

ATTENDANCE

SKÅNE	Mikaela Nordenfelt
LOWER AUSTRIA	Carina Kainz
CATALUNYA	Toni Dedeu Marta Gallardo
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND	Robert Sinclair Isabel Poli
VENETO	Massimo Mirandola Sabrina Montante Elena Val
FLANDERS	Solvejg Wallyn
NORTH OF ENGLAND	David Ritchie
PODLASKIE	Michal Szczepura
VYSOCINA	Aneta Trpakova
EAST OF ENGLAND	Sarah Murray
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	Antonio Addis Aki Ishiwa
EUREGHA	Ingrid Jansson Kirsten Currie
LANGUEDOC- ROUSSILLON	<i>via Catalonia proxy</i>

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair, Mikaela Nordenfelt, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mikaela proceeded with explaining that the meeting was an extraordinary General Assembly, with the original aim to deal with administrative issues, but that the agenda had grown to include more matters than just administrative issues. Mikaela also mentioned that the next General Assembly will be held in June.

A presentation round was held where all attendees briefly presented themselves.

2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Secretariat presented the two new members that have recently joined EUREGHA; Emilia-Romagna and Languedoc-Roussillon. East of England has also recently paid the membership fee and has hence, joined EUREGHA anew. The three members were ratified by all present members unanimously.

The Secretariat also presented the regions that have shown particular interest in EUREGHA. The regions are; Scotland (UK), Tuscany (IT), Silesia Voivodeship (PL), Warmia-Mazury (PL), Pomorskie (PL), Basque Countries (ES) and Northern Ireland (UK).

Following conversations with Toni Dedeu and George Crooks, the Secretariat has sent the membership information and application forms to Scotland.

3. VOTING

Since all members are present or represented, the Assembly can decide and vote as follows. The first matter that the General Assembly needed to vote on concerned the election of a new Chair of EUREGHA. The current Chair, Mikaela Nordenfelt, presented her reasons for resigning with the main reason being that she had agreed on taking on the position of Chair for an interim period and that the interim period now was over. All present members unanimously endorsed the resignation of Mikaela Nordenfelt as Chair.

The candidate to take over the position as Chair, Toni Dedeu of Catalonia, presented his reasons for taking over as Chair. Toni also presented Marta Gallardo who will be Catalonia's Brussels based representative to EUREGHA. The question was raised if the members wanted to put forward another candidate to the election of the new Chair but no alternative candidate was put forward. All present members unanimously elected Toni Dedeu the new Chair of EUREGHA for the period 2013 – 2014, until the Annual General Assembly of 2014.

The second matter that the General Assembly needed to vote on concerned the election of a new Treasurer of EUREGHA. The current Treasurer, Toni Dedeu, presented his reasons for resigning with the main reason being that he will instead assume the role of Chair. All present members unanimously endorsed the resignation of Toni Dedeu as Treasurer.

The candidate to take over the position as Treasurer, David Ritchie of North of England, was presented. The question was raised if the members wanted to put forward another candidate to the election of the new Treasurer but no alternative candidate was put forward. All present members unanimously elected David Ritchie the new Treasurer of EUREGHA for the period 2013 – 2014, until the Annual General Assembly of 2014.

The third matter that the General Assembly needed to vote on concerned the resignation of Paul Laffin of East of England as Vice Chair of EUREGHA. The Secretariat explained that the statutes specify that there should only be two Vice Chairs and since Lower Austria and Flanders will remain Vice Chairs, Paul Laffin does not need to be replaced as Vice Chair. All present members unanimously endorsed the resignation of Paul Laffin as Vice Chair.

The fourth matter that the General Assembly needed to vote on concerned the composition of the Executive Board. East of England has resigned from the Executive Board and it thereby is composed of 8 members. As 10 is the maximum number of members that can be on the Executive Board there were two vacant positions. The present members that do not already have a seat on the Executive Board were asked whether or not they would be interested in joining. Emilia-Romagna expressed an interest to join the Executive Board. All present members unanimously endorsed the election of Emilia-Romagna to the Executive Board, until the Annual General Assembly of 2014.

4. CONFIRMATION OF HEADQUARTERS' ADDRESS

The Secretariat confirmed the EUREGHA's new address to be:

EUREGHA
Rue du Luxembourg 3
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium

5. CLOSURE OF BUDGET 2012 AND APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2013

The former Treasurer, Toni Dedeu, presented the latest updates on the EUREGHA budget.

Firstly, Toni presented the 2012 budget. The closure of the 2012 budget has been prepared by Quentin Berryer of Cogitax SPRL. The cost of the accountant for 2012 is €2420. Lower Austria was also thanked for having provided €800 extra to create a new EUREGHA website and all present members agreed on that Lower Austria should be reimbursed for this as soon as possible. The income of 2012 amounted to €47,819.20 and the expenses amounted to €39,150.23 which results in a balance of €8668.97. All present members unanimously approved the closure of the 2012 budget. For more detailed information on the 2012 budget, please see Table 1 below.

Table 1 EUREGHA Budget 2012

2012	INCOME		EXPENSES
JAN/FEB			
MARCH	07/03 LOWER AUST	EUR 5 000	
	12/03 SKANE	EUR 5 000	
	20/03 VASTRA G	EUR 5 000	
	25/03 CATALUNYA	EUR 5 000	
	30/03 FLANDERS	EUR 5 000	
APRIL			EUR 7 577,08
MAY	16/05 PODLASKIE	EUR 5 000	EUR 4 188,5
JUNE			EUR 5 419,98
JULY	11/07 German Speak BE	EUR 1 000	EUR 3 898,31
	20/07 NORTH WEST ENGLAND	EUR 5 000	
	31/07 Extra fee NOGUS:	EUR 800	
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER	13/09 VENETO	EUR 5 000	EUR 10 758,64
OCTOBER	19/10 SECUREX (Refund)	EUR 400	EUR 326,54
	26/10 VYSOCINA	EUR 5 000	
NOVEMBER			EUR 2 709,34
DECEMBER	11/12 Interfiduciarie (Refund)	EUR 612,56	EUR 4 291,84
	SECUREX	EUR 6,62	
BALANCE	INCOME	EUR 47 819,20	EXPENSES EUR 39 150,23
BALANCE EUR + 8 668,97			



Secondly, Toni presented the proposed budget for 2013. The total projected incomes amounts to €61,000 (based on that all 13 full members have paid the Membership Fee for 2013 à €5000). The projected expenses amount to €55,900 which would give a balance of €5100. For more detailed information on the 2013 budget, please see Table 2 below.

Table 2 EUREGHA Budget 2013

2013 BUDGET: PROJECTIONS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Membership fees			
1. LOWER AUSTRIA	EUR 5000	A. Secretaryat salary costs (2.700 gross – 1.670 net)	EUR 45300
2. SKANE	EUR 5000	B. Securex: management and employee related insurance (avarage)	EUR 500
3. VASTRA-GOTALAND	EUR 5000	D. Stagiare extension Jan-June	EUR 4800
4. CATALUNYA	EUR 5000	E. Stagiare transport: Jan-Jue:	EUR 800
5. FLANDERS	EUR 5000	F. Secretariat Office Expenses	EUR 500
6. PODLASKIE:	EUR 5000	G. EUREGHA PREMISES	EUR 500
7. GERMAN SPEAKING BE	EUR 1000	G. Promotional material	EUR 500
8. NORTH OF ENGLAND	EUR 5000	H. ACTIVITIES : Catering and venues	EUR 500
9. VENETO	EUR 5000	I. Accountant	EUR 2500
10. VYSOCINA	EUR 5000		
11. EMILIA-ROMAGNA	EUR 5000		
12. LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON	EUR 5000		
13. EAST OF ENGLAND	EUR 5000		
INCOME	EURO 61.000	EXPENSES	EURO 55.900
Balance: EURO +5.100			

The issue was raised that East of England paid their membership fee in Sterling Pounds which has created difficulties with the exchange rates. Sarah Murray informed the General Assembly that EUREGHA should ask the bank to automatically transfer Pounds to Euros and then this issue will no longer be a problem. Toni raised the question that EUREGHA needs to discuss the staff situation as Kirsten's contract ends the end of June. Mikaela argued that there is an enormous added value to having two persons working for the Secretariat and that it would be good to hire another trainee from September. David then raised the question that EUREGHA needs to build up a capital reserve and it was agreed that the accountant should be advised on this matter. Toni also argued that the aim of 2013 – 2014 should be to make EUREGHA a stable association and to recruit new members. Finally, all present members unanimously approved the proposed 2013 budget.

Thirdly, all present members unanimously agreed on discharging the Chair, Treasurer and the Executive Board for the activities of 2012.

--- COFFEE BREAK ---

6. PRESENTATION: EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Antonio Addis from Emilia-Romagna gave a presentation introducing themselves as a new Full member region, as well as describing one of their main areas of interest in healthcare - "*Better Research for Better Health.*" This is a unique model to this region - the same model is not used throughout Italy - and a priority for Emilia-Romagna as they believe a governance of better health will be achieved by research. Research and Development (R&D) is now a core part of regional health law and they work in close collaboration with the Regional universities in order to improve quality

and sustainability. It is hoped to improve on the low proportion of studies that lead to concrete overall survival data, that can be used "straight from benchmark to practice." It is currently unknown exactly how research findings should be put back into policy, but further research should help to identify this.

Mr. Addis explained how clinical research has been identified as a priority, and went on to describe the assessment and budget processes of projects, how they are monitored, and how they are now starting to look closely at the 'payback' of this research to the regional health services - how the results can be transformed into healthcare in the regions. Following questions from the floor, Mr. Addis explained that the role of centres was independent, but that the role of Emilia-Romagna is to the regional Ministry of Health.

Following the presentation, attendees discussed how this could be used by EUREGHA, with one suggestion that members could share their regions' structure for research, or another that we could look into the process that Emilia-Romagna went through to create this model - how they built connections within the region for example - and how these processes can be applied in general to other regions.

7. GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JUNE

The date and venue were confirmed - the next General Assembly will be held on Wednesday 5th June, at the office of the Delegation of Catalonia to the EU, Brussels. The aim is to hold this General Assembly to run in line with the EPAAC Workshop (4th June) and a proposed Cross-Border Experts Roundtable (4th June *TBC*). It was also confirmed that the Organisation Committee, for both the GA and the High Level Conference, will consist of the Secretariat, Mikaela Nordenfelt (Skåne), Solvejg Wallyn (Flanders) and Aki Ishiwa (Emilia-Romagna). Marta Gallardo from the Brussels office for Catalonia will be copied into all correspondence.

8. HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE - JUNE

'Joint Actions' was confirmed as the theme for the proposed High Level Conference, as it is clear that there will be plenty of areas within this theme to lead to a productive conference. For example, as well as an informative presentation on what Joint Actions are in general, other suggested ideas include inviting Permanent Representations to discuss the relationship with Member States and Joint Actions, discussing the Joint Actions that EUREGHA is involved in and bringing in external speakers. The planning of this will now commence following no objections to the theme by the General Assembly.

9. ACTIVITIES UPDATE

9.1 Joint Actions

It was confirmed that EUREGHA has just completed the process of becoming an Associated Partner for the Joint Action on Chronic Diseases (JA-CRODIS).

Here followed a discussion about how to approach future Joint Actions, and other projects. It was suggested that EUREGHA establishes a work plan and a practical process, with the financial side of the process raised as a key issue, and how we commit the resources of EUREGHA, and of the member regions.

It was also confirmed by the Secretariat that a more structured plan has been put in place now for partner searches, and how they are disseminated. From now on, if the Secretariat receives a partner search from an organisation within a member region, they will first contact the member region for more information. Any partner searches that are then disseminated will also follow a particular template to ensure that all relevant information is clearly presented. A strategy now needs to be drafted by the Secretariat in order to deal with partner searches that come from outside member regions. In order to do this, they will need to establish some key priorities of the member regions. Developing a proposal for a similar strategical approach to Joint Actions and other projects is now also needed.

9.2 Working Streams

Each of the Working Stream (WS) leaders gave a brief update on their recent and upcoming activities.

Cancer

David Ritchie (North of England) explained that the contact database for the WS on Cancer has been updated, and a newsletter was distributed to this list in February. This contact list however still needs to be enhanced and this will be done in the near future. Most of the activities stated on the 'Table of Activities' have now been completed. A short meeting of the WS will be held on 4th June, alongside the third EPAAC workshop that same day, where a fourth workshop will be proposed.

eHealth

Toni Dedeu (Catalonia) reminded members that the eHealth WS still requires a new leader, as he is also leading the Integrated Care WS, and now has the role of Chair too. If no-one can volunteer to lead this WS, the suggestion was then made to perhaps combine it with another area. The most recent meeting was in September 2012 and the WS should now go back to what was said at this meeting. Other priorities include greater involvement in eHealth events, most particularly eHealth Week (13-15th May, Dublin). It was asked if any other regions are going to eHealth Week, so that it can be established whether EUREGHA will be represented in any way. Another priority is to seek early access to ICT-related funding opportunities. Toni also confirmed that, following the resignation of Professor Alan Barrell from East of England region as the representative of EUREGHA at the European Commission eHealth Stakeholder Group, the network now has two new representatives - Mr. Marius Feszler from Podlaskie Region as the primary representative, and Mr. Francesc García Cuyàs from Catalonia Region as the alternate representative.

Integrated Care

Toni Dedeu also leads the WS on Integrated Care, and updated the members that this is a relatively new WS that was created following a lot of European Commission focus on Chronic diseases, but not wanting to limit only to Chronic Care. The Action Plan of this WS will align with that of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) B3 Action Group on Integrated Care, in which EUREGHA is involved. It was asked if EUREGHA should be presented by more people than

just the Secretariat, as EUREGHA has made several commitments to the activities of this group. As leader of this WS, Toni Dedeu is also participating in other events in the name of EUREGHA, for example the International Conference on Integrated Care in Berlin (April 2013).

Cross-Border Healthcare

Carina Kainz (Lower Austria) updated members that they will be aiming to organise workshops, in particular a roundtable discussion this summer where regional experts can exchange views. It is hoped that this discussion will raise issues that different regions face in the implementation of the Cross-Border Patients' Rights Directive. Carina also wanted to address the idea that many Cross-Border issues do relate to eHealth, as well as highlight an upcoming meeting with HOPE, and the HoNCAB project, information for which shall be published soon.

Mental Health

Isabel Poli (West Sweden/Västra Götaland), leader of the WS on Mental Health, was not able to attend the meeting at this exact point, but gave this update later on in the afternoon.

The activities of this WS are limited only to those of the EUREGENAS project on mental health and suicide prevention. At an upcoming European Conference, prevention packages that EUREGENAS have been developing, will be presented. The development of all these packages has been based on local needs, via questionnaires and assessment. Isabel also presented the newly updated EUREGENAS website, and explained a little about the 'Online Library'. This library is a comprehensive collection of literature reviews and best practices, and will be used as a basis for many EUREGENAS projects. On the website, it is also possible to sign up to the EUREGENAS newsletter.

Massimo Mirandola (Veneto) updated on the Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-Being, to which EUREGHA is a Collaborating Partner. This Joint Action has recently been launched, and the kick-off meetings were held Monday 18th - Tuesday 19th March 2013.

9.3 European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA)

The Secretariat confirmed what had been said by Toni Dedeu that EUREGHA has made several commitments to the B3 Action Group on Integrated Care. To expand on this, the Secretariat explained that EUREGHA will mostly be involved in the Action Area on Organisational Models and the process of mapping different models. The network will be responsible for organising two workshops and assisting with the collection of questionnaire data. As part of another Action Area, EUREGHA will extend its monitoring of funding opportunities. More information on how these commitments will proceed will be decided by the Action Area Co-ordinators, who were to meet at the end of the week.

9.4 Policy Briefings

The Secretariat highlighted the topics of the first two Policy Briefings - the Tobacco Products Directive (February) and the Social Investment Package 'Investing in Health' (March). The proposed topic for the April Policy Briefing is the eHealth Action Plan. A date and venue need to be confirmed. There is no proposed topic for May, so this is open to members' suggestions. It is proposed to hold the Cross-Border Experts Roundtable as the June Policy Briefing (04/06/2013).

9.5 Lunch Briefings

The Secretariat updated members that (at the time of the GA) 17 regions had signed up to the "Introducing EUREGHA" Lunch Briefing on Friday 5th April at the Skåne European Office. Another

planned Lunch Briefing will be a presentation on the health priorities of the upcoming Lithuanian Presidency. This will be held in June (date TBC), and members were asked if any of them could provide a venue for this. Members were also reminded that the concept of a Lunch Briefing is open for any member to use for any topic they may wish to discuss or present. The Secretariat can always be contacted for support should a member wish to organise a Lunch Briefing, but it does not have to be their original initiative - it is open for all to use as a tool.

9.6 Atypical Traineeships

Mikaela Nordenfelt explained that although no EUREGHA members were able to send an expert on an Atypical Traineeship on the subject of Structural Funds in health, EUREGHA will still continue in its role as a facilitator in this process. If an opportunity to send an expert this way arises in DG SANCO, EUREGHA will inform all Full members. The concern was raised that in the current economic climate, the possibility of sending an expert to the European Commission would be limited financially, as the sending organisation would be required to cover the remuneration. This was agreed as an important issue, however, EUREGHA can still provide the information to members, and they are free to respond or not. Should there be a region that does wish to send an expert, they have the opportunity to do so. It was also suggested that regions could find out what procedures they might have to go through, should they want to send an expert to the European Commission in the future.

9.7 eHealth Stakeholder Group

As previously mentioned by Toni Dedeu, the Secretariat confirmed the two new EUREGHA representatives at the eHealth Stakeholder Group. It was confirmed that currently, both representatives are in the process of creating a data profile with the European Commission. It was questioned whether or not both representatives are to attend meetings, and therefore both reimbursed for travel costs, or if the primary representative must attend, and the alternate representative only when Mr. Feszler is unavailable. The Secretariat will look into reimbursement regulations for the next meeting, due to be held on 15th May, during eHealth Week in Dublin.

9.8 Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health

David Ritchie and the Secretariat informed all members that the next CoR Interregional Group meeting will be on Friday 12th April. This meeting will not be specifically themed, but will discuss mandatory processes, updates, and seek endorsement from the new NAT Commission. Planned activities were mentioned, including the workshop on Health as a Determinant for Growth (26/03/2013) which has been organised by Dave Wilcox, Chair of the Interregional Group. Future topics are open for EUREGHA members to shape. One example given was the Green Paper on mHealth. Another was the involvement in the European Health Policy Forum of regions.

9.9 Open Days

Although the deadline to apply as a regional partnership passed on 06/03/2013, organising a fringe event is still an option for EUREGHA. This idea was opened up for discussion in order to establish whether there is interest from members in doing so. It was explained that there is no deadline for the organisation of a fringe event, as it would be done independently by EUREGHA. If an event is organised, it is possible to apply to feature in the web-based programme for the Open Days week. Questions were raised as to who EUREGHA would invite to speak, whether or not it would be

organised individually or with another network should they too be looking to hold an event on health. It was decided to think about this now and wait until the official programme has been published (expected 05/04/2013).

10. OTHER

10.1 Newsletter

The suggestion was recently made by the Secretariat to not only continue producing the monthly newsletter for the members, with tailored health-related policy and EU news, but to create a separate, public edition that would promote the activities of EUREGHA. It is thought that this 'EUREGHA News' edition could be published quarterly on the EUREGHA website and sent to the Platform members. There were no objections to this suggestion and it received positive feedback as a useful tool for the membership drive.

10.2 'MPI_AGE' Project

It was confirmed to all members that EUREGHA is participating in a project proposal under the Health Programme as a Collaborating Partner. The project is called '*Using Multidimensional Prognostic Index (MPI) to improve the cost-effectiveness of interventions in frail older persons with multi morbidity (MPI_AGE)*'. The deadline for all project proposals under the Health Programme was the following day (22/03/2013), so we are therefore waiting to hear the outcome of this submission.

10.3 Promotional meetings

The Secretariat informed the members of promotional meetings that have been organised with interested, potential member regions. The morning before the GA (21/03/2013) a presentation was given to a delegation from South Denmark. Other upcoming promotional meetings include a presentation to Warmia-Mazury region of Poland (25/03/2013) and participation in a meeting with Pomorskie region, also of Poland (10/04/2013). It was also highlighted that these meetings have been arranged following requests from these regions for more information about EUREGHA.

END OF MEETING