

MINUTES

EUREGHA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 June 2020 - Online meeting

ATTENDANCE

CATALONIA (AQUAS)	César Velasco Muñoz Marcel Olive Elias
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	Aki Ishiwa Maria Luisa Moro
EUPREVENT	Brigitte van der Zanden
FLANDERS	Solvejg Wallyn
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	Nicolas Breuer
LOWER AUSTRIA (HEALTHACROSS)	Julia Winkler
NORTHERN IRELAND	Neil Goodwin
ÖSTERGÖTLAND	Mats Ulfendahl Isabelle Johanson
PODLASKIE REGION	Magdalena Donejko
PUGLIA	Michal Szczepura Giovanni Gorgoni Francesco Fera
SCOTLAND	Donna Henderson Andrea Pavlickova
SKÅNE	Ylva Reisnert
VENETO	Francesca Gastaldon Elena Curtopassi
TUSCANY	Teresa Vieri
VIKEN COUNTY	Ase Marit Hovden
VYSOČINA	Jan Skála Soňa Měrtlová
WALES	Nick Batey
EUREGHA SECRETARIAT	Valentina Polylas Ingeborg Bennink

CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nick Batey, Chair of EUREGHA, opened the General Assembly and warmly welcomed the (new) members. He explained that the GA functions to meet the legal requirements and to efficiently move forward after all what happened during the Covid-19 crisis.

Mr Batey handed over to **Mrs Polylas**, who explained the agenda, including the procedural and administrative points.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AND OFFICIAL RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Polylas welcomed two new members: **Northern Ireland and AReSS Puglia**. Both of the organizations were asked to give a brief presentation on their organization and priorities.

Mr Goodwin (Northern Ireland) mentioned the following points:

- Overall aim is to improve the care and wellbeing of all people in Northern Ireland;
- Department of Northern Ireland makes policy and legislation;
- In 2009, Northern Ireland was awarded a 4 star-reference site status acknowledging Northern Ireland as a leading organization committed to investing and innovation in active and healthy ageing;
- Supports research by creating opportunities and providing research funding;
- Works around transformation, reform of care, integrated care;
- EUREGHA is a valuable partnership and is a vehicle to maintain relationships on EU level

Mr Gorgoni (Puglia) said the following points:

- AReSS Puglia represents Apulia in this network (the organization was founded in 2017);
- The regional government agency in charge of exploration activities in the health and social care field;
- 5 skills and knowledge areas: Epidemiological and care intelligence, scientific research and health technology assessment, system innovation and network design, e-health, and administrative affairs.
- Focus on the paradigm of value, circling around 8 labs (clinical pathways design, integrated care models and so on);
- Role of the region is important to counterbalance the strategic role in the EU on healthcare policy. Reason to join EUREGHA is to see, and acquire best practices and design suggest policies to the EU.

BUDGET

Ms Polylas gave an overview of the 2019 budget and presented the closing of the accounts, prepared in cooperation with Cogitax (external accountant).

Ms Polylas outlined the incomes and charges for 2019:

- incomes amount to EUR 127,488.64 (31/12/2019)
- expenditures amount to EUR 126,908.87 (31/12/2019)
- profit amounts to EUR 352.40

On 31 December 2019, the network's bank accounts had the following results:

- Regular bank account: € 21074.26 (31/12/2019)
- Saving account: € 152900.46 (31/12/2019)

	Q4 2017	Q4 2018	Q4 2019
Income statement			
I. Income	117,893.69	140,986.50	127,488.64
A. Turnover	91,797.68	139,696.50	127,391.20
Membership fees	63,500.00	74,000.00	66,000.00
Subsidies	28,297.68	65,696.50	61,391.20
B. Other operating income	26,096.01	1,290.00	97.44
II. Charges	114,417.77	125,264.63	126,908.87
B. Services and other goods	15,305.38	25,469.97	27,113.88
Office rent	0.00	0.00	10,176.03
Postal charges	85.79	78.07	11.33
Office supplies	1,936.82	1,195.32	935.31
Computer services	295.07	245.51	1,511.10
Accounting	2,531.32	2,933.04	2,570.04
Social accounting	3,161.27	2,555.76	2,551.37
Legal publications	260.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	474.05	350.51
Consultancy costs	1,107.56	11,250.00	300.00
Travel & accommodation	3,515.77	4,386.17	4,818.65
Meeting costs, lunches & dinners	2,411.78	2,352.05	1,805.54
Other general expenses	0.00	0.00	2,084.00
C. Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	98,507.70	99,602.67	99,794.99
Extern	9,922.00	5,984.00	270.00
Intern	88,585.70	93,618.67	99,524.99
D. Depreciation, amounts written off	192.01	191.99	0.00
G. Other operating charges	412.68	0.00	0.00
Operational profit/loss	3,475.92	15,721.87	579.77
IV. Financial income	61.43	46.17	104.98
V. Financial charges	197.81	211.26	332.35
Profit/loss from the ordinary activities	3,339.54	15,556.78	352.40
Profit/loss of the financial year before taxes	3,339.54	15,556.78	352.40
PROFIT/LOSS OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	3,339.54	15,556.78	352.40

Ms Polylas then introduced the 2020 provisional budget.

Provisional budget 01.01.2020 - 31.12.2020			
Final Accounts Line	Budget Post/Subjective Name		Annual Budget 2020
Income	Membership Fee	2020	€ 78,500.00
		Securex reimbursement	
	Projects	BOOST	
		EURIPHI	€ 8,275.00
	Account		€ 21,074.26
	Saving		€ 152,900.46
Total			€ 260,749.72
Expenditures	Salaries	Manager+Assistant	€ 101,793.00
		Board insurance	€ 700.00
		EXTRA Securex	€ 2,086.78
	Office expenses	Office Rent	€ 12,000.00
		Accountant	€ 3,141.23
		Aruba (website)	€ 153.60
		BNP fee	€ 400.00
		Extra (missions etc)	€ 2,200.00
		IT Services	€ 700.00
		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
		Conference/s	€ 2,000.00
Projects	BOOST	€ 4,500.00	
	EURIPHI	€ 1,500.00	
Total			€ 134,474.61

Projection for the future: Mrs Polylas mentioned that she made an overview for the future. Assuming nothing will change, this shows there will be stability until 2023. She calls for the members to actively promote the network to other regions and highlights that members should think whether they wish to be more involved. In her ambition, there will be 26 members. This contributes to the leverage of the network. EUREGHA is furthermore working on **6 project proposals** (which are useful for the budget and the networks advocacy strategy).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EUREGHA						
Forecast budget						
Fees	68492.83	66000	78500	78500	78500	78500
Membership support	5500					
Securex reimbursement	3219.06	1918.21	1389.93			
BOOST	112390	72705		12556	34880	
EURIPHI		14625	9125			
SUNFRAIL (end2018)	12378.24					
JA CHRODIS (end 2017)	6526.53					
Transfer from Savings						
Account	16062.18	42392.43	21074.26			
Savings	47721.68	112795.01	152900.46	122990.65	74047.65	47428.65
Total	272290.52	310435.65	262989.65	214046.65	187427.65	125928.65
Budget Forecast	132624.35	141769.83	140000	140000	140000	
Actual expenses	118915	136587	139999	139999	139999	
Saved	13709.35	5182.83				
Balance	153375.52	173848.65	122990.65	74047.65	47428.65	

The members did not impose questions or comments. The General Assembly officially discharged the Chair, Treasurer and the Executive Board Members for the budget activities of 2019.

PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Polylas mentioned that Covid-19 influences the overall planning of the current projects. **Euriphi** extended with one month and will end in July. The **BOOST** consortia asked an extension for 11 months, but this will have an important impact on the cash flow for small organisations such as EUREGHA. A further integration of EUREGHA's budget has been asked to the coordinator to cope with the extension period. She highlighted that Mrs Hovden from Viken as a partner of the project has written **policy recommendations** for BOOST, which could be of interest for the other members activities on mental health. The policy brief will soon be published and disseminated.

ACTIVITY REPORT OF 2019

Mrs Polylas mentioned that the activity report of 2019 will be shared after the GA (on 17 June). She asked whether the members have any comments on the document while strongly encouraging the regions to disseminate this information via social media or within internal communication.

There were no questions about the document. **Mr Batey** mentioned the document is comprehensive and easy to distribute. **Mr Velasco** asked members to actively disseminate the information as it is complete and transparent.

ADVOCACY

Mrs Polylas explained what's been done and invites the members to give inputs. She highlighted that the objective behind all the actions undertaken by EUREGHA in this 2 years and half is to make the healthcare sustainable, efficient, accessible and resilient. This objective are described in EUREGHA's policy paper "Health in all Regions" (2018). The main advocacy work has been done around the **transformation of healthcare, Value-Based healthcare, tackling healthcare inequalities, health promotion and prevention, integrated care, e-health and cross-border cooperation**. All the work is supported by the best practices of the members.

All the actions undertaken are supported by advocacy, policy monitoring, profile promotion, partnership building and project development.

STRATEGY GROUPS / PLATFORMS

Mrs Polylas mentioned that, as a result of the implementation of the "Health in all Regions" agenda, EUREGHA is part of several Strategic Groups, most of them are led by the EU institutions. Currently EUREGHA has a seat in the:

- eHealth Stakeholder Group (through the Vice-Chair Catalonia);
- DG Grow Expert Group on Public Procurement in Health (through the Vice-chair Catalonia)
- EU Health Policy Platform; Stakeholder network on Healthcare in Cross-border Regions (leader with Lower Austria, jointly wrote a very successful joint statement);
- Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing at the CoR (running the secretariat, supporting the CoR in setting the priorities and agenda on the internal discussions on health);
- European Alliance for Value in Healthcare (founding member, collaboration with 11 organizations - pharmaceutical industry association, patient-organizations, hospitals, organization representing doctors, will be a knowledge hub)
- Think-thank on Value-based healthcare (led by EFPIA, more on personal level, a way to gather information valuable for EUREGHA).

JOINT STATEMENT

Mrs Polylas mentioned that the Joint Statement, endorsed by 2 MEPs and 40 organisations, showcased that EUREGHA is leading on the topic of cross-border cooperation in healthcare, widely supported by the EU Institutions.

SECRETARIAT ON THE INTERREGIONAL GROUP ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mrs Polylas highlighted that as the Secretariat of the CoR Interregional Group it is possible to facilitate the topic on the agenda of the CoR meetings. Using the CoR is very important. It is a way for EUREGHA to get to the political level. This year, during the **European Week of Regions and Cities**, an event will be planned on **Cohesion Policy** in Health together with EuroHealthNet. Commissioner Ferreira will be invited and a joint statement will be published afterwards.

PARTNERSHIPS

To further implement the Health in all Regions agenda, further partnerships were established:

- EuroHealthNet, with the aim to work together on health equity.
- PACT (Patient Access Partnerships) and the interest group in the European Parliament.
- Open (Obesity Policy Engagement Network) to foster the health promotion pillar of EUREGHA's agenda.
- EU Health Coalition, to reflect on the future of health in the EU. Next EU Health Summit will take place on 26th of October

EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK

The EU context in which EUREGHA will operate in the upcoming years is characterized by the following dossier in the health field:

- Green Paper on Ageing (postponed because of Covid-19);
- The European Semester Country Recommendations (relevant for health specific recommendations per countries);
- Next Generation EU
- Cohesion Policy 2021-2027
- New EU4Health Programme
- Horizon Europe

- Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: (EUREGHA published a contribution);
- The Economy of Wellbeing;
- A pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe: EUREGHA will contribute in the near future;
- Europe Fit for the Digital Age (published a paper in February)
- Conference on the Future of Europe (from political perspective very important, postponed because of Covid-19)

EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK AFTER COVID-19

Mrs Polylas mentioned that EUREGHA is closely monitoring the events that happened after Covid-19. She participated in a hearing with rapporteur for the programme 2021-2024 **EU4Health, ITRE Commission, European parliament**, MEP Christian Busoi, where she stressed the crucial role regions should have in this programme. EUREGHA should send a background **document** to the rapporteur and amendments to make sure the regional dimension is mentioned in the document.

PROJECTS PROPOSALS

Mrs Polylas explained the current project proposals which are 4 Horizon Europe Proposals, 1 JPI Proposal and 1 in the third Health Programme:

Horizon2020:

- **On VALUE-BASED** : Using Real-world data to deSign and implement valUe-based care pathways for older people with multimorbidity (URSULa) H2020-SC1-BHC-2018-2020
- **On COVID-19:** Pan-European Response to the Impacts of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics (PERISCOPE) H2020-SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020-2
- **ON PREVENTION:** Big data Oriented and artificial intelligence Technologies for mEtabolic syndRome prediction and prevention (BOTERO) SC1-DTH02-2020
- **ON HEALTH PROMOTION:** Innovation Networks for Scaling Active and Healthy Aging (IN-4-AHA) SC1-HCC-08-2020

JPI on healthy diet for a healthy life:

- **ON PREVENTION:** Prevention of unhealthy weight gain and obesity during crucial phases throughout the lifespan (PREPHOBES) ERA-Net HDHL-INTIMIC Call for Joint Transnational Research Proposals

Third Health programme:

- **ON PROCUREMENT** TOPIC PJ-02-2020: Healthcare public procurement in the EU (Heading 1.2.1.2 of the AWP 2020)

POLICY CYCLE

Mrs Polylas underlined that Covid-19 changed the priorities of the EUREGHA Policy Cycle. Within the first policy cycle (Personalised Medicine) a dossier was delivered, and the digital package of the Commission was closely monitored, and a report delivered to the members. The second cycle is dedicated to healthcare systems innovation, therefore EUREGHA strengthened the relationship with **TOREACH project**, a Horizon 2020 CSA whose objective was to deliver a strategic research agenda to be used as an input for the Horizon Europe strategic partnership. EUREGHA was then mentioned, as a regional cooperation example in the health sector, in the recently published draft proposal for European Partnership (under Horizon Europe) on Transforming health and care systems.

CALENDAR

Mrs Polylas discussed the calendar and future events and opportunities for the members. She highlighted the Policy Brief with **DG SANTE** of 24 June. A catch-up with **DG REGIO** will take place in July and **DG Connect** in September. Further important events are the partner meeting with EURIPHI and the relaunch of the MEP Interest Group on access in June. By the fall, an event will be organised together with the TOREACH project. In December, the **Annual Conference** will be organised on the topic of health system transformation.

WEBPAGE RESTRICTED AREA

Mrs Polylas moreover highlighted the idea to launch a **restricted member part** on the website, which aims to reinforce the internal communication. This includes a library where all the relevant documents produced by the network in the last years will be collected, a chat, a page for partner search, calls, dedicated part for the governance to ensure the maximum of accountability.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Olive Elias (Catalonia) mentioned he believes the webpage is a great initiative but he hopes periodical notifications will be included. He furthermore mentioned that the relationship with the CoR is very important.

Mr Fera (AReSS Puglia) highlighted that Puglia has intentions to elaborate with EUREGHA in new proposals in the field of **care intelligence of health systems** in the region. Puglia has recently adopted new technologies on **eHealth**. He mentioned that EUREGHA has spread the work of Puglia's remote health system platform. He said that he is interested to open a dialogue with regions that have similar means and strategies to improve this field.

Mrs Hovden (Viken County) mentioned that the Viken County works with EUREGHA on the **BOOST** project. Viken County emphasizes work in public health and health promotion (diets, social and emotional learning) together with municipalities. She underlined that Viken County might need more time to see how to develop projects with EUREGHA members and find partnerships around diets and health promotion and prevention (especially obesity is interesting)

Mrs van der Zanden (EUPrevent) mentioned that EUPREVENT is not a formal member of EUREGHA but has a formal partner contract with GGD South Limburg, Flanders and the German Speaking community. She is particularly interested in the new Periscope project. EUPrevent is working on a **project** on Covid-19 where a large sample of testing in the region Mheuse Rhine is happening. The results on the immunity of this sample will be analysed in relation with the national policies to see the effect of the cross-border relation of the regional setting.

Mrs Wallyn (Flanders) noted that the EUREGHA visibility is improved. For Flanders, the **information-sharing** and the publications between the members was very worthwhile. She asked how to improve the information-sharing between members.

Mr Batey agreed that information-sharing on projects is incredibly helpful, especially on the Covid-19 situation.

Mrs Ishiwa (Emilia Romagna) mentioned that Emilia Romagna has clear direction for the future in a new 5 year mandate. She said that health is particularly important (e.g. integration of health and more support to the care-giver). Moreover, **telemedicine and teleconsultation** is very relevant. The region started to defuse the chronic care model, to reinforce prevention. This is built up on the **risk-care model**, which is the model for the stratification for the population, which started to develop for many years now. She would be interested to see whether other organisations implemented the

chronic care model and at the same time Emilia Romagna is renewing the **smart specialisation strategy**. It would be interesting to see how to reinforce the cooperation among health clusters. She moreover said that the **gender-health issue** and **research and innovation** is very important for Emilia Romagna.

Mr Batey said that Covid-19 is a window of opportunity as well, as developments were made rapidly. In Wales, there is a discussion on how to maintain this momentum and rapid pace. It could be useful to share experiences on this (in a couple of lines text). In particular to share on how organizations will maintain this momentum.

Mrs Reisnert (Skane) mentioned that the priorities of the network are in line with their own priorities and that a lot of opportunities arrive. She agrees that Covid-19 helped to be more efficient. For Skane **prevention, digital transformation, mental health, ageing and cross-border healthcare** are most relevant.

Mrs Johansson (Östergötland) mentioned that for Östergötland the same topics are interesting as already mentioned by Mrs Reisnert. She is wondering how the **EU competences** might be affected and possibly enlarged in some ways, as Member States and MEP's call for more health competences for the EU.

Mrs Donejko (Podlaski) is actively looking for good practices on Covid-19, but they are working on **mental health** and **Obesity**. She said that EUREGHA is a window for big data.

Mrs Curtopassi (Veneto) briefly intervention on behalf of the Veneto Region. She mentioned she is interested in the project Periscope, but unfortunately the timing was too short for participation. Moreover, Veneto is eager to share knowledge and experiences on problems and challenges faced during the covid-19 outbreak.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

As final remarks, **mrs Polylas** mentioned EUREGHA wishes to act as an open door to the European Union for the members. She underlined the information is available online and with a new dedicated member page, the internal communication will be even more smoothly. She highlighted that in the future she wishes to collect a bit of feedback in a survey to ensure all the members' inputs are represented during EUREGHA's advocacy actions.

Mr Batey thanked the regions for participating and mentioned that EUREGHA provides great opportunities.