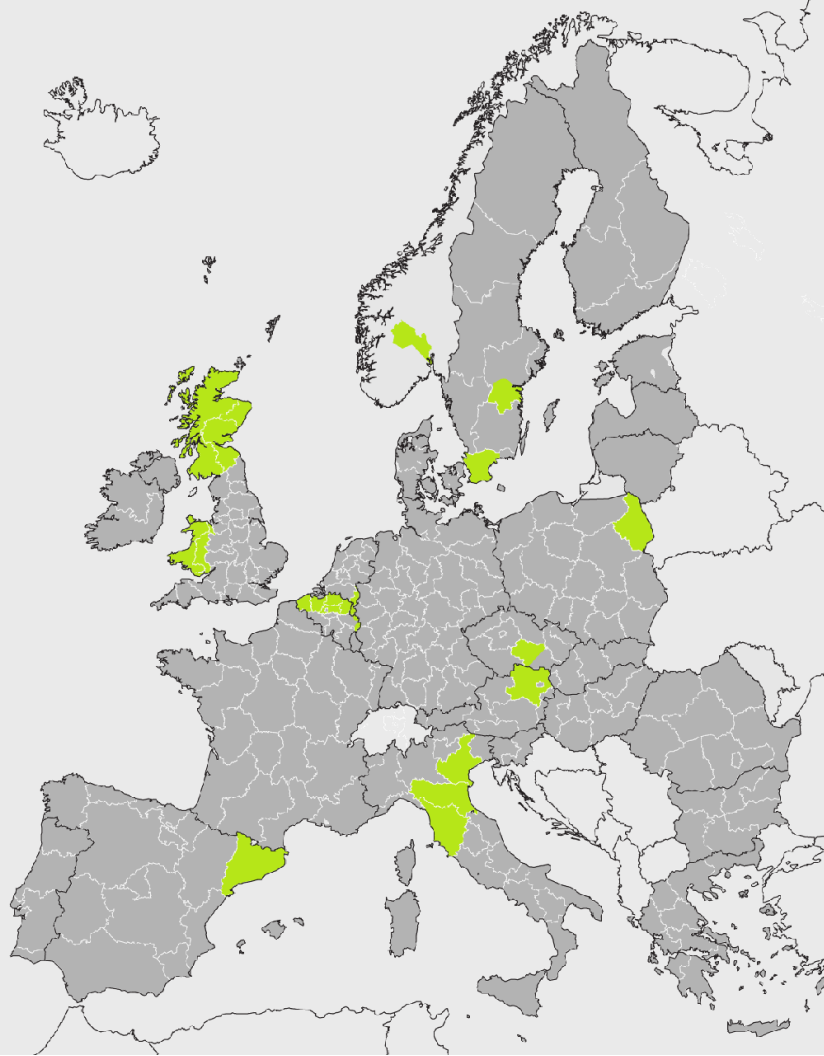


EUREGHA'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

General Assembly 2017



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INTRODUCTION

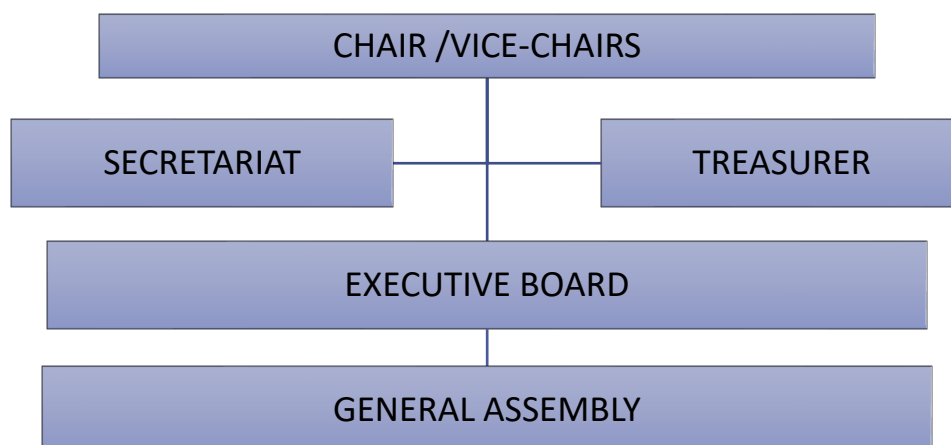
2016 was a busy year for EUREGHA, with a strong emphasis on fulfilling our commitments in the European-funded projects: Joint Action CHRODIS, RegHealth-RI, SUNFRIL and the ScaleAHA tender. During the year, EUREGHA continued organizing the meetings of the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing; monitoring policy and identifying opportunities in the prioritized policy areas; and organizing meetings with members and member delegations. During the year, EUREGHA was pleased to welcome three new members: Limburg (NL), Region Östergötland (SE) and Wales (UK). In 2016, there were substantial changes in staff of the EUREGHA Secretariat: the Operations Manager was replaced, a new Communications and Project Assistant was recruited and an external consultant was engaged in November. The Secretariat was also reinforced by a part-time intern between September and November.

Looking forward to 2017, EUREGHA will go through a process of introducing a new working concept introduced by the new Sustainability Strategy. One major change is the focus on one policy theme per semester. The first policy cycle will be devoted to Mental Health and during the second part of the year, we will have a focus on Cross-Border Healthcare, which will also be the theme of the EUREGHA Annual Conference in December.

This report highlights the key EUREGHA activities of 2016. It also outlines a full activity summary in the table on page 9.

For further information or queries on specific activities, please contact the EUREGHA Secretariat at secretariat@euregha.net

STRUCTURE OF EUREGHA



Following the General Assembly in April 2016, positions were distributed as follows:

EUREGHA Chair: Catalonia (until April 2017);

EUREGHA co-Vice-Chairs: Wales and Lower Austria;

EUREGHA Treasurer: Limburg.

The 2016 incoming Executive Board consists of Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Flanders, Limburg, Lower Austria, Skåne, Tuscany, Veneto, Västra Götaland and Wales. Further details can be found below in section General Assembly.

The Secretariat continued to have the capacity of two full-time employees and was reinforced by an unpaid intern working two days per week during September-November. A strategic consultant was engaged in November on a one day/week basis.

Ingrid Jansson left the organization in June, and the position of Operations Manager was filled by Freja Hagsund in July. A Communication and Project Assistant, Lina Papartyte, was recruited on 1 September.

CORE ACTIVITIES

1. MEMBERSHIP

During 2016, EUREGHA officially welcomed three new members: Wales and Limburg since the beginning of the year and Region Östergötland that joined in July.

Over the year, the Secretariat held several presentations for delegations representing EUREGHA members visiting Brussels, for instance Region Skåne, Flanders, Tuscany Region and Region Östergötland. The Secretariat also held promotional meetings with regions and actors interested in EUREGHA, such as South Denmark (DK), Skåne Association for Local Authorities (SE) and the Norwegian Research Council (NO).

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Three Executive Board meetings during 2016: in February, April and September, as well as an Executive Board working meeting in December. The meetings took place in Brussels.

In February, the meeting focused on the presentation and discussion of the Draft Activity Report of 2015 and the Work Programme for 2016. It also featured the presentation of the outcomes of the “EUREGHA Evaluation Questionnaire” survey that had been circulated to all members. The meeting also included an update on the current and foreseen project activities.

The Executive Board meeting in April was a pre-meeting to the General Assembly, mainly focusing on reaching a decision on the terms of the prolongation of the contract of the Communication and Membership Officer at the EUREGHA Secretariat.

During the Executive Board meeting in September, Region Östergötland gave a presentation to the Board members about the region and their expectations as new member of EUREGHA. The rest of the meeting was focused around developing a EUREGHA sustainability strategy and especially how to attract new members. Other issues included the EUREGHA Sprint, Lower Austria’s initiative to further collaboration in cross-border healthcare and a financial overview. The Executive Board further agreed to welcome Mikaela Nordenfelt on board as strategic advisor.

The Executive Board working meeting in December mainly focused on discussing the EUREGHA sustainability plan.

3. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The annual EUREGHA General Assembly was held on 19 April. The General Assembly officially ratified Wales and Limburg as new members. The General Assembly further endorsed:

- The resignation of the Vice-Chairs (Region Skåne and Lower Austria) and the election of the new Vice-Chairs (Wales and Lower Austria).
- The re-election of Toni Dedeu as Chair, but representing Catalonia instead of Scotland and the arrangement that Wales will take over as Chair as of the next General Assembly in 2017.
- The resignation of the Executive Board and the election of the new Executive Board¹.

At the date of the General Assembly, the Treasurer post was still vacant and these tasks were filled by the Secretariat. Following the meeting, Limburg, represented by Raymond Stijns, offered to take on this role.

¹ **Outgoing Executive Board:** Catalonia (ES), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Flanders (BE), Lower Austria (AU), North of England (UK), Region Skåne (SE), Scotland (UK), Tuscany (IT), Veneto (IT) and Västra Götaland Region (SE)

Incoming Executive Board: Catalonia (ES), Emilia-Romagna (IT), Flanders (IT), Limburg (NL), Lower Austria (AU), Region Skåne (SE), Tuscany (IT), Veneto (IT), Västra Götaland Region (IT) and Wales (UK)

The General Assembly also approved the closure of the budget of 2015 and the budget for 2016. The EUREGHA Work Programme for 2016 was presented by the Secretariat and endorsed by the General Assembly. The meeting also contained presentations from the new members, Wales and Limburg; a discussion on the EUREGHA sustainability strategy; and the EUREGHA Annual Conferences in 2016 and 2017.

4. NEWSLETTER

EUREGHA continued to publish monthly newsletters for the Members including information about EUREGHA activities; EU policy news; EU health news; calls for projects and tenders; and open public consultations. During 2016, 10 newsletters were circulated to all Full Members, which are responsible for forwarding them on to actors in their home regions.

5. PRIORITIZED POLICY AREAS DURING 2016

Below is an overview of undertaken activities in the respective prioritized policy areas.

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases continued to be one of the most prioritized areas for EUREGHA in 2016, given our participation as Associated Partner in the Work Package on Communication in the Joint Action CHRODIS, and as Dissemination lead partner in the SUNFRIL project. The activities of EUREGHA related to CHRODIS and SUNFRIL are discussed in more detail below on the pages 7-8.

Integrated Care

Within the framework of the EIP-AHA, EUREGHA continued to participate in the B3 Group on integrated care. In this framework, we presented a EUREGHA Sprint “Integrated Care Policies for Successful Scaling-Up in European Regions”. The Sprint aims to assess the readiness for integrated care solutions in interested partner regions using the Maturity Model developed by the B3 Group. In a longer-term perspective, the results of this exercise will serve as a basis for study visits between regions. EUREGHA members who declared interest in participating in the Sprint were Catalonia, Flanders, Region Skåne and Västra Götaland Region. In addition, Zealand (DK) will participate.

EUREGHA attended the meetings of the B3 Group in Brussels in June and in November. During both occasions, the Secretariat presented the progress of the EUREGHA Sprint. EUREGHA also attended the EIP-AHA Conference of Partners in December, where all the Action Groups of the partnership presented their main achievements and foreseen activities.

In June, the Secretariat attended the International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC) in Barcelona. EUREGHA members who attended the conference: Catalonia, Flanders, Skåne, Scotland and Wales and used the opportunity to meet for an informal gathering.

eHealth

In May, EUREGHA hosted a roundtable on eHealth with Dr Terje Peetso, Policy Officer at DG Connect “eHealth and Wellbeing” and Mr Wouter De Jonghe, Business Expert Vitalink, Flanders Region. The

roundtable was an opportunity to explore the topic of eHealth in the EU. The event covered the main opportunities and barriers with the wide implementation of eHealth, the Commission's agenda ahead, as well as a practical example from the application of an eHealth service, "Vitalink", in Flanders.

The December meeting of the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing was on the topic 'eHealth: Current Trends, Challenges and Opportunities'. You can read more about the event under the section VI: Collaboration with the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

In 2016, EUREGHA also applied for a renewed membership of the eHealth stakeholder group. Our application was unfortunately not successful.

Research and Innovation

Research and Innovation is a policy area where EUREGHA had a strong focus in 2016. The activities implemented related to our participation in the project RegHealth-RI, and especially the organization of the Final Conference of the project in October. RegHealth-RI is discussed in more detail below.

EUREGHA entered a Horizon 2020 proposal consortium, coordinated by Norwegian research organization, SINTEF. It is a two-stage process and the first proposal was submitted in October. The proposal answers to the call [SC1-PM-07-2017 – Promoting mental health and well-being in the young](#) and EUREGHA is proposed as dissemination lead partner.

In addition, EUREGHA monitored the calls relating to "Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing" of Horizon 2020 and facilitated for partner searches in this area.

Health Equity

Except the general monitoring of developments in the area, no specific activities were undertaken in the field of Health Equity in 2016. In accordance with the work programme of the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing, a meeting will be dedicated to this topic in 2017.

Cancer

During 2016, the EUREGHA Working Group on Cancer, which was formed during EUREGHA's participation in the European Partnership on Action Against Cancer (EPAAC), organized two teleconferences in May and June. The first teleconference included an open discussion on proposed activities ahead of the group. During the second teleconference, Antoni Montserrat from DG SANTE gave an update of the work of the European Commission Cancer Expert Group and the foreseen update of the 2003 Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening.

In November, upon invitation from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the EUREGHA Secretariat attended the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) Plenary meeting in Varese (IT). The meeting focused on the work achieved by the two working groups of the initiative: the Guidelines Development Group and the Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group. It also included the presentation of the first four recommendations of the European guidelines for breast cancer screening and diagnosis.

Mental Health

In May, EUREGHA Secretariat and Flanders welcomed a delegation of 18 participants from the Seoul Metropolitan Government on a Europe study visit focused on health in the workplace. The meeting included a presentation of EUREGHA and the results of the Euregenas project on suicide prevention.

In June, EUREGHA Secretariat and Flanders welcomed a delegation from Region Skåne to discuss strategies for suicide prevention and to present the results of the Euregenas project.

Cross-Border Healthcare

In November, Lower Austria launched a Working Group (WG) on cross-border health care under the umbrella of EUREGHA network.

The WG is planning to develop a database containing cross-border healthcare initiatives, projects, and good practices in the EU. They also foresee to map cooperation domains and programmes that regions participate in. The WG is going to organize meetings, conferences and presentations to enhance the knowledge of the WG members on opportunities for cross-border healthcare.

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

EUREGHA continued to act as the Secretariat of the CoR Intergroup on Health and Wellbeing (IRGHW). During 2016, EUREGHA organized four meetings with the group, in April, July, October and December, as well as a constitutive meeting with the group Bureau in February discussing the 2016 work plan.

The first meeting took place in April on the topic “ESIF for health investments”. The focus of the meeting was the current use of European Structural and Investment Funds for investments in the health sector. The meeting involved presentations from DG SANTE and DG CONNECT.

The June meeting was devoted to Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) and involved a presentation from DG SANTE (Performance of national health systems) mainly about the work of the HSPA Expert Group. The second part of the meeting was devoted to a presentation on EUREGHA member Wales’ experience with implementing “Prudent Healthcare”.

The third meeting took place during the Open Days in October, on the topic “Active and healthy ageing”. The meeting included presentations about the PROEIPAHA support action, a good practice from Tuscany Region, Tuscany Adapted Physical Activity (APA) Program and a presentation from EUprevent, about the Euregion Meuse Rhine (EMR) cross border project Senior Friendly Communities.

The December meeting focused on current trends and challenges in eHealth and included a presentation from the European Commission about the work in the Unit B3 in DG SANTE, a presentation from Valencia Region on their experience of big data in eHealth. Finally, the MoU between the CoR and WHO was shortly presented to the attendees of the event.

During the fall of 2016, EUREGHA was invited to give input to an own-initiative opinion on “Integration, cooperation and performance of health systems” put forward by CoR Member Birgitta Sacrédeus (also Chair of the IRGHW). In this framework, in December EUREGHA Chair gave a presentation during the related stakeholder policy debate discussing the Opinion.

7. PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN EUROPEAN FORA

In December, EUREGHA participated in a meeting with the [EU Health Policy Platform](#). The main objective of gathering European stakeholders in health was to present and discuss four Joint Statements in the areas of health inequalities; patient safety; public health workforce development; and mental health as well as to define the topics of upcoming thematic networks.

In the past 6 months, health interest groups have developed Joint Statements within four thematic networks through deliberative exchange on the online EU Health Policy Platform. Each thematic network had a leader who, back in April 2016, presented an initial proposal to establish a network around this topic.

In November, EUREGHA was approached by DG SANTE to provide input to and suggest health-related activities that could be incorporated in the establishment of the [European Solidarity Corps](#). The initiative encompasses all areas of work across the European Commission and aims at providing opportunities for young people aged 18 - 30 to express their solidarity with society all over EU.

During a meeting with DG SANTE, based on input from EUREGHA members, we discussed how to better explore the potential of the health field and how young people interested in participating could access health related areas.

8. PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ACTIONS

EUREGHA is an Associated Partner of the Joint Action [CHRODIS](#). In 2016, the Secretariat worked on our commitments in the WP on Communication. EUREGHA attended the CHRODIS General Assembly and Stakeholder Forum in Madrid in February, and held several bilateral meetings with EuroHealthNet on dissemination activities. Concrete activities undertaken by the Secretariat included coordinating the translation of and inserting subtitles for the JA-CHRODIS information video into partner languages and organizing a JA-CHRODIS dissemination workshop.

The workshop was organized at the European Parliament in November, aiming at presenting JA-CHRODIS to European policy makers. The workshop had a special focus to display the achievements in the field of diabetes prevention and management, and the launch of the CHRODIS Platform for knowledge exchange. The event was hosted by MEP Therese Comodini Cachia.

In January, EUREGHA (Secretariat and Chair) attended the Final Conference of the Joint Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing, where we were a Collaborating Partner.

EUREGHA is Collaborating Partner of the Joint Action on Cancer Control (CanCon) and has followed and disseminated the developments of this Joint Action throughout the year.

9. PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS AND TENDERS

RegHealth-RI

EUREGHA participated as one of three partners in [RegHealth-RI](#), a two-year project funded under Horizon 2020. The project ran between November 2014 and November 2016. The aim is to contribute to bridging the gap in research and innovation (R&I) across European regions, focusing on the health area, by investigating new measures to reduce differences in R&I performance, and to identify the drivers of these differences.

In RegHealth-RI, EUREGHA is the leader of the WP which organizes the Final Conference and a partner in the WP on Dissemination. As such, EUREGHA organized the RegHealth-RI Final Conference in October, presented the project during the Week of Innovative Regions (WIRE) in Eindhoven in June, and was in charge of writing and disseminating three Press Releases and two Newsletters.

RegHealth-RI organized a project workshop in Zagreb in June, where EUREGHA participated through representation of the Secretariat and the Chair.

On 20 October, EUREGHA organized the Final Conference “Bridging the Divide in European Health Research and Innovation” in Brussels. The conference was co-hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Brussels and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU. EUREGHA Chair, Toni Dedeu, chaired the conference and moderated the roundtable discussion.

During the conference, the findings of the RegHealth-RI project were presented, including the outcomes of the three international workshops, the updated and improved version of the report “State of the Art of Health Research and Innovation (R&I) in EU regions” and a set of policy recommendations building on the project’s results.

SUNFRAIL Project

EUREGHA participates as lead partner of the WP of Dissemination in [SUNFRAIL](#) (May 2015-November 2017). The project aims at improving the identification, prevention and management of frailty and care of multimorbidity in community dwelling persons (aged over 65) in local and regional settings in the EU.

During 2016, EUREGHA attended two project Transnational Workshops and Steering Committee (SC) meetings and numerous teleconferences with the project consortium.

The first Transnational Workshop, “Understanding and Caring for Frailty and Multimorbidity”, and Steering Committee (SC) meeting took place in Bologna in March and was attended by the Secretariat. The event focused on the scientific definitions and models of frailty and multimorbidity, as well as how the scientific knowledge can be appropriately translated into effective policy responses in loco-regional settings. The workshop also included a session on synergies between SUNFRAIL and other European projects and initiatives.

The second Transnational Workshop “Toward a Bio-Psychosocial model of frailty”, and SC meeting took place in Naples in October. EUREGHA was represented by EUREGHA Vice-chair Wales, and EUREGHA Secretariat. The full day event included presentations about the SUNFRAIL project; debates around the concept of frailty; the work behind the development of the SUNFRAIL tool; a discussion on the socioeconomic and lifestyle risk factors for frailty; and good practices collected by the project partners.

The major commitment for EUREGHA in 2017 is to organize a SC meeting and a local dissemination workshop in April 2017 in Brussels.

ScaleAHA: EIP on AHA Transfer of Innovation Pilot Twinning Scheme 2016

The EIP on AHA Transfer of Innovation Pilot Twinning Scheme aims at accelerating the scaling-up of innovative approaches and practices in Active and Healthy Ageing. The scaling up mainly relies on several different stakeholders, such as Reference Sites, other national/regional/local organizations and ecosystems committed to exchange good practices through twinning activities.

In 2016, subcontracted by Empirica, EUREGHA participated in teleconferences as observers. Under this contract, up to date, EUREGHA took part in 5 virtual meetings where our tasks consisted of ensuring that the obligations of the twinning partners are clear and fulfilled on time. We are in charge of collecting minutes from those meetings, collecting interim and final reports in relation to partners' twinning activities and making sure that they contain all the relevant information.

10. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

Closer cooperation was achieved with EuroHealthNet, regarding CHRODIS, where EuroHealthNet acts as the leader of the WP on Communication. In 2016, we also partnered an event on eHealth organized by the Assembly of European Regions (AER).

In March, EUREGHA participated during a briefing with the Swedish Health Attaché, organized by an informal network of Scandinavian regions.

EVENTS

During 2016 EUREGHA organized several seminars and conferences, and below the most important events are discussed in detail.

1. BRUSSELS BASED MEMBER MEETINGS

The format of the Brussels based member meetings should be evaluated in 2017.

One Brussels-based meeting took place in January. Discussions centered around submitting an Interreg proposal, about the 2016 Work Programme and the office situation of the Secretariat.

2. BREAKFAST/LUNCH BRIEFINGS

Despite efforts from the Secretariat, both the Health Attaché from the Dutch Permanent Representation in Brussels, and their Slovak counterpart declined the invitations to present the health priorities of their respective EU Presidencies to EUREGHA members. The Maltese Health Attaché was contacted in December and confirmation is pending.

In May, EUREGHA organized a lunch briefing on eHealth which is presented further above.

3. JOINT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

In December, EUREGHA partnered an event organized by the Assembly of European Regions (AER) “eHealth: Let’s find a common language” at the Committee of the Regions. During a session moderated by EUREGHA, two representatives from Wales presented a good practice on pre-commercial procurement related to mHealth/eHealth.

4. EUREGHA HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

Due to pressing project commitments for the period, the foreseen EUREGHA Annual Conference on Migrants’ Health was cancelled. The 2017 EUREGHA Annual Conference will focus on Cross-border healthcare.

5. PROJECT EVENTS

EUREGHA organized the Final Conference of the RegHealth-RI project and a dissemination workshop for JA-CHRODIS. More information about these events can be found under the respective headlines above.

EUREGHA ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2016

Months	Date	Activity
January	18	Brussels-based members meeting, Brussels
	21-22	Final Conference Joint Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing, Brussels
February	4	JA-CHRODIS 2 nd General Assembly and Stakeholder Forum, Madrid
	11	Procedural meeting, CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing, Brussels
	16	WHO Workshop: Better Food for Better Health
	17	Politico: Antimicrobial Resistance – Averting Tomorrow’s Nightmare, Brussels
	25	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting
March	7	Briefing with Swedish Health Attaché, Brussels
	22	SUNFRIL Transnational Workshop, Bologna
April	6	Migration and Health event, Tuscany Region, Brussels
	8	CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing “ESIF for Health”, Brussels
	19	EUREGHA General Assembly Meeting, Brussels
May	10	EUREGHA Roundtable on eHealth, Brussels
	23-25	International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC), Barcelona
	27	EUREGHA and Flanders presentation for Seoul Metropolitan Government, Brussels
	30-31	RegHealth-RI project workshop, Zagreb
June	9	Week of Innovative Regions and Cities (WIRE), Eindhoven
	15	CHRODIS Executive Board meeting, Brussels
	16	CoR Health Interregional Group Meeting “HSPA”, Brussels
	17	Meeting with Skane and Flanders, Brussels
	22	Meeting with EIP AHA B3 Group, Brussels
July	7	EUREGHA Meeting with South Denmark, Brussels
August		
September	14	Stakeholders’ Consultation on Cross-KET’s for Health and Care
	19	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
October	12	EUREGHA presentation to Tuscany Region, Brussels
	13	CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing “Active and Healthy Ageing”, Brussels
	13	EUREGHA Annual Conference Organisation Committee Meeting, Brussels
	20	RegHealth-RI Final Conference, Brussels
	26	SUNFRIL Steering Committee Meeting, Naples
	27	SUNFRIL Transnational Workshop, Naples

November	3	EIP AHA B3 Action Group meeting, Brussels
	10	EUREGHA Presentation for Skåne Association for Local Authorities
	15	World Pancreatic Cancer Day, European Parliament, Brussels
	16	Health Threats: Policies to counter risks to global health, Brussels
	16	EUREGHA Presentation for Norwegian Research Council
	17	Kick-off meeting of the Working Group cross-border health care
	18	EUREGHA welcomes the EC to discuss European Solidarity Corps Initiative
	22, 23, 24,25	Observing Twinning Activities (ScaleAHA Tender)
	24-25	ECIBC Plenary " When Science and Policy collaborate for Health" Varese, Italy
	28	JA-CHRODIS Workshop at the European Parliament
December	1	AER event "E-health: let's find a common language", Brussels
	2	EUREGHA Presentation for Region Östergötland, Brussels
	5	EU Health Policy Platform meeting
	6-7	Second European Summit on Digital Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	8	CoR Stakeholder Policy Exchange on own-initiative opinion, Brussels
	8	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting
	8	CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing, "eHealth", 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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 EUREGHA



Bringing regions together for better health