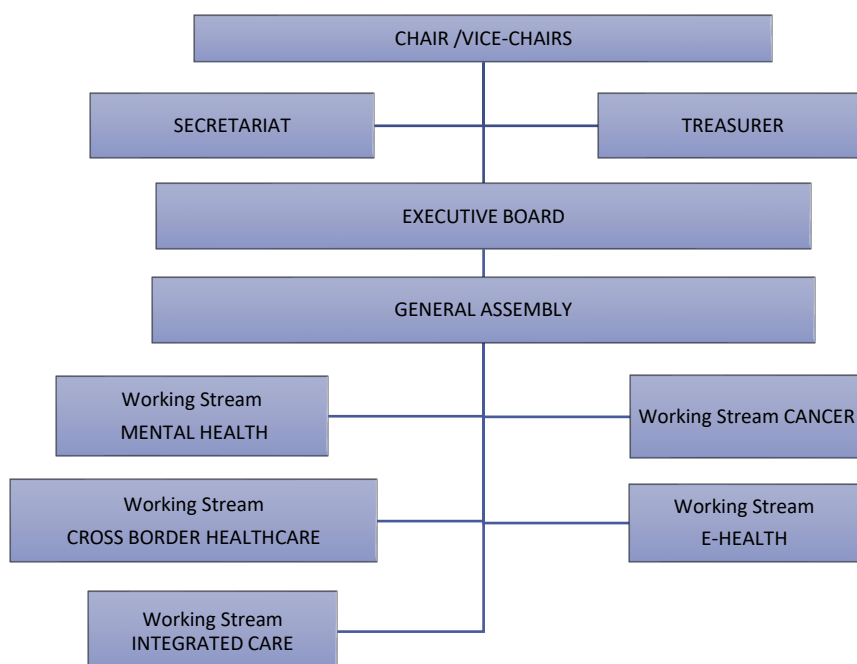
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# INTRODUCTION

Below you can find the EUREGHA Activity Report for 2013. It highlights several of the key activities and commitments that EUREGHA participated in during 2013. It also outlines a full activity summary in the table on page 7.

For further information or queries, please contact the EUREGHA Secretariat.

## STRUCTURE OF EUREGHA



During the General Assembly on 21 March, Catalonia was elected Chair of EUREGHA and North of England EU Health Partnership was elected treasurer, both for a year. Emilia-Romagna was elected to join the Executive Board. (For more information about the General Assembly, please see page 2).

## CORE ACTIVITIES

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

During 2013 - 2014, EUREGHA welcomed two new members - Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany. Unfortunately, East of England decided not to renew their membership which means that the total number of Full Members remained at 13.

Over the year, the Secretariat held several promotional meetings with regions interested in EUREGHA: Region Gotland (SE), Region of South Denmark (DK), Warmia Mazury Region (PL), County Council of Mid Sweden, Pomorskie Region (PL), Region of Tuscany (IT), and Basilicata Region (IT).

## 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

There were three Executive Board meetings during 2013: 15 January, 5 June and 3 December. All meetings took place in Brussels.

During the meeting on 15 January, the discussions focused on the network's activities for the coming year. The work plan for 2013 – 2014 was presented and discussed, as was the budget for 2013. Updates were given on the activities of the working streams and of other activities. A specific focus was given to EUREGHA's commitments within the Joint Actions. Ingrid Jansson was introduced as the new Operations Manager and Kirsten Currie's contract was extended to June 2013.

During the meeting on 5 June, updates were given on the activities of the working streams, of other activities and of the budget. A specific focus was given to the EUREGHA High Level Conference and an organisation committee was elected to be in charge of organising the conference. Kirsten Currie was also thanked for her time spent with EUREGHA.

During the meeting on 3 December, updates were given on the activities of the working streams, of other activities and of the budget. The Region of Tuscany was welcomed as a new member of EUREGHA and a presentation of Tuscany followed by Alberto Zanobini, Head of Research, Innovation and Human Resources of Tuscany Region.

## 3. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 21 March, EUREGHA held its annual General Assembly in Brussels. The General Assembly voted on a number of issues. The resignation of Region Skåne as Chair was approved and Catalonia was elected the new Chair of EUREGHA for a period of one year. The resignation of Catalonia as treasurer was also approved and North of England EU Health Partnership was elected the new treasurer for a period of one year. The resignation of East of England as Vice Chair was approved and Flanders and Lower Austria was confirmed to remain as Vice Chair for another year. Lastly, Emilia Romagna was elected to become member of the Executive Board.

The General Assembly approved the closure of the budget of 2012 and the budget for 2013. Emilia Romagna was officially welcomed as a new member of EUREGHA and a presentation of Emilia Romagna followed by Antonio Addis, Research Governance Coordinator of the Health Department of Emilia Romagna. Lastly, updates were given on the activities of the working streams and of other activities. It was also decided that EUREGHA will start publishing a public newsletter every four months, with the aim of promoting the network's activities to the Platform Members.

## 4. WORKING STREAMS (WS)

### **Cancer:**

Within the Cancer WS, EUREGHA has been focused on the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC). Through this EUREGHA has attended three meetings. In May, EUREGHA participated in the Steering Advisory Committee meeting in Malta. In June, EUREGHA participated in the EPAAC 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of Work Package 6, Early Diagnosis/Screening on implementing breast cancer screening programmes, in Belgium. In November, EUREGHA participated in the EPAAC Open Forum and Final Conference in Ljubljana

### **Mental Health:**

Within the Mental Health WS, EUREGHA has focused on the work of the European Regions Enforcing Actions Against Suicide (EUREGENAS) project. In September, EUREGHA attended the EUREGENAS 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting in Verona.

### **Integrated Care:**

The Integrated Care WS is focused on the work of the B3 Action Group in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA). The EIP-AHA was very active throughout 2013, and EUREGHA was an active participator. In January, there was a meeting of the B3 Action Group in Brussels. In June there were two meetings: the Secretariat was a speaker at the conference “Living Healthy and Active in an Ageing Europe” in Bologna, and there was another B3 Action Group meeting in Brussels. Several EUREGHA members further participated in the reference site ceremony for the EIP-AHA in Brussels in July, where they were rewarded with stars for their work within the EIP-AHA.

In September, Toni Dedeu participated in the workshop on “Innovative Procurement for services and products for independent living and integrated care” in Bari and he also organised a workshop on integrated care during the European Forum for Primary Care in Istanbul. October saw another B3 Action Group meeting in Brussels. Finally, in November, there was a Conference of Partners for the EIP-AHA in which EUREGHA participated in several workshops, in Brussels.

### **Cross-Border Healthcare:**

As part of the Cross-Border Healthcare WS, EUREGHA organised an Experts’ Roundtable Meeting on the Cross Border Patients Directive in Brussels in September. This was a meeting for EUREGHA members only, and involved the participation of John Rowan, Policy Officer, Healthcare Systems from DG SANCO. Mr Rowan gave an overview of the directive, presenting its important features as well as some potential challenges. Thereafter followed presentations from three EUREGHA members: Region Skåne, North of England EU Health Partnership and Flanders. The three regions presented the challenges from their home regions in implementing the directive. An open discussion followed between all participants and Mr Rowan.

## **eHealth:**

In May, EUREGHA Participated in eHealth Week and the eHealth Stakeholder Group's meeting in Dublin.

## **5. NEWSLETTER**

EUREGHA has continued to publish a monthly newsletter for its Members. In total, 10 newsletters were published as June/July and November/December were joint newsletters. The newsletters are sent to all Full Members that are responsible for forwarding them on to their home regions. The newsletters are also published on the Members' section of the EUREGHA website and in the EUREGHA drop box. It has been discussed whether the newsletters should only be published online in the Member's section of the EUREGHA website (as opposed to emailing it) to increase activity on the website but no decision has been taken.

During the General Assembly in March, it was decided that EUREGHA would start publishing a quarterly newsletter which is publicly available and promotes the networks' activities. The public newsletter was published in April, August and December and sent to the Platform Members and published on the website.

## **6. COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (COR)**

EUREGHA has acted as the Secretariat for the Committee of the Regions Health Intergroup. Through this, EUREGHA has participated in three meetings (12 April, 4 July and 8 October). The first of these meetings discusses the successes of the Intergroup so far, and how to continue with the work. The second meeting focused on mHealth and its repercussions. The last meeting included a presentation by Masoud Dara from the World Health Organisation (WHO), as the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding between WHO and the Intergroup is under discussion for the near future.

## **7. PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN EUROPEAN FORA**

EUREGHA is a member of several forums and tries to actively participate in health related events and cooperate with relevant stakeholders in the European Fora.

During 2013, EUREGHA attended two European Health Policy Forum meetings. The first meeting was held in April. Health Commissioner Tonio Borg held a speech on investing in health and the topic was debated by MEPs Antoniya Parvanova and Karin Kandenbach. The health priorities of the Irish and Lithuanian Presidencies were presented and discussed. An update on the Public Health Programme 2014 – 2020 was given as well as a presentation on the future of EU Public Health Research. Lastly, policy updates were given on three areas: the Tobacco Directive, Chronic Diseases and on the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

The second meeting was held in September. An update was given on the health priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency and the coming health priorities of the Greek Presidency. Policy updates were

given on five areas: mental health systems in the EU Member States, the decision on serious cross border health threats, the second report on implementation of patient safety recommendations, the start of the work of the eHealth network and on the expert panel on effective ways of investing in health. A review and analysis of the activities and achievements of the forum for 2009 – 2013 were also presented and discussed.

In October EUREGHA became member of European Policy Centre (EPC). Since then, the Secretariat has attended two CHES (Coalition for Health, Ethics and Society) Policy Dialogues. The first one was entitled “Reconciling healthcare needs and public finance: how to tackle the challenge at a time of austerity”. The second one was entitled “Health Innovation – Time for a Pause or a Push” where Valérie Carrette from University of Leuven from Flanders participated in the panel discussion.

In November, EUREGHA Chair Toni Dedeu participated in a workshop jointly organised by DG REGIO and the Flemish Government. The workshop was entitled “Regions as motors of new growth through smart specialisation”, and was held in Brussels. Also in November, the Secretariat participated and presented during the two day workshop “Campania 2020 – Regional internationalization; key-players, critical issues and opportunities”, held in Naples by Region Campania (IT). The presentation focused on the experiences of EUREGHA and the role of networks in promoting regional internationalisation.

## 8. PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ACTIONS

EUREGHA is a part of the PARENT (cross-border Patient Registries Initiative) Joint Action’s Stakeholder Forum. In May, EUREGHA therefore participated in the workshop of the PARENT Joint Action in Brussels. During 2013, EUREGHA has also continued our commitments within the EPAAC Joint Action which is the focus of the Cancer WS. The Secretariat has also prepared for EUREGHA’s commitments within the Joint Action on Chronic Diseases (CHRODIS) that will start in 2014.

## 9. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

During 2013, EUREGHA developed a closer collaboration with the networks CORAL and Assembly of European Regions (AER) in activities relating to the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP). Firstly, CORAL, AER and EUREGHA co-organised the side event “Regional Politicians about Innovation in active and Healthy Ageing” during the Ambient Assisted Living Forum in Norrköping (SE).

Secondly, EUREGHA, CORAL and AER were co-organisers of three AAL JP workshops, the focus of which was “Raising the awareness of AAL JP activities and AAL JP projects and Fostering exchange of experiences among European regions on the issues of assisted living and demographic change”. The first workshop was held in Valencia, the second in Vienna and the third in Brussels. Several EUREGHA members participated in the workshops and two speakers during the workshop in Vienna were members of EUREGHA. The Secretariat also participated in several meetings with the networks, the AAL JP Secretariat and National Contact Points for the AAL JP with the purpose of evaluating the impact of the three workshops.

## 10. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

In August, EUREGHA submitted a response to the public consultation regarding the evaluation of the European Strategy on Safety and Health at Work 2007-2012. Besides treating the evaluation of the former strategy, the consultation also asked for input on what a future Occupational Safety and Health strategy should focus on. The EUREGHA response especially emphasized that a future strategy needs to focus on mental wellbeing but other important challenges were also discussed such as; new and emerging risks, inactive lifestyles and demographic changes.

## EVENTS

During 2013, EUREGHA organised several seminars and a High Level Conference in the European Parliament.

### 1. POLICY BRIEFINGS (FULL MEMBERS ONLY)

EUREGHA has held four Policy Briefings this year, which were all held in Brussels and were open to Full Members only. The first, in February, was on the Tobacco Products Directive. The second was on the Social Investment Package, presented by Wolfgang Buercherl from DG SANCO, held in March. In April, a meeting was held on the e-Health Action Plan and regional initiatives on e-Health. The last, held in September, was the Experts' Roundtable Meeting on the Cross Border Patients Directive.

### 2. LUNCH BRIEFINGS (PUBLIC)

In 2013, EUREGHA held two Lunch Briefings in Brussels that were open for the public. The first, in April, was titled Introducing EUREGHA, and gave the chance for non-Member Regions to see the work of EUREGHA. The second, in November, was on the Health Priorities of the future Greek Presidency, and included a presentation by Antonio Lanaras, the Greek Health Attaché. This lunch briefing was co-organised with the Progetto Mattone Internazionale.

### 3. EUREGHA HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

In December, EUREGHA held a High Level Lunch and Conference in the European Parliament in Brussels. The lunch gathered high level representatives from EUREGHA's member regions and speakers of the conference. Amongst others, the participants included all key note speakers of the conference, the Marshall of Podlaskie Region and the Flemish Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family.

The topic of the conference was "Governance of Research for Regional Health Strategies". It highlighted ways of translating research into health policy, and has sparked a discussion on creating a new WS on Research (and Policy).



The key note speech was held by Mario Moroso, CCF Assistant Director for the Department of Health Policy Research Programme, LGC Research Programme Management (UK). Two other opening speeches were held by Steve Hanney, Professorial Research Fellow, Brunel University (UK) and Monica Eriksson, Head of the Centre on Salutogenesis, University West (SE). Regional best practices on translating research into health policy were presented by Region Emilia – Romagna (IT), Region Skåne (SE), North of England EU Health Partnership (UK) and the City of Oulu (FI).

The conference ended with a panel discussion with the participation of Josep Figueras (Director of the European Observatory), Gabriel Capella (Director for Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Health of Catalonia), Alberto Zanobini (Head of Research, Innovation and Human Resources, Tuscany Region), Marianne Van den Berg (DG SANCO) and Ilias Iakovidis (DG CONNECT). In total, 110 persons attended the conference.

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#### 4. EUREGHA ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2013

Month	Date	Activity
January	15	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
	23	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
February	7	Policy Briefing on the Tobacco Products Directive, Brussels
March	14	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Region Gotland (SE), Brussels
	15	Policy Briefing on the Social Investment Package, Brussels
	21	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Region of South Denmark (DK), Brussels
	21	EUREGHA General Assembly, Brussels
	25	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Warmia Mazury Region (PL), Brussels
April	4	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the County Council of Mid Sweden, Brussels
	5	Introducing EUREGHA Lunch Briefing, Brussels
	9	European Health Policy Forum, Brussels
	10	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Pomorskie Region (PL), Brussels
	12	Committee of the Regions Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	15	Policy Briefing on the e-Health Action Plan and regional initiatives on e-Health, Brussels
May	13-15	Participation in e-Health Week and the e-Health Stakeholder Group, Dublin
	14-15	Participation in the EPAAC Steering and Advisory Committee meeting, ST Julian's, Malta
	29	Participation in workshop of the PARENT Joint Action, Brussels
June	3	Speaker at the conference "Living Healthy and Active in an Ageing Europe", Bologna
	3-4	Participation in the EPAAC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop of Work Package 6, Early Diagnosis/Screening on Implementing breast cancer screening programmes, Belgium
	5	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
	7	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
July	1	Participation in the reference site ceremony for the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	4	Committee of the Regions Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	16	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the Region of Tuscany, Brussels
August	22	Response to the Public Consultation on Occupational Safety and Health at Work, Brussels
September	3-4	Participation in the workshop on "Innovative Procurement for services and products for independent living and integrated care", Bari
	9-10	Participation and organiser of a workshop during the European Forum for Primary Care, Istanbul
	11	European Health Policy Forum, Brussels
	17	EUREGHA Experts' Roundtable Meeting on the Cross Border Patients Directive, Brussels

	24	Participation in and co-organiser of the side event “Regional Politicians about Innovation in Active and Healthy Ageing” during the AAL Forum, Norrköping
October	3	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the Basilicata Region (IT), Brussels
	8	Committee of the Regions Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	15	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	18	Participation in AAL Workshop “Fostering exchange of experiences among European regions on the issues of assisted living and demographic change”, Valencia
November	4	Participation and moderating in AAL Workshop, “Raising the awareness of AAL JP activities and AAL JP projects and fostering exchange of experiences among European regions on the issues of assisted living and demographic change”, Vienna
	8	Participation in the workshop “Regions as motors of new growth through smart specialisation”, Brussels
	11	Speaker at the conference “Campania 2020 – Regional internationalization; key-players, critical issues and opportunities”, Naples
	21	EUREGHA Lunch Briefing on the Health Priorities of the future Greek Presidency, Brussels
	25-27	Participation in the EPAAC Open Forum and Final Conference, Ljubljana
	25-26	Conference of Partners, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	27	Participation in AAL Workshop “Raising the awareness of AAL JP activities and AAL JP projects among European regions”, Brussels
December	3	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
	3	EUREGHA High Level Lunch and Conference, “Governance of Research for Regional Health Strategies”, Brussels

**EUREGHA is the reference network for European Regional and Local Health Authorities.** We bring together a critical mass of knowledge and expertise and encourage diversity with the purpose of helping our members to improve the efficiency and quality of health systems and services in Europe.

#### **FOLLOW US**

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