

MINUTES

EUREGHA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*14 March 2019
Melk, Lower Austria*

ATTENDANCE

BUSKERUD	Elisabeth Brodahl
CATALONIA (AQUAS)	César Velasco Muñoz
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	By proxy (Nick Batey)
FLANDERS	Solvejg Wallyn
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	Guillaume Westenbohm
LOWER AUSTRIA (HEALTHACROSS)	Julia Auer Elke Ledl Julia Winkler
ÖSTERGÖTLAND	Anna Lindberg Mats Ulfendahl
SCOTLAND	Donna Henderson Andrea Pavlickova
SKÅNE	Ylva Reisnert
TUSCANY	Teresa Vieri Marco Brintazzoli
VENETO	By proxy (Valentina Polylas)
VYSOČINA	Soňa Měrtlová Tomáš Singer Jan Skála
WALES	Nick Batey
EUREGHA SECRETARIAT	Valentina Polylas Gaia Ialisa Marotta Majda Chafoui

CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

EUREGHA Chair Nick Batey welcomed the participants to the 2019 EUREGHA General Assembly. He extended a special welcome to the new member, Buskerud, represented by Elisabeth Brodahl. He thanked Lower Austria for kindly hosting the General Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND OFFICIAL RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Operation manager, Valentina Polylas, informed that a new member has joined EUREGHA since the last General Assembly. The new member is Buskerud (NO).

The ratification of the new member was endorsed by the General Assembly.

Moreover, Mrs. Polylas continued informing the GA that GDD Limburg decided to step back as EUREGHA treasurer and member because of its involvement in new internal strategic projects at both regional and national level, thus resulting in significant workload. A withdrawal letter addressed to the Executive Board was sent by former Treasurer, Raymond Stijns, last 30th of October 2018. However, further to a meeting with Flanders, GDD Limburg underlined that the expected workload for the internal projects is changing, resulting in the possibility to reconsider their position within EUREGHA. For this reason, GDD asked for pausing the withdrawal letter sent in 2018. The final decision about GGD Limburg membership will be taken during the months to come.

ELECTIONS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The outgoing Executive Board members were:

- Toni Dedeu, Catalonia (ES)
- Donato Papini, Emilia Romagna (IT)
- Solvejg Wallyn, Flanders (BE)
- Elfriede Riesinger, Lower Austria (AU)
- Ylva Reinsnert, Skåne (SE)
- Raymond Stijns, South Limburg (NL)
- Katia Belvedere, Tuscany (IT)
- Nick Batey, Wales (UK)

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

The Operations Manager informed that the candidate Executive Board members were:

- César Velasco Muñoz, Catalonia (ES)
- Tbd Emilia-Romagna (IT)
- Solvejg Wallyn, Flanders (BE)
- Elfriede Riesinger, Lower Austria (AU)
- Mats Ulfendahl, Östergötland (SE)
- Andrea Pavlickova, Scotland (UK)
- Katia Belvedere, Tuscany (IT)
- Nick Batey, Wales (UK)

Emilia-Romagna submitted its candidacy for the new Executive Board as well, but, due to internal procedures, they were not able to provide a nominee for the elections. The name will be expressed in the upcoming weeks. The Chair asked to vote all the EB regional nominees, including the Emilia-Romagna.

The new Executive Board was endorsed by the General Assembly. As for Emilia-Romagna, the General Assembly expressed the need to receive the name of the nominee within the first EB meeting (10/04/2019) to allow the Secretariat to comply with the Belgian administration requirements in due time.

CHAIR

The Chair, Nick Batey, representing Wales, expressed his contentment for the past two-year mandate and resigned.

The resignation of Wales as Chair, represented by Nick Batey, was endorsed by the General Assembly.

The Operations manager informed that only Wales had volunteered to take on the role as Chair, therefore, Nick Batey, representing Wales, was the only candidate. The Members and the Secretariat expressed their satisfaction for Nick Batey's work as Chair.

The new Chair was endorsed by the General Assembly.

VICE-CHAIRS

The newly elected Chair stepped in and moderated the second part of the elections, he informed that the outgoing Vice Chairs were:

- Lower Austria (AU), represented by Elfriede Riesinger
- Catalonia (ES), represented by Toni Dedeu

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 only outgoing Vice Chairs had volunteered to take on the role. Therefore, the suggested new Vice-Chairs were:

- Lower Austria (AU), represented by Elfriede Riesinger
- Catalonia (ES), represented by César Velasco Muñoz

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

TREASURER

The Chair informed that nobody volunteered to take on the role as EUREGHA Treasurer and that it was imperative to elect a new Treasurer, since this is mandatory for a non-for-profit organisation according to Belgian law. 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 information at Executive Board and General Assembly meetings.

Scotland (UK), represented by Andrea Pavlickova, expressed its availability to take on the role as Treasurer.

The new Treasurer was endorsed by the General Assembly.

BUDGET

The Operations Manager , Ms. Polylas, gave an update about the 2018 budget, 2019 provisional budget and forecast up to 2022. Copies of all budget documents were distributed to the participants.

The Chair informed that he attended the 2018 budget closure meeting with the accountant in his capacity of *ad interim* Treasurer. Ms Polylas gave an overview of the 2018 budget and presented the closing of the accounts, prepared in cooperation with Cogitax (external accountant).

Ms Polylas outlined the incomes and charges for 2018:

- incomes amount to EUR 140,987.50 (31/12/2018)
- expenditures amount to EUR 125,264.63 (31/12/2018)
- profit amounts to EUR 15,721.87

Compared with 2017, in 2018 EUREGHA salaries were raised, since senior staff members were hired (both Operations Manager and Communications and Project Assistant).

On 31 December 2018, the network's bank accounts had the following results:

- Regular bank account: € 42,392.43 (31/12/2018)
- Saving account: € 112,795.01 (31/12/2018)

As of 31 December 2018, the total balance amounts to € 155.187,44 which is a positive result for the network. Overall, EUREGHA had a profit of EUR 15,721.87.

	Q4 2016	Q4 2017	Q4 2018
Income statement			
I. Income	136,670.42	117,893.69	140,986.50
A. Turnover	136,670.42	91,797.68	139,696.50
Membership fees	71,000.00	63,500.00	74,000.00
Subsidies	65,670.42	28,297.68	65,696.50
B. Other operating income	0.00	26,096.01	1,290.00
II. Charges	96,184.60	114,417.77	125,264.63
B. Services and other goods	25,421.54	15,305.38	25,469.97
Postal charges	7.40	85.79	78.07
Office supplies	1,251.67	1,936.82	1,195.32
Computer services	288.36	295.07	245.51
Accounting	2,439.64	2,531.32	2,933.04
Social accounting	2,334.36	3,161.27	2,555.76
Legal publications	0.00	260.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	474.05

Consultancy costs	7,989.98	1,107.56	11,250.00
Travel & accomodation	7,731.97	3,515.77	4,386.17
Meeting costs, lunches & dinners	3,378.16	2,411.78	2,352.05
C. Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	70,270.51	98,507.70	99,602.67
Extern	3,388.00	9,922.00	5,984.00
Intern	66,882.51	88,585.70	93,618.67
D. Depreciation, amounts written off	314.55	192.01	191.99
G. Other operating charges	178.00	412.68	0.00
Operational profit/loss	40,485.82	3,475.92	15,721.87
IV. Financial income	67.03	61.43	46.17
V. Financial charges	302.38	197.81	211.26
Profit/loss from the ordinary activities	40,250.47	3,339.54	15,556.78
Profit/loss of the financial year before taxes	40,250.47	3,339.54	15,556.78
PROFIT/LOSS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	40,250.47	3,339.54	15,556.78

Ms Polylas then introduced the 2019 provisional budget.

EUREGHA Provisional budget 01.01.2019 - 31.12.2019			
Final Accounts Line		Budget Post/Subjective Name	Annual Budget 2019
Income	Membership Fee	2019	€ 66,000.00
	Projects	Securex reimbursement	
		BOOST	€ 77,510.00
		EURIPHI	€ 5,850.00
	Account		€ 42,392.43
	Saving	Not included in the budget	€ 112,795.01
Total			€ 191,752.43
Expenditures	Salaries	Manager+Assistant	€ 109,142.00
		Consultant 2018	€ 2,475.00
		EXTRA Securex	€ 1,605.15
	Office expenses	Office Rent	€ 12,000.00
		Accountant	€ 3,141.23
		Aruba (website)	€ 153.60
		ING fee + card	€ 452.85
		Extra (missions etc)	€ 2,000.00
		General costs	€ 1,000.00
		Smartphone + contract for mobile phone	€ 800.00
	Promotion	Regular meetings costs (lunch briefs etc)	€ 1,000.00
		Printing and promotional materials	€ 500.00
	Projects	Conference/s	€ 2,000.00
		BOOST	€ 4,500.00
EURIPHI		€ 1,000.00	
Total			€ 141,769.83
Grand Total			

As for the incomes, membership fees amount to EUR 66.000; from the total budget of the BOOST project (EUR 235.000 to be spent over 4 years), EUREGHA will receive the second instalment of EUR 77,510.00; and from the budget of EURIPHI EUREGHA already received EUR 5.850.

2019 provisional budget is slightly higher compare to 2018, since there will be a new budget headline and expenditure “office rent”.

According to the budget forecasts presented at the GA, from 2023, if new members do not join the network, the budget will not be sustainable anymore. For this reason, it is fundamental to work on new membership.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
EUREGHA					
Forecast budget					
Fees	68492.83	66000	66000	66000	66000
Membership support	5500				
Securex reimbursement	3219.06				
BOOST	112390	77510		7751	34880
EURIPHI		5850	17050		
SUNFRAIL (end 2018)	12378.24				
JA CHRODIS (end 2017)	6526.53				
Transfer from Savings					
Account	16062.18	42392.43			
Savings	47721.68	112795.01			
Total	272290.52	304547.44	83050	73751	100880
Budget Forecast	132624.35	141769.83			
Actual expenses	118915				
Saved	13709.35				
Balance	153375.52				

EUREGHA Chair Nick Batey stressed the fact that it is important to engage in new projects bringing an income to the network. However, EUREGHA is not a project office but a network of regional and local authorities. For this reason, the Chair highlighted that our preference, historically and strategically, has always been membership. Therefore, it is essential to continue pushing for increased membership, keeping in mind that EUREGHA is not a huge organisation.

EUREGHA Vice-Chair César Velasco Muñoz suggested creating a specific budget to invest in new membership. A specific budget for improving and facilitating membership will help the network to grow because this will give our organization more capacity for recruitment.

The General Assembly endorsed the closure of the budget 2018. The Chair, Vice-Chairs, Treasurer and the Executive Board were discharged of the responsibility for the activities of 2018.

The General Assembly approved the proposed budget for 2019.

The General Assembly agreed on the creation of a specific budget to be allocated for a membership strategy.

AMENDMENTS OF THE STATUTES

The Operations Manager presented the following amendments to the Statutes:

- The headquarters of the association are now located in Rond Point Robert Schuman 11 1040
- Referring to Europe (whereas Europe stands for WHO Europe regions geographical extension) instead of EU and EFTA.
- Creation of new membership categories:
 1. Associate: in this category members pay a lower fee, they cannot vote at the GA and they cannot participate in the Executive Board. The amount of the fee needs to be discussed.
 2. Observer: in this category members can cover an observatory role for a duration of 6 months, they can participate in the GA and the Executive Board, but they cannot vote in the GA.
 3. Honorary Members: this category will include members who decided to leave our Network but with whom we still work with. They do not pay any fee. EUREGHA can benefit from their knowledge and their contacts.

The General Assembly agreed on the officialisation of the 3 categories: full, associate and observer.

The General Assembly decided that the first category (Associate) will be accessible to NGOs and associations dealing with health on a regional or local level. These two requirements (regional dimension and health focus) have to be specified in the Statute.

The Executive Board will evaluate applications of the different associations and NGOs that would like to join our network and it will decide whether or not to accept them. The GA agreed on the fact that EUR 5000 is an affordable fee for a region. The Chair pointed out that a huge discount for

Associate members will undervalue our organization. The General Assembly agreed that the fee for the Associate category will be EUR 1000. No Regions can apply for Associate member category.

The General Assembly approved the amendments of the Statute.

PRESENTATION OF BUSKERUD

Elisabeth Brodahl, Project Manager, gave a presentation about Buskerud (NO).

Due to the ongoing regional reform in Norway, Buskerud together with Akershus and Østfold will form a new region named Viken County Council. The county will be Norway's largest in terms of population, with 1.2 million residents. This new county structure will facilitate positive social development in all parts of Norway on the basis of regional advantages, qualifications and priorities. In turn, this will lead to coordinated solutions for functions.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN NORWAY

The new Public Health Act was introduced in Norway on 1 January 2012, and it shall ensure that municipalities, county authorities and central government health authorities implement measures and coordinate their activities in the area of public health, in a proper and sufficient manner.

Public Health service in Norway is funded through taxes, and it provides equal access for everybody.

The hospitals are owned by the state and organised as hospital trusts. There are 29 hospital trusts (among them there is also Vestre Viken Hospital Trust), and four regional health authorities.

The municipalities are responsible for the primary healthcare service (422 municipalities), and all inhabitants who are registered in the National Registry as a resident in a municipality is entitled to a General Practitioner (GP)/family doctor. Private healthcare service is part of the public healthcare service, funded through the state and the municipalities.

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

- Involve all sectors ,through the municipalities , for the promotion of public health and not just the health sector
- Emphasise work and political focus on public health
- Equality perspective in health

- Preventive perspective
- Focus Areas: mental health and well-being, physical activity, access to the good local environment and healthy food/nutrition (BOOST project)
- Share knowledge and best-practises with European partners

PRESENTATION OF 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Operations Manager, Ms. Polylas, showed the 2018 Activity Report that will be shared with all the members. The activity report will be published and distributed to all the stakeholders in Brussels and elsewhere. The Chair highlighted that it was an intense year, but also very rewarding thanks to the work done by the Secretariat.

PRESENTATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF EUREGHA 2019 WORK PROGRAMME

Ms Polylas presented the EUREGHA Work Programme 2019, which had been circulated to all members.

EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES 2019

During the European Week of Regions and Cities, EUREGHA will organise a significant event in collaboration with the WHO, the Committee of the Regions and DG SANTE. Since there will not be a new Commissioner for Health at that time, EUREGHA Secretariat decided to push more with WHO to have an institutional perspective. The event will be organised as EUREGHA but also as the Secretariat of the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing (IGHW). EUREGHA will submit a proposal for this conference by the end of March, and the topic will be health promotion and prevention. The topic has been decided in the CoR IRGHW but it is in line with what EUREGHA is working on, and it is also a priority for most of EUREGHA members. There will be two panels: the institutional panel and the best practices panel. EUREGHA has already a dialogue with the institutions (CoR, WHO, DG SANTE) with whom we will draft the programme of the event. Since EUREGHA will have a spot during the conference, we will ask our members for contributions in terms of good practices and speakers.

CROWDFUNDING FOR HEALTH

EUREGHA would like to explore together with the European Crowdfunding Network, how to combine health with alternative sources of funding. Since there is this strong dimension on citizens in crowdfunding and health prevention and promotion, the use of crowdfunding to launch a health prevention and promotion campaign will be further investigated. This will be something to brainstorm with our members, with the European Crowdfunding Network and with DG SANTE.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

EUREGHA has been invited to participate in EFPIA's think tank that will be held on the 25th of March. EFPIA will try to align all relevant stakeholders on the two questions that the Commission asked to the WG on Value-Based healthcare of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health.

On the 10th of April, EUREGHA will organise an event on Value-Based healthcare hosted by Tuscany Region, will take place. The event is a follow up of the last EU Health Summit. The scope is to have a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Value-Based healthcare. Among the participants, there will be EFPIA, Medtech Europe, European Patients' Forum, European Union of private hospitals, Digestive Cancer Europe, and EUREGHA with our Chair Nick Batey. We have also invited experts from Wales to kick off the debate and to describe a successful case study. The idea is to present the recommendations resulted from the last EU Health Summit since some of them tackle outcomes measurement and Value-Based healthcare approach. EUREGHA will work to ensure the participation of speakers from the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health.

The Chair stressed the fact that, as health authorities, we need to be more prepared and proactively engaged in Value-Based healthcare debate.

CoR INTERGROUP ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING: 2019 MEETINGS

The Secretariat presented the themes for the meetings of the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing for 2019. The four sessions in 2019 are as follows:

- 11th of April "Value-based healthcare in Europe: challenges and opportunities"
- 17th of June (informale meeting) Active and healthy Aging
- 26th of June "Healthcare in cross-border regions"
- 9th of October "Health promotion and prevention" join event with WHO Europe, CoR NAT Commission
- 5th of December "Health inequalities"

During the CoR IGHW on Value-Based healthcare that will be held on the 11th of April, EUREGHA will try to replicate on a smaller scale the event from the 10th of April, since the audience will be completely different. In this case, we will meet the representatives of the regions and political representatives.

EUREGHA has also been invited to participate in a conference on cross-border healthcare. The meeting will be held on the 26th, 27th and 28th of June and it will be organised by the CoR, the WHO, Regions for Health Network, euPrevent. This conference will take place in different cities (Maastricht, Liege and Achen). Different border regions have been invited as well. Ms Polylas underlined that this invitation represents a good result for our organisation as this will be one of the majors WHO's conferences. Therefore, the idea is to have the 26th in the morning the meeting with the representative of the CoR, then to have EUREGHA Executive Board and then participate to the CoR and WHO RHN event on cross-border cooperation that will be held in Maastricht, Liege, Aachen. The Secretariat will share the programme of the conference as soon as it is available

MENTAL HEALTH

As a commitment of the BOOST project, EUREGHA is supposed to organise an event in September on mental health to promote the outcomes reached so far. Since Boost is a project with the aim of instructing teachers on how to take care of social and emotional learning skills, this will also be a conference with an educational component. The idea is to have a dialogue with education stakeholders in Brussels (e. g. European Schoolnet, Lifelong Learning Platform) to create a positive spill over in other sectors.

DATES OF THE EB

There has been a change in the calendar: the Executive Board of 11th of April will take place the 10th of April (from 11 to 12.30 a.m.) because EUREGHA has been invited to participate as an observer during the workshop of an important project called TOREACH, coordinated by Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS). It is an H2020 coordination support action, and the idea is to use this pilot action to create a future programme within Horizon Europe dedicated to the reform of the health system in Europe. It will be strategic for EUREGHA to participate. At the moment, the project is only at the national level, but the Commission suggested to the Consortium who compose TOREACH, to also get in touch with regions. Since it would be premature to invite the Executive Board, only Ms Valentina Polylas will attend the meeting as an observer, and she will report to EUREGHA's members the outcomes of this first workshop.

POLICY CYCLES

The policy cycles' topics of 2019 are: Value-Based health care (January-June) and eHealth (July-December). In view of the next policy cycle (eHealth), the Secretariat is working on data collection to create comparable regional factsheets. Ms Polylas asked EUREGHA's members to cooperate with the Secretariat in order to finalise these regional factsheets, as soon as possible. Flanders stated that reports are always done at a national level and they do not show reality, for this reason, data collection at a regional level is fundamental, and Catalonia offered to help the Secretariat in data visualisation in the future.

INFO-FLASHES

Catalonia raised the question regarding the frequency of info-flashes which until now have been sent weekly. Catalonia and other members think that it is too frequent to be shared with their stakeholders and for this reason, they propose to start receiving info-flashes biweekly.

The General Assembly agreed with this proposition.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

The Secretariat gave an update on past and upcoming activities in relation to the European projects:

BOOST (ON-GOING):

As 2019 will be the second year of the project, EUREGHA will have several tasks to carry out. Firstly, EUREGHA will continue managing social media, and creating and disseminating two project newsletters (February and October). Secondly, EUREGHA will participate in the second project meeting in Poznan (6-8 May) and will take care of the communication about the meeting. Thirdly, EUREGHA will be in charge of organising a conference in Brussels, planned for September.

EURIPHI (ON-GOING)

EURIPHI was launched in January 2019. Through the EURIPHI project, Public Procurement Organisations (PPOs) involved in different Public Procurement Innovation (PPI) and/or Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP), are teaming up around a novel approach of Value-Based Procurement (VBP), joined by national/regional procurement organisations and service providers

with a common vision: developing a Value-Based Procurement of innovative solutions to enable the transformation of health and social care delivery. Benefits for EUREGHA members:

- Be informed of the latest innovation partnerships – innovation procurement initiatives leading to advantageous economic value-driven purchasing
- Opportunity to share and use the latest insights in policy development and initiatives of participating regions/institutions and the EU.
- Discuss cross-border collaborative cooperation, identifying possible clusters of common shortcomings/unmet needs for future PPI Calls – EU Calls

Ms Polylas briefly presented the project's expected workload, the expected commitment and the planned meetings.

Lastly, Ms Polylas informed the General Assembly that the iProTeach project proposal (H2020 SC1-BHC-22-2019) was not awarded.

The EUREGHA Work Programme 2019 was endorsed by the General Assembly.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Tuscany claims that the new position of Observer could boost membership because it will show the benefits that a full membership can provide.
- Catalonia affirmed that we need to focus on marketing: What can a member get from being part of this network? And on visibility: How can we improve the visibility of EUREGHA in the events we attend as regions or local authorities?
- Ms Polylas said that the Secretariat could provide material about our network and our activities to EUREGHA members when they participate in events, in this way it will be easier to promote the organisation. Member regions and local authorities should cover a double role when they attend conferences and meetings, the first as representatives of their region and the second as members of EUREGHA.
- Catalonia suggested inviting Ms Polylas to some of the international events to which member regions decide to attend. During these events, it would be useful to introduce Ms Polylas to other stakeholders throughout informal dinners and coffee breaks, in this way Ms

Polylas can get in touch with different stakeholders and inform them about our network and our activities. Medtech Forum will be a good chance to try this approach and see what results we can get from it.

- Flanders pointed out that there are scholarships available for young people who want to attend these (expensive) international events. (ex GASTEIN)
- Ms Polylas reminded all members that they can look for the Secretariat every time they need help for communication and dissemination tasks.
- Skane and Buskerud suggested creating a brief PowerPoint presentation of EUREGHA (2 or 3 slides) summing up the benefits of being part of our network. This presentation can be used every time members want to present or propose EUREGHA as a collaborator.

AOB

NEW PROJECTS

DEICAP - Digital Ecosystems for Integrated Care of an Ageing Population (call SC1-DT11 deadline proposal 24/04). In the context of an ageing population with a strong risk for senior people of cognitive impairment, the project proposal aims to develop ICT-based interventions, personalized on the basis of the user's emotional and physical status, as well as their cognitive skills and preferences, with the potential of coaching and training cognitive, physical and social capabilities.

After an in-depth review of technologies and solutions, the Consortium will provide a new pilot solution. In this context, EUREGHA will lead the Work Package on Dissemination and Communication, thanks to its extensive contact network in Brussels.

NEXT GA? WHERE?

Ms Polylas asked if someone is willing to host our next General Assembly. To date, only Buskerud has confirmed their unavailability. The Secretariat will again ask for volunteers.

The General Assembly agreed to structure the next GA as the present one, therefore including study visits.