

## 1. CHAIR ´S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The chair welcomed the participants and explained the format of the morning and the afternoon sessions.

### ATTENDANCE:

Mikaela Nordenfelt – SKÅNE (Chair)  
 Freja Hagsund – SKÅNE  
 Paul Laffin – EAST OF ENGLAND  
 Tim Pilkington – EAST OF ENGLAND  
 Carina Kainz – LOWER AUSTRIA  
 Toni Dedeu – CATALUNYA  
 Olle Jonäng– VÄSTRA GÖTLAND

David Ritchie – NORTH WEST HEALTH  
 Cezary Cieslukowski – PODLASKIE  
 Michal Szczepura – PODLASKIE  
 Massimo Mirandola – VENETO  
 Sabrina Montante – VENETO  
 Elena Val – VENETO  
 Solvejg Wallyn – FLANDERS

Carmen Arroyo de Sande - EUREGHA

## 2. 2012 BUDGET UPDATE

Toni Dedeu, treasurer, presented the balance at 18/09/2012, with detailed information about incomes and expenses. In summary:

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES
JANUARY		
FEBRUARY		
MARCH	07/03 NOGUS: EUR 5 000	
	12/03 SKANE: EUR 5 000	
	20/03 VÄSTRA GOTÄLAND: EUR 5 000	
	26/03 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 speaking BE: EUR 1000	EUR 3898,31
	20/07 NORTH WEST HEALTH: EUR 5 000	
	31/07 Extra fee NOGUS: EUR 800	
AUGUST		EUR 3 678,15
SEPTEMBER	16/09 VENETO: EUR 5 000	EUR 9179,23
TOTAL	<b>EUR 41 800</b>	<b>EUR 33 941,25</b>
REMAINING	<b>EUR 7858,75</b>	

A projected balance until the end of the year was also presented:

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES
OCTOBER	Remaining 7858, 75	EUR 900
NOVEMBER	VYSOCINA: EUR 5 000	EUR 900
DECEMBER		EUR 3265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 12858,75</b>	<b>EUR 5065</b>
<b>REMAINING</b>	<b>EUR 7 793,75</b>	

In the expenses from October to December, the stagier salary (EUR 800/month), the last renting invoice and EUR 300 for any other unexpected invoices have been included.

### 3. 2013 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Toni Dedeu, treasurer, and Carmen Arroyo, EUREGHA Secretariat, presented a proposal for the 2013 budget. In summary:

INCOME	EXPENSES
<b>Membership fees:</b> 1. NOGUS: EUR 5 000 2. SKANE: EUR 5 000 3. VÄSTRA GOTÄLAND: EUR 5 000 4. CATALUNYA: EUR 5 000 5. FLANDERS: EUR 5 000 6. PODLASKIE: EUR 5 000 7. German speaking BE: EUR 1000 8. NORTH WEST HEALTH: EUR 5 000 9. VENETO: EUR 5 000 10. VYSOCINA: EUR 5 000 11. EMILIA ROMAGNA: EUR 5 000 <b>TOTAL: EUR 51 000</b>	<b>A. Secretariat Salary Cost?</b> (See annex)  <b>B. Securex</b> (management and employee-related insurances): around EUR 500  <b>C. Secretariat office expenses</b> (phone, stationery...): around EUR 500  <b>D. EUREGHA Premises</b> No costs  <b>E. Activities?</b>

#### INCOME

- Emilia-Romagna waiting to pass a regional law and establish when they will be able to pay the fee but it will be probably for next year.
- East of England has resigned from the association (as their membership was linked to the fact that EUREGHA premises were at East of England EU Office in Brussels and the current renting contract will end 31/12/2012). A six month notice period is required by EUREGHA statutes to officially resign from the association. East of England sent the resignation letter on 19/09/2012 and they are waiting for EUREGHA's answer to accept the resignation and, at the same time, they are also looking internally for the way to cover the 2013 fee.

## EXPENSES

**A. SECRETARIAT SALARY:** information about salary costs has been presented both for full time and part time. Some discussions about the Secretariat took place as a result of this:

- Mikaela Nordenfelt (Chair) informed the group that at the time of meeting 14 applications had been received. The job offer sent in August specified that the post of Secretariat will be a part-time position. She will need help with the recruitment process. Podlaskie, East of England and Veneto Brussels Offices will help the chair. Sol Wallyn asked Carina Kainz if the Head of Lower Austria Brussels Office could also help. Carina will contact her as soon as possible.
- The Chair also informed that Kirsten Currie, who served as stagier at EUREGHA for the duration of one month (seconded by East of England EU Office) has been selected to work in EUREGHA Secretariat from October to December, as stagier. Essentially, she will be in charge of internal and external communications issues, under the supervision of Paul Laffin. She will also help the EB with the organisation of 2013 General Assembly in January.
- Paul Laffin suggested the possibility to have a stagier instead of a part-time employee for the Secretariat, but some members argued that it could create some legal problems.
- Veneto region suggested that maybe it would be useful to use the remaining money to hire a consultant for these three months, to help with the drafting of the multiannual plan. Some other members said that could be good, but the person should be someone from the members, who understands how EUREGHA works.
- It was clarified that Kirsten Currie will help with the drafting of the multiannual plan, but she cannot take this kind of responsibility.
- It was agreed that by end of October the new Operations Manager for the Secretariat has to be selected.
- The discussions continued during the afternoon session.

**D. PREMISES:** the Chair informed that the current contract ends 31/12/2012 and Skåne Office is willing to offer a desk for the Secretariat for 2013 in their Brussels Office with no costs.

- Andalusia, a Spanish region that was involved in the old structure of EUREGHA, offered the possibility to host EUREGHA as an in kind contribution instead of 2013 fee but there is not yet a reply.
- The Chair asked if some other members could host EUREGHA next year. Podlaskie and Veneto will check if they can host the Secretariat.

#### 4. 2012 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Operations Manager presented the activities carried out from January till September. In summary:

##### OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. EUREGHA asbl
2. DG SANCO Operating Grant
3. Secretariat premises
4. Logo rebranding and corporate image
5. Membership status
6. Membership PR materials
7. Internal Communications Strategy
8. Internal Rules of Procedure
9. External Communications:
  - Twitter profile: <http://twitter.com/EUREGHA>
  - EUREGHA new website: <http://www.euregha.net/>
- Some members asked for Platform members to be included in the map (with different colours)
- It was recommended that the news section and twitter profile should always be "alive", in terms of updates.

##### WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

1. EUREGHA joined EC e-Health Stakeholder group
2. Chronic Disease Reflection Process
3. EUREGHA forwarded to DG SANCO its views on PHP Health for Growth
4. EIP AHA Action Group B3 Commitment
5. CoR Intergroup on Health (16 February --18 July – 9 October - November)
6. Dissemination of events-questionnaires to full members and platform members
7. Healthy Europe CIP proposal (EUREGHA as associated partner.)

##### WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES

###### **CANCER:**

1. Workshop on Colorectal Cancer Screening (March, Liverpool)
2. ERRIN-EUREGHA Brokerage event (June, South Denmark BO)
3. Workshop on Cervical Cancer Screening (October, Veneto)

**MENTAL HEALTH:** EUREGENAS PROJECT launched on February

**CROSS BORDER HEALTH:** WG meeting (May, Lower Austria BO)

**E-HEALTH:**

**INTEGRATED CARE:** EIP AHA commitment

CURRENT and FUTURE ACTIVITIES

**1. EIP AHA ACTION GROUP B3**

- ✓ Action Plan: meeting group 17 October / Conference 6 November. The draft action plan will be sent in the days following this meeting (18<sup>th</sup> Sep 2012) for EUREGHA members to comment. After the 6 November, the B3 Action Group coordinators will send information about the next steps. Paul Laffin will attend to these meetings on behalf of EUREGHA and, in addition, Toni Dedeu is taking part as coordinator on behalf of Catalonia, so he will also be following the development of this activity.
- ✓ FP7 proposal CER-CD: just Catalonia will take part as a partner, together with EUREGHA. If the proposal succeeds, the rest of full members will take part through the activities developed by EUREGHA as a network.

**2. COR INTERGROUP MEETING 9 OCTOBER** (presentation from Västra Götaland – Patient Safety and Quality in Cross Border Healthcare). David Ritchie will take care of the CoR Intergroup on behalf of EUREGHA.

**3. EC Consultation on plans for PPP in life sciences research and innovation under Horizon 2020: deadline on 4 October**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/life\\_science\\_h2020/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/life_science_h2020/consultation_en.htm)

**5. DECISION ON 2013 FEE**

All members agreed on a fee of EUR 5000 for 2013 (EUR 1000 for German Speaking Community of BE).

The invoice will be sent this week and members will have until 15/01/2013 to pay, although it is possible to be flexible with some members that, due to internal procedures, need to settle the payment in January.

**6. DECISION ON PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2013**

All members agreed on the proposal presented.

**7. RATIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS**

All members ratified Vysocina as the new full member of EUREGHA, with effects from the last EB meeting that took place on 27.06.2012

**8. RATIFICATION OF 2012 CHAIR**

All members ratified Mikaela Nordenfelt from the Skåne Region as the EUREGHA Chair, with effects from the last EB meeting that took place on 27.06.2012 and till 31.12.2012

Skåne Region has committed itself to chair for these six months only. She asked if there were any other candidacies for 2013. Flanders confirmed that they cannot do it because they already chaired some years ago.

There were not any other expressions of interest to chair the association next year. This should be discussed further by email and at the next Executive Board meeting to find a solution before the end of the year.

## 9. THE FUTURE OF EUREGHA: VENETO DISCUSSION PAPER

Massimo Mirandola from Veneto Region introduced the paper that they had prepared. The main purpose of the paper is to serve as the basis for the discussion about the future of the network.

### MISSION

#### VENETO PROPOSAL

*"By promoting cross-border and trans-regional partnerships as a means to improve regional health policies, EUREGHA aims to encourage the creation of new partnerships between regions and other relevant stakeholders".*

#### COMMENTS

- Flanders: encouragement of the partnership. The ideas are reflected in art. 3 and art.4 of Statutes.
- East of England asked to all the members what they gain from EUREGHA:
  - Catalunya: get close to Local and Regional Authorities (LRA) with competences in health, prioritise partnerships with EUREGHA members.
  - Vysocina: learning from each other; funding and projects.
  - Skåne: access to EU institutions.
  - Västra Götaland: to have a voice in the EU.
  - East of England: share knowledge, funding, access to EU institutions.
  - Flanders: policy development, contact with other regions, access to EU institutions, "cross-fertilisation", learning sharing.
  - North West of England: voice of sub national entities in EU, benchmarking and best practice sharing.
  - Vysocina: early information about what is going on in EU institutions, dissemination.
  - Lower Austria: contacts with other regions and to bring home interesting projects.
  - German speaking community of BE: they will have more competences in health in the next 2 years. They want to learn and cooperate with regions that have similar level of competences in health.

- Flanders: EUREGHA could serve as "reality check". Veneto: that is more an "activity" than something to include in the mission.
- Veneto: the mission proposed should then include a clear reference about "liaise with EU institutions"
- Flanders: and include also "local authorities"; maybe it is better to use "sub national".
- Catalunya: we need a "minimum critical mass" to be represented at EU level.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **VENETO PROPOSAL**

1. *"Set up a forum for knowledge sharing between regions and the European Institutions with mutual advantages;*
2. *Exchange of good practices amongst European regions in regards to health policy and service delivery;*
3. *Raise Awareness at European level on the role of regional and local authorities in implementing EU health initiatives (structured dialogue with the European institutions) ;*
4. *Have Early access to information about the EC's policies and initiatives in relation to health;*
5. *Access to European funding and advocacy opportunities"*

### **COMMENTS**

- Flanders: they should respond to "what I can get out from Flanders in a very easy way?"
- Northwest: EUREGHA should be focused on benchmarking, not just sharing good practices. That is the difference from other networks.
- Flanders: scale-up to other regions.
- Northwest: scaling-up is the logical extension of benchmarking.

## **WORKING METHODOLOGY**

### **VENETO PROPOSAL**

1. *"Focus on few priorities and initiatives;*
2. *Create a platform for debates, exchange of experience and policy initiatives comparison for the Directors general of the Regions;*
3. *Bring together experts and decision-makers from all regions and involve them in technical initiatives and working groups;*
4. *Strengthen the "Independent role" of EUREGHA towards the Commission"*

### **COMMENTS**

- Due to the limited amount of resources, EUREGHA should focus on a few specific priorities and initiatives.

- Veneto explained why "DG of the Regions": is the best way for reality check. EC doesn't know what happens at implementation level and that is the level of expertise of Directors General.
- **Veneto proposal:** "POLICY DIALOGUES" between Directors General + WHO Observatory on Health Systems and Regions (Josep Figueras as facilitator). The Observatory is writing a paper on "Health systems in transition" and the role of EUREGHA regions could be very important. This activity needs, at least, 6 months of preparatory work, so will not be possible to organise it in the framework of the January 2013 General Assembly.
- "Independent role": Veneto explained that EUREGHA has its own priorities and the benchmarking has to be useful for the members.

## MEANS

### VENETO PROPOSAL

1. *"Workshops/seminars/conferences/study visits for exchange of data/information/practices between the regions;*
2. *The relation of EUREGHA with the European Institutions should be in line with EUREGHA priorities (ex CoR Inter-regional Group on Health-structured dialogue with SANCO);*
3. *Evaluation tool that sets a minimum requirements to assess the performance/outcomes of the Working Groups"*

### COMMENTS

- Consultations: EUREGHA should take part in the most important ones. Members should be aware and feedback.
- Through the participation of members in Comitology and EU Council Working Parties, EUREGHA could play an important role in shaping the priorities of EU funding programmes and initiatives.
- CoR Intergroup is a very good opportunity and should become the framework for structured dialogue with DG SANCO. The North West Region, which takes care of this activity on behalf of EUREGHA, said that more support is necessary from the Secretariat or other members.
- A "policy group" from EB members could be created to help the Secretariat.
- The WG should be "concrete in the results they deliver".
- More information is needed about the activities of the current WGs.
- WGs should be in line of EUREGHA priorities.
- The Secretariat presented a proposal in the last EB: "working topics" and then decide what the best tool for each topic is.
- East of England proposed "working streams".
- East of England proposed as evaluation tool: at each meeting of the GA, the WG leaders should present activities and outcomes of the previous 6 months.



## MAIN QUESTIONS

✓ *What should we do to increase the budget? **European Projects?***

- Project management of DG SANCO bids are very time consuming and complex.
- If the members are the partners, then the network does not receive any funding. Some costs could be financed, but that could be "not very legal" and anyway the amount will not be high.
- Other means?

✓ *What priorities and activities should we focus on next year?*

- Västra Götaland: health inequalities.
- North West: 'health inequalities' is a broad topic; indeed, health inequalities could inspire any health priority.
- e-Health, cross-border, integrated care and then sub-priorities.
- Concept of integrated care: integration between primary and secondary care + integration of health and social care (the latter is the EC definition).
- Chronic and NCDs diseases.
- North West: Innovative approach to integrated care.
- Catalunya: Health strategic plans of EUREGHA members should be shared.
- Veneto: funding mechanisms of the health systems, most expensive treatments, health systems in transition, financial sustainability, health systems reform, how to better deliver services, economic impact.
- Activity: meeting with Josep Figueras to prepare the "policy dialogue" with the Observatory.
- Skåne: lunch briefings in Brussels. Topic?? Regional and Local Priorities on Health.

✓ *What is the role of the **Secretariat?** What kind of expertise do we need?*

- Part-time employee.
- Main tasks: internal and external communications, supporting EB to prepare meetings, monitoring EU health policy, representing EUREGHA (strong personality, public relations skills).
- Skills: management, EU knowledge, network experience in Brussels.
- Suggestion: create a EUREGHA internship programme. Full members can second stagieres for EUREGHA Secretariat. Look for internship schemes within members.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

1. Agreement on mission: Veneto proposal + liaise with EU institutions
2. Agreement on objectives: Veneto proposal + benchmarking
3. Agreement on priorities: e-Health + Cross border + Integrated care, all inspired by health inequalities. Framework: health systems in transition, sustainability of health systems
4. Decision on two activities:
  - A. Policy Dialogue Observatory+ Directors General
  - B. Lunch briefing on Regional Priorities in Health
5. Secretariat:
  - A. Part-time position; budget expenditure around EUR 33 000/year
  - B. Management & communications & networking skills. EU knowledge
  - C. Chair + Podlaskie + Veneto + East of England selection process
  - D. Decision by end of October
6. Next Executive Board meeting: 5 or 6 November, Brussels

**KEY ACTION POINTS**

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>
Draft strategy EUREGHA 2012-2014	Chair + Veneto + Secretariat intern
Contact Josep Figueras, meeting	Veneto + Catalunya +Chair
Draft proposal for Policy Dialogue event	Veneto
Draft proposal for Lunch Briefing event	Chair
Meetings calendar proposal	Secretariat