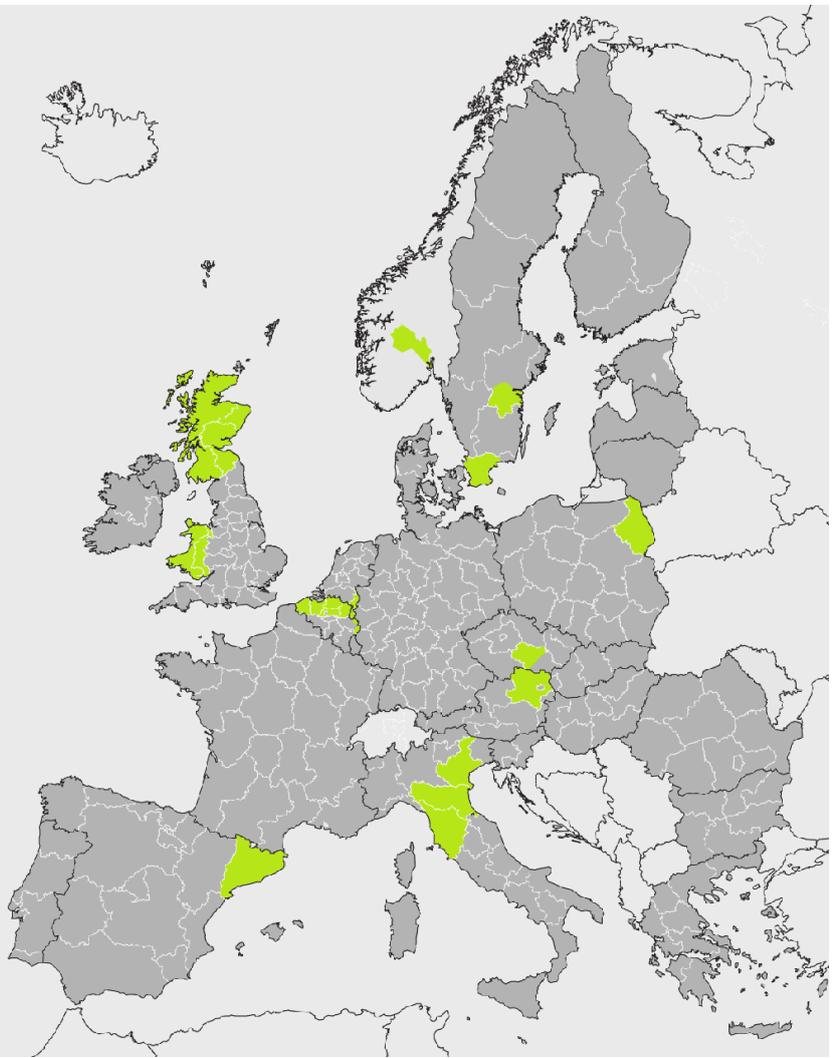


EUREGHA'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

General Assembly 2016



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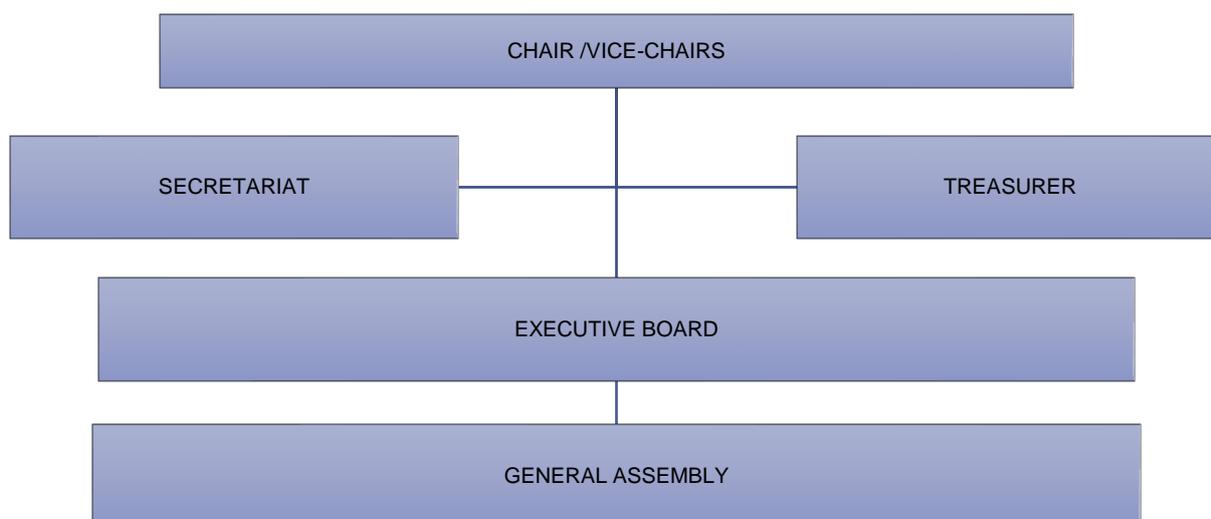
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INTRODUCTION

Below you can find the EUREGHA Activity Report for 2015. It highlights the key activities and commitments that EUREGHA participated in during 2015. 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.

STRUCTURE OF EUREGHA



During 2015, Scotland continued to act as Chair of EUREGHA, and Region Skåne and Lower Austria as Vice Chairs. The position of Treasurer was held by North of England European Health Partnership (NEEHP) until July, and as they resigned the position was held by the Secretariat for the remaining part of the year. The Executive Board remained the same with Catalonia, Emilia Romagna, Flanders, Lower Austria, Scotland, NEEHP (until July), Skåne, Veneto, Västra Götaland and Tuscany.

In May, the capacity of the Secretariat was increased through the employment of a Communications and Membership Officer in addition to the Operations Manager.

CORE ACTIVITIES

1. MEMBERSHIP

During 2015 - 2016, EUREGHA began the process of welcoming two new members, Wales and Liverpool. As the funding ceased for NEEHP in July they withdrew as members.

Over the year, the Secretariat held several promotional meetings with regions interested in EUREGHA: Region Småland-Blekinge (SE), Stockholm Region (SE), Valencia Region (ES), East Sweden (SE), Wales

(UK) and Copenhagen Region (DK). The Secretariat has also held several presentations for groups visiting the members in Brussels, for instance for Västra Götaland Region and Region Skåne.

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

There were three Executive Board meetings during 2015: in January, April and September. The meetings took place in Brussels.

In January, the meeting focused on discussing the Work Programme for 2015-2017 which was presented and approved. The project [SUNFRAIL](#), where EUREGHA acts as the lead partner of the Work Package (WP) on dissemination, was also presented by the Emilia Romagna Region, the coordinator of the project.

In April, the focus was on discussing EUREGHA's involvement in current and future projects, as well as in the Joint Action CHRODIS and in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA).

The Executive Board Meeting in September was a pre-meeting to the General Assembly, where much of the discussions focused on preparing the General Assembly. The two main topics were the joint EUREGHA and CoR Health Intergroup conference on migrants' access to healthcare, and the EUREGHA High Level Conference in December, focused on chronic diseases and frailty.

3. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In September, EUREGHA held its annual General Assembly in Brussels. The resignation of NEEHP as Treasurer was endorsed by the General Assembly, and it was approved that the Secretariat acts as interim treasurer until the new election of Treasurer in 2016. Furthermore, the General Assembly approved the closure of the budget of 2014 and the budget for 2015. In addition, the General Assembly endorsed a proposal on updating the membership fees to adapt the fee structure for local health authorities.

Other points of discussion were the High Level Conference 2015 on chronic diseases and frailty. It was approved to organise the conference under EUREGHA's commitments in the Joint Action CHRODIS. EUREGHA's commitments in the RegHealth-RI and SUNFRAIL projects were also discussed, and the Secretariat presented the results of the RegHealth-RI workshop which was organised in June, as well as the kick-off meeting of the SUNFRAIL project in May. As dissemination lead, the Secretariat also updated the members on progress achieved regarding designing the website and visual identity for SUNFRAIL. Lastly, other events and activities were discussed, especially the conference on migrants' access to healthcare which was organised jointly with the CoR Intergroup on Health and Wellbeing.

4. PRIORITISED POLICY AREAS

In the Work Programme 2015-2017 it was decided to update the working streams and transform them into "prioritised policy areas", as several working streams de facto did not work as working groups. By

focusing EUREGHA's work on a number of prioritised policy areas, monitoring policy developments at the EU level became more flexible, and better adapted to what the manpower of the Secretariat can manage. Below is an overview of undertaken activities in the respective prioritised policy areas.

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases was one of the most prioritised areas for EUREGHA in 2015, as we participated both as Associated Partner in the Joint Action CHRODIS, and as a partner (and dissemination lead) in the project SUNFRAIL. Furthermore, the theme of EUREGHA's High Level Conference 2015 was also dedicated to chronic diseases and frailty. The activities of EUREGHA related to CHRODIS, SUNFRAIL and the High Level Conference will be discussed more in detail below on the pages 5, 6 and 8.

In addition to the above activities, EUREGHA monitored policy developments related to chronic diseases, and amongst other things attended the conference "[Which priorities for a European policy on multimorbidity?](#)". During this conference, organised by DG SANTE, the area of multimorbidity was in focus and stakeholders gathered to discuss a future policy on multimorbidity, and actions that need to be taken at the European level to ease the burden of multimorbidity.

Integrated Care:

Integrated care was another of the most prioritised policy areas for EUREGHA in 2015. Within the framework of the EIP-AHA, EUREGHA continued to participate in the B3 Group on integrated care. EUREGHA attended the meeting of the B3 Group in Brussels in November, where the main achievements of the group were presented and discussed, as well as the future of the group as the EIP-AHA moves into a new phase at the start of 2016.

EUREGHA also attended two webinars organised by the EIP-AHA, the first one focusing on the maturity model of integrated care which has been developed by the B3 group, and the other focusing on [public procurement for active and healthy ageing](#). Lastly, EUREGHA attended the [EIP-AHA Conference of Partners](#) in December, where all the action groups of the partnership presented their main achievements and the activities they foresee for the new phase of the partnership.

Through our close collaboration with the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC), EUREGHA offered the members a 10% reduction on the registration fee to the [International Conference on Integrated Care](#), which was organised in Edinburgh in March 2015. A big delegation of EUREGHA members attended the conference, and held bilateral meetings to establish interregional cooperation related to integrated care. This led to a study visit on integrated care in October 2015 to Hälsostaden in Ängelholm, organised by Region Skåne where EUREGHA also participated. More information on the study visit is available below, on page 8.

During the Open Days in October, Toni Dedeu also chaired a workshop with the title "Implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies on Health and Ageing", where the focus was to discuss how regions can stimulate their local economy and profile themselves as good places to live and age through implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies for Health and Ageing.

eHealth:

In 2015, EUREGHA continued to monitor policy developments related to eHealth through the eHealth Stakeholder Group, and we also applied to renew our participation in the group as from 2016. We also disseminated [four reports](#) that the group has developed, relating to interoperability, patient access to electronic health records, telemedicine deployment, and ehealth inequalities.

Toni Dedeu also represented EUREGHA at the eHealth week in Riga and in the Oulu Smart City Seminar, where he participated in the workshop “Connected Health”, on promotion of individualised digital health. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated in a Public Hearing on eHealth, organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), on the EESC draft own-initiative opinion “[Towards digital health – Delivering safe information on medicinal products in Europe](#)”.

Research and Innovation:

Research and Innovation is another policy area that EUREGHA focused a lot on in 2015. The activities implemented all related to our participation in the project RegHealth-RI and are discussed more in detail below, on page 6. 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

Health equity was another policy area where EUREGHA was active in 2015. As the Commission plans a second Joint Action on Health Inequalities, EUREGHA prepared a [position paper](#) that was presented during the meeting of the [Expert Group on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities](#). The position paper pointed to the importance of recognising the regional and local levels as pivotal in the preparation and implementation of strategies and programmes addressing health inequalities. The position paper also included a call for a holistic and whole-of-government approach to health equity. EUREGHA will continue to follow the planning of this Joint Action, which is set to start in 2017.

Together with the CoR Intergroup on Health and Wellbeing, EUREGHA organised a conference with the title “Health and Migration in Europe”, which focused on migrants’ access to healthcare in the EU. The conference is discussed more in detail below on page 5. EUREGHA also attended two final conferences of projects focusing on health equity, which both presented interesting conclusions and policy recommendations. The first one was the [DRIVERS](#) project, and the second the [SOPHIE](#) project.

Mental Health:

Besides the normal monitoring of policy developments by the Secretariat, no additional activities were implemented regarding this policy area.

Cross-Border Healthcare:

Besides the normal monitoring of policy developments by the Secretariat, no additional activities were implemented regarding this policy area.

5. NEWSLETTER

EUREGHA continued to publish a monthly newsletter for its Members. 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.

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

EUREGHA has acted as the Secretariat of the CoR Intergroup on Health and Wellbeing. Through this, EUREGHA has organised four meetings in April, July, October and December. The first meeting focused on practical issues, such as electing a new Chair and Vice-Chairs, adopting the Work Programme for 2015, and discussion on topics for the future meetings.

The second meeting focused on health investments through the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and included a presentation by Mr Wolfgang Buecherl from DG SANTE.

The third meeting took place during the Open Days in October, on the topic of "[Health and Migration in Europe](#)" and was more of a conference than the regular Intergroup meetings. The aim of the conference was to discuss migrants' access to healthcare in Europe, in view of the increasing number of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe during 2015. The conference included presentations from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and presentations on regional good practices from EUREGHA members Tuscany and Västra Götaland, as well as the region of Sardinia.

The December meeting focused on "Active and Healthy Ageing" and included a presentation on the European Commission's Active Ageing Index (AAI) as well as a presentation from Valencia Region on their strategy for active ageing.

7. PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN EUROPEAN FORA

As a member of the [European Policy Centre](#) (EPC), EUREGHA attended five CHES (Coalition for Health, Ethics and Society) Policy Dialogues in Brussels. "End of Life Care", "Seminar: Welfare Bricolage", "Breakfast Briefing with the Luxembourgish Presidency", "Annual Lecture with Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis" and "Policy Briefing: Preparing Europe's Health Systems for Future Challenges".

EUREGHA also participated in a meeting with the [EU Health Policy Forum](#). During the meeting, the Commission announced that the mandate of the forum would change during 2015, from gathering a wide array of stakeholders in meetings with broad policy topics, to more theme specific meetings with a selected number of stakeholders.

8. PARTICIPATION IN JOINT ACTIONS

EUREGHA is an Associated Partner of the Joint Action [CHRODIS](#). In 2015, the Secretariat worked on our commitments in the WP on Dissemination and has had an active dialogue with the WP leader, EuroHealthNet. EUREGHA attended the CHRODIS General Assembly in February, and held several

bilateral meetings with EuroHealthNet on how the dissemination of CHRODIS' results can be increased, especially targeting the political level. Concrete activities undertaken by the Secretariat include coordinating the translation of the CHRODIS information brochure.

It was also approved that EUREGHA could split our commitment to CHRODIS to organising two workshops. With this decision, it was approved that EUREGHA's High Level Conference in December would be an official CHRODIS deliverable for EUREGHA. CHRODIS was invited to present the work of the Joint Action during the High Level Conference, and several EUREGHA members presented regional good practices related to chronic diseases that will be submitted to the Platform for Knowledge Exchange that CHRODIS is developing. More detailed information about the High Level Conference is available below on page 8.

EUREGHA is also a collaborating partner of the Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm, the Joint Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the Joint Action on Cancer Control and has followed the developments of these Joint Actions throughout the year.

9. PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

RegHealth-RI

EUREGHA participates as one of three partners in [RegHealth-RI](#), a two-year project funded under Horizon 2020. The project started in November 2014 and the aim is to bridge 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 organises the Final Conference and a partner in the WP on Dissemination. As such, EUREGHA was in charge of designing and writing the project brochure, as well as writing and disseminating two press releases and one newsletter.

RegHealth-RI also organised two project workshops in 2015, one in Madrid and one in Trieste. EUREGHA participated in both workshops, through the participation of the Secretariat and the Chair. EUREGHA also had the possibility of inviting member regions to participate in the workshops, funded by the project, and Västra Götaland and Scotland attended the Madrid workshop, whereas only Västra Götaland attended the Trieste workshop. During both workshops Toni Dedeu moderated panel discussions and Ingrid Jansson facilitated as rapporteur in break-out sessions.

SUNFRAIL Project

EUREGHA participates as a partner, and the lead partner of the WP of Dissemination in the project [SUNFRAIL](#). 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. SUNFRAIL was the first project to receive funding under the 3rd EU Health Programme (2014-2020), and it was officially launched during a kick-off meeting in May in Luxembourg.

During 2015, EUREGHA attended the project kick-off meeting and the Secretariat has worked hard on fulfilling EUREGHA's dissemination commitments. The first tasks implemented were to create and conduct a stakeholder mapping and to draft the dissemination strategy, which was approved by the Commission in September. EUREGHA has also sub-contracted a designer to design and create the visual identity and website of SUNFRAIL. Several meetings have been held with the designer and the visual identity and website were finalised in October. The Secretariat has also created and launched a twitter profile for the project, and the project brochure is expected to be ready in early 2016.

10. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

In 2015, EUREGHA collaborated with ERRIN and Coral to organise a side event of the [AAL Forum](#) which was organised in Ghent in September, on the theme of scaling-up good practices in the field of active and healthy ageing. Closer cooperation was also achieved with EuroHealthNet, regarding CHRODIS, where EuroHealthNet acts as the leader of the WP on dissemination.

EVENTS

During 2015 EUREGHA organised several seminars and conferences, and below the most important events are discussed in detail.

11. MONTHLY BRUSSELS' BASED MEMBER MEETINGS

As in 2014, it was decided that EUREGHA would continue organising regular meetings with the Brussels' based members, to provide a forum to exchange news on the regions' and the network's activities. Unfortunately, it was difficult to keep up these meetings on a monthly basis and the format of these meetings should be evaluated ahead of 2016.

During 2015, the Brussels' based members met in July, September and December. In July and September, the focus was to assist the Secretariat in planning the High Level Conference and important decisions were taking around the format of the conference and suggested speakers etc. In December, the meeting took place directly after the High Level Conference and important feedback regarding the conference was given to the Secretariat, as well as suggestions for activities in 2016.

12. BREAKFAST/LUNCH BRIEFINGS

In July, EUREGHA organised a lunch briefing with the Luxembourgish Health Attaché, Laura Valli, who presented the priorities in health and the foreseen Council Conclusions of the upcoming Luxembourgish Presidency to the EU. The lunch briefing was successful, despite being organised in end of July and holiday season, and it was attended by approximately 30 people.

Despite a lot of efforts from the Secretariat, the Health Attaché from the Dutch Permanent Representation in Brussels declined the invitation to participate in a lunch/breakfast briefing.

13. STUDY VISITS

In October, the Secretariat and several EUREGHA members attended [a two-day study visit](#) to “Hälsostaden” in Region Skåne. Hälsostaden (City of Health) is a two-year pilot project on integrated care, located at the hospital of Ängelholm. The first day included presentations from the Hälsostaden project managers and David Somekh (Network Director European Health Futures Forum (EHFF)). The present EUREGHA members were also given the opportunity to present their strategies for integrated care, which was followed by a discussion moderated by Leo Lewis (International Foundation for Integrated Care). On the second day, participants were invited to the location of Hälsostaden, to visit the premises and to meet the staff.

14. JOINT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

In 2015, no joint conferences or seminars were organised.

15. EUREGHA HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

In December, EUREGHA organised our annual High Level Conference, this year kindly hosted by Emilia Romagna Region. The topic of the conference was “[Linking Chronic Diseases and Frailty: Creating Synergies and Collaboration Between Efficient Policies for Disease Prevention and Management at European and Subnational Level](#)”. The conference was organised as one of EUREGHA’s commitments to the Joint Action CHRODIS.

Mr Xavier Pratts Monné, Director General of DG SANTE since September, gave an opening key note speech, which was followed by a presentation from Jan De Maeseneer (Chair of the European Commission Expert Group on Effective Ways of Investing in Health). Josep Redón, Scientific Director of INCLIVA Health Research Institute in Valencia, gave a presentation from a medical/research perspective explaining the links between frailty, chronic diseases and ageing.

These speeches were followed by two interactive panels, one on European tools of addressing chronic diseases and frailty, and the other on good practices from local and regional health authorities. The first panel gathered speakers from several important European initiatives; the Joint Action CHRODIS, the upcoming Joint Action on Frailty, and speakers from the EIP-AHA action groups on frailty and integrated care. In the panel on good practices, innovative examples on management of chronic diseases and frailty were presented by the following regional and local authorities: Emilia Romagna, Scotland, Liverpool, and Progetto Mattone Internazionale.

The half-day event covered many important aspects of the links between chronic diseases, frailty and ageing as well as existing and potential synergies between policy responses at European and subnational levels. The conference was followed by a networking lunch hosted by Progetto Mattone Internazionale.

EUREGHA ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2015

Month	Date	Activity
January	28-29	EUREGHA Presentation for Region Skåne, Västra Götaland Region and Stockholm Region, Brussels
	30	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
February	3	DRIVERS Final Conference, Brussels
	19	CHRODIS General Assembly, Brussels
March	9-10	European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	19	EU Health Policy Forum, Brussels
	25	EUREGHA Presentation for East Sweden, Brussels
	25-27	15 th International Conference on Integrated Care, Edinburgh
April	14	EPC CHES Policy Briefing: End of Life Care, Brussels
	17	CoR Health Interregional Group Meeting, Brussels
	21	EUREGHA Presentation for Valencia Region, Brussels
	24	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
May	4-6	Oulu Smart City Seminar, Oulu
	12-14	eHealth Week, Riga
	19	EUREGHA Presentation for Welsh Government, Brussels
	26-28	SUNFRAIL Project Kick-Off, Luxembourg
June	3	EPC CHES Seminar: Welfare Bricolage, Brussels
	9	EPC CHES Breakfast Briefing with the Luxembourgish Presidency, Brussels
	10	European Economic and Social Committee: Public Hearing on Digital Health, Brussels
	15	Meeting with the Swedish Health Attaché, Brussels
	17-19	RegHealth-RI 1 st Project Workshop, Madrid
	23	PALANTE Final Conference, Brussels
July	1	Politico Conference: Outside, In – Digital Health Revolution?, Brussels
	9	CoR Health Interregional Group Meeting, Brussels
	14	EUREGHA Brussels' Based Members' Meeting, Brussels
	16	EPC CHES Annual Lecture with Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, Brussels
	22	EUREGHA Lunch Briefing: Health Priorities of the Luxembourgish Presidency, Brussels
September	1-2	EUREGHA Presentation for Regions Småland Blekinge, Öland
	7-8	EUREGHA Presentation for Regions Småland Blekinge, Öland
	11	EUREGHA Executive Board and General Assembly, Brussels
	17	EUREGHA Presentation for Region Skåne, Brussels
	23-25	AAL Forum, Ghent
	28	EPC CHES Policy Briefing: Preparing Europe's Health Systems for Future Challenges, Brussels
	29	SOPHIE Project Final Conference, Brussels
	29	EUREGHA Presentation for Copenhagen Region, Brussels
	30	EUREGHA Brussels Members' Meeting, Brussels

October	2	MEM-TP Project Workshop: Migrant and Ethnic Minorities Training Packages for Health Workers, Brussels
	13-15	Open Days, Brussels
	13	Open Days Seminar: Implementing Smart Specialisation Strategies on Health and Ageing, Brussels
	14	EUREGHA and CoR Health Interregional Group Conference: Health and Migration in Europe, Brussels
	21-22	Study Visit to Region Skåne, Malmö
	27	What Priorities for a European Policy on Multimorbidity?, Brussels
November	9	Meeting with Annika Novak of Vytenis Andriukaitis Cabinet, Brussels
	10	EIP-AHA Webinar: Presenting the Maturity Matrix on Integrated Care, Brussels
	10	POLITICO Annual Healthcare Summit
	12	EUREGHA Presentation for Region Skåne, Västra Götaland Region and Stockholm Region, Brussels
	13	EIP-AHA Webinar: Public Procurement for Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	19	EIP-AHA B3 Action Group on Integrated Care Meeting, Brussels
	25-27	RegHealth-RI 2 nd Project Workshop, Trieste
December	4	Committee of the Regions' Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	7	Launch of the Covenant on Demographic Change
	9-10	EIP-AHA 4 th Conference of Partners, Brussels
	10	EPC CHES Policy Briefing with the Luxembourgish and Dutch Presidencies
	11	EUREGHA High Level Conference and Lunch, "Linking Chronic Diseases and Frailty", Brussels
	11	EUREGHA Members' Meeting

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.

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 EUREGHA



Bringing regions together for better health