



A showcase of  
**EUREGHA Members'**  
Governance of Research for  
Regional Health Strategy  
examples

**Bringing Regional and Local Authorities  
Together for Better Health**



## Contents

<b>Letter of the Chair</b> .....	2
<b>About EUREGHA</b> .....	3
<b>EUREGHA Activity Summary 2013</b> .....	4
<b>Emilia-Romagna Region-University Research Programme</b> .....	6
<b>The Öresund Award</b> .....	9
<b>Building inter-regional health research connections and collaborations for the development of innovative projects which attract future funding</b> .....	11
<b>Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation in Health of Catalonia 2012 - 2015</b> .....	14
<b>Policy Research Centre Welfare, Health and the Family (PRC WH&amp;F)</b> .....	17
<b>Regional Program for Research, Innovation and Health Technology Assessment (PRIHTA)</b> .....	21
<b>eMeDocS (exchange Medical Documents System)</b> .....	23
<b>Eastern Academic Health Science Network</b> .....	25
<b>Multimorbidity clinic for chronic diseases</b> .....	27
<b>Early diagnosis of severe combined immunodeficiency due to adenosine deaminase defect: a new simple and reliable method by tandem mass spectrometry</b> .....	29

Thanks to Flanders Agency for Health and Care for printing this booklet.

Thanks to the B3 Action group on Integrated Care of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Health Ageing for the Best Practice template.

EUREGHA - the European network for Regional and Local Health Authorities - aims to promote collaboration amongst regions and local authorities, more specifically regional and local health authorities in Europe, within the framework of the policies relating to public health and healthcare, as well as to establish focused collaboration with the Institutions of the European Union and with the international and public organizations related to public health and healthcare throughout the world.

EUREGHA's mission is driven by five key values: diversity, participation, transparency, participation, collaboration and solidarity. These values bring regions and local authorities together, and the network offers a unique variety of experiences.

EUREGHA aims to encourage the creation of new partnerships between regions and relevant stakeholders and plays an influential role at the European Union level, giving regions and local authorities a more powerful voice collaborating together.

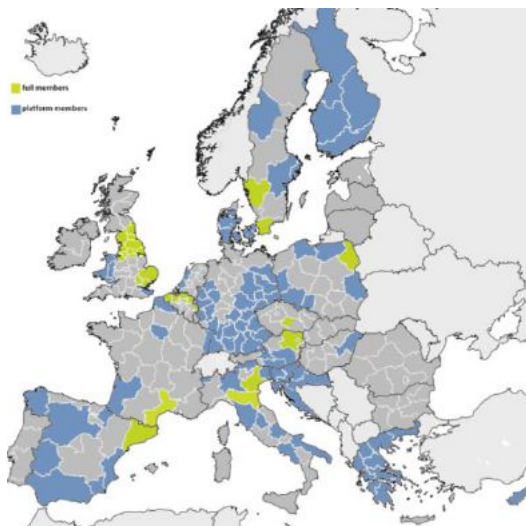
Active participation of EUREGHA in the format of working streams, such as Cancer, Mental Health, ehealth, Integrated Care and Cross-border issues has put many of the EUREGHA regions in the first line and able to participate at EU level. These success stories bring EUREGHA to discuss the launch of new specific working streams in 2014. Participation in Joint Actions, the European Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and having a key role as the secretariat of the Interregional Group of Health of the Committee of the Regions are only a few tangible examples of where EUREGHA is involved.

The collection of Good Practices in research strategies at regional and local level is a lighthouse of the developments taking place at subnational level. With the new period starting with HORIZON 2020 and other EU programmes, EUREGHA is a key network for the establishment of successful partnerships in order to participate in new EU actions. EUREGHA brings together a critical mass of knowledge, expertise and diversity and contributes to raising the level of research and bringing Regional and Local Authorities Together for Better Health.



**Toni Dedeu**  
Chair of EUREGHA

### EUREGHA – Bringing Regional and Local Authorities Together for Better Health



EUREGHA is the network of reference for regional and local authorities in health related issues and aims to promote collaboration in the field of health.

EUREGHA was created in 2006 according to an opinion of the Committee of Regions regarding patient mobility and open coordination on healthcare quality. In January 2012, the EUREGHA ASBL was founded and today EUREGHA is a privileged interlocutor for the EU-institutions and other stakeholders, offering a wide range of services and opportunities for cooperation.

EUREGHA is a diverse network with member regions from 9 different countries; Region Skåne and Västra Götaland Region (SE), North of England EU Health Partnership and East of England (UK), Podlaskie (PL), Lower Austria (AU), Flanders and German Speaking Community of Belgium (BE), Catalonia (ES), Languedoc-Roussillon (FR), Vysocina (CZ) and Emilia-Romagna and Veneto Region (IT). We are also looking forward to welcoming the region of Tuscany (IT) to EUREGHA as of 1 January 2014.

Looking forward to 2014, EUREGHA will continue the work pursued in our working streams and participating in eHealth week in Athens. We will also continue our active participation in Joint Actions, with the Joint Action on Chronic Diseases starting in January 2014 and of course fulfilling our commitments within the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

On the following pages you will find the Activity Summary for 2013 and a number of good practices from several EUREGHA member regions in research strategies, governance of research and health, and how our member regions work in incorporating research and health policy. The good practices showcase excellent initiatives implemented in EUREGHA member regions, and proves the importance of bringing regional and local health authorities together for better health.

## EUREGHA Activity Summary 2013

Month	Date	Activity
January	15	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
	23	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
February	7	Policy Briefing on the Tobacco Products Directive, Brussels
March	14	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Region Gotland (SE), Brussels
	15	Policy Briefing on the Social Investment Package, Brussels
	21	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Region of South Denmark (DK), Brussels
	21	EUREGHA General Assembly, Brussels
	25	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Warmia Mazury Region (PL), Brussels
April	4	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the County Council of Mid Sweden, Brussels
	5	Introducing EUREGHA Lunch Briefing, Brussels
	9	European Health Policy Forum, Brussels
	10	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for Pomorskie Region (PL), Brussels
	12	Committee of the Region Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	15	Policy Briefing on the e-Health Action Plan and regional initiatives on e-Health, Brussels
May	13-15	Participation in e-Health Week and the e-Health Stakeholder Group, Dublin
	14-15	Participation in the EPAAC Steering and Advisory Committee meeting, ST Julian's, Malta
	29	Participation in workshop of the PARENT Joint Action, Brussels
June	3	Speaker at the conference "Living Healthy and Active in an Ageing Europe", Bologna
	3-4	Participation in the EPAAC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop of Work Package 6, Early Diagnosis/Screening on Implementing breast cancer screening programmes, Belgium
	5	EUREGHA Executive Board Meeting, Brussels
	7	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
July	1	Participation in the reference site ceremony for the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	16	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the Region of Tuscany, Brussels
August	22	Response to the Public Consultation on Occupational Safety and Health at Work, Brussels

September	3-4	Participation in the workshop on “Innovative Procurement for services and products for independent living and integrated care”, Bari
	9-10	Participation and organiser of a workshop during the European Forum for Primary Care, Istanbul
	11	European Health Policy Forum, Brussels
	16-18	EUREGENAS European Regions Enforcing Actions Against Suicide - 3rd Meeting Verona
	17	EUREGHA Experts’ Roundtable Meeting on the Cross Border Patients Directive, Brussels
	24	Participation in and co-organiser of the side event “Regional Politicians about Innovation in Active and Healthy Ageing” during the AAL Forum, Norrköping
October	3	EUREGHA Presentation of network activities for the Basilicata Region (IT), Brussels
	8	Committee of the Region Health Intergroup Meeting, Brussels
	15	B3 Action Group Meeting, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	18	Participation in AAL Workshop “Fostering exchange of experiences among European regions on the issues of assisted living and demographic change”, Valencia
November	4	Participation and moderating in AAL Workshop, “Raising the awareness of AAL JP activities and AAL JP projects and Fostering exchange of experiences among European regions on the issues of assisted living and demographic change”, Vienna
	8	Participation in the workshop “Regions as motors of new growth through smart specialisation”, Brussels
	11	Speaker at the conference “Campania 2020 – Regional internationalization; key-players, critical issues and opportunities”, Naples
	21	EUREGHA Lunch Briefing on the Health Priorities of the future Greek Presidency, Brussels
	25-27	Participation in the EPAAC Open Forum and Final Conference, Ljubljana
	25-26	Conference of Partners, European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, Brussels
	27	Participation in AAL Workshop “Raising the awareness of AAL JP activities and AAL JP projects among European regions”, Brussels
December	3	EUREGHA High Level Lunch and Conference, “Governance of Research for Regional Health Strategies”, Brussels

## Emilia-Romagna Region-University Research Programme

**NAME OF ORGANISATION:** Regional Agency for Health and Social Care of Emilia-Romagna (ASSR)      **BEST PRACTICE TARGET POPULATION:** Final beneficiaries are regional people as they take advantage from research outcomes.

**REGION:** Emilia-Romagna, Italy

**TOTAL REGION POPULATION:** 4 471 104

**MAIN FOCUS OF BEST PRACTICE:** Better research for a better healthcare

### SUMMARY

R&D activities are a core duty of the Regional Healthcare Service (Regional law 29, 2004). Emilia-Romagna Region dedicates special efforts in promoting better research for better healthcare, through regional research capacity enhancement, by means - among others - of the Region-University Research Program, that aims to underline the importance of research as part of clinical practice (detailed information about the Program at <http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it> and [www.laniuselatter.it](http://www.laniuselatter.it) ).

### DESCRIPTION

The Region-University Research Program is mainly addressed to University Hospital Trusts (representing the hub of synergies between the Regional Health Service) Universities and Research Hospitals; it however involves also Local Health Trusts.

Activated at the beginning of 2007, the Program aims at developing scientific innovation, new management, organisational and training models through the collaboration and integration between Universities, University Hospital Trusts and all Health Trusts.

#### Program peculiarities:

- research prioritization: selecting research themes and research questions
- two-step assessment process: Maieutic Approach
- the programme has been structured in three research areas: area 1 - innovative research (in addition since 2012 Programme for Young Investigators, under 40 years); area 2 - clinical governance; area 3 - training projects.

### INNOVATION, IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

The program represents an essential component of the Region's strategic effort to reinforce the idea that "research is an integral part of clinical practice and can rightfully stand among Health Service's institutional activities".

The main purpose is to promote priority research for the timely transfer of clinical/organisational innovation in the Regional Health Services structures. This process indeed aims to transform organisations and personnel/researchers from participants into protagonists in a process in which research and innovation form an integral part of the healthcare system.

In the 2007-2012 period the Program funded 122 projects (out of 384 submitted proposals) for an overall amount of 60 million Euros. Moreover, in the framework of the subsequent and ongoing edition (2013), two additional calls were launched:

- 1) Research for Clinical Governance – (budget: 2,5 million Euros, 30 proposals submitted) the clinical themes of the calls have been identified through a priority setting mechanism involving regional health authorities, regional health care guidelines, local clinical experts and opinion leaders, consultation with panel of experts and literature analysis. It is important to underline that with reference to EIP-AHA initiatives - the ASSR is an EIP-AHA Reference Site - six out of 25 research questions have been focused on Geriatrics.
- 2) Program for young investigator – (budget 2,5 million Euros, 170 proposals submitted).

In this context, the Regional Agency for Health and Social Care - which has the role of scientific and operational coordinator of the Program - is also responsible for monitoring projects with the supervision of a special Steering Committee; while the evaluation phase of projects is entrusted to independent experts Panels (up to now 342 reviewers participated in the evaluation processes). Furthermore, it is worth underlining that up today project results have been published in 137 articles of peer-reviewed journals (about 1/3 of them in OA journals). The amount of publications is likely to increase, since a number of projects financed in the end of the six-year period 2007-2012 are still ongoing and will end in the next months.

#### **ETHICAL ISSUES**

The Emilia-Romagna Region is strongly interested in publishing and disseminating research results and making them useful for healthcare system. In this frame, the ASSR is committed in sharing and disseminating the so-called Liberati Principles according which the Program has been designed:

- Research results should be easily accessible to people who need to make decisions about their own health
- Researchers should carry out studies/research/trials that are important for patients and not just for their own career or industrial implementation
- It is important to carry out research already started before investigating new research line;
- We do not need best evidence but the most relevant one
- If we want more relevant information to become available, a new research governance strategy is needed
- Research priorities setting should follow a clear road-map involving all relevant stakeholders
- It is important to define a precise methodology in order to identify how research produces pay back for health services.

Furthermore, in accordance with the European recommendation on Access to and preservation of scientific information (dated 17.07.2012) and Helsinki Declaration, the Emilia-Romagna Region is committed in optimising the impact and dissemination of (public) funded scientific research: indeed, the Program awards with a greater co-financing principal investigators who publish their research results in “OPEN ACCESS”.

#### **TRANSFERABILITY TO OTHER REGIONS**

Given the good results achieved so far, the Program could be transferred to all Regions/Districts that are interested in:

- reinforcing regional research capacity as part of Health Service’s institutional activities
- supporting their regional/local research system



- fostering cooperation among relevant partners and stakeholders (Universities, Local Health Trusts, Regional/local entities).

#### **KEY LEARNING POINTS**

- Research as RHS institutional activities
- Promotion of a better research for a better healthcare
- Close collaboration with the regional universities and regional health system
- Research prioritisation
- Mapping and dissemination of funded scientific research outcomes and related impact.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Website of Research Governance Area, of Regional Agency for Health and Social Care

[http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/aree\\_attivita/governance-della-ricerca/Programma-ricerca-regione-universita/intro](http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/aree_attivita/governance-della-ricerca/Programma-ricerca-regione-universita/intro)

More about the “Region-University Research Program” and LaNiusletter [http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/aree\\_attivita/governance-della-ricerca/Programma-ricerca-regione-universita/intro](http://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/it/aree_attivita/governance-della-ricerca/Programma-ricerca-regione-universita/intro)

#### **CONTACT**

Antonio Addis  
Research Governance Area  
Regional Agency for Health and Social Care  
Emilia-Romagna Region  
[Aaddis@regione.emilia-romagna.it](mailto:Aaddis@regione.emilia-romagna.it)

## The Öresund Award

**NAME OF ORGANISATION:** ORESUND AWARD In Health Secretariat

**REGION:** Region Skåne, Sweden/Capital Region of Denmark, Denmark

**TOTAL REGION POPULATION:** 2.8 million

**MAIN FOCUS OF BEST PRACTICE:** Promoting ground breaking collaborations in health research and clinical work in the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skåne

### SUMMARY

The Öresund Award is a new cross border cooperation project between Region Skåne and the Capital Region of Denmark. This is the first year the award is presented.

This best practice example showcase one strategy in which research results within the field of healthcare seeks to directly benefit the patients and translate into healthcare polices. The aim of the award is multi-fold, it promotes cross border collaboration, recognises the importance of research and clinical environments, brings added value and synergy to the field of healthcare benefiting the people living in the region.

The award is a grant totalling DKK 1.6 million (approx. 215 000 Euro). The prize money must be used to further develop the collaborative work. To apply for the grant, the applicants must be linked to Region Skåne and the Capital Region of Denmark respectively. This year the award will be presented on 2 December.

### DESCRIPTION

The Oresund Award - in Health seeks to promote ground breaking collaborations in health research and clinical work in the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skåne, southern Sweden.

The intention of the Oresund Award is to recognise and profile research and clinical environments – but with the special criteria that this must involve an equal and pioneering collaborative venture involving at least two parties from the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skane, southern Sweden. Via their unique skill-sets and genuine cooperation on research, the collaborating partners must be able to bring added value and synergy to the field of healthcare for the benefit of people living in the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skane.

The purpose of the initiative is to profile the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Skane as attractive regions of research and clinical work in the field of healthcare, and more specifically to build on healthcare collaboration across the Oresund strait.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Two or more parties can apply for the Oresund Award - in Health; each being professionally and organisationally delimited units of hospitals, psychiatric centres or universities in the two regions, and they must be collaborating successfully on equal terms across Oresund. The two lead applicants must be organisationally linked to the regional health service in Region Skåne, southern Sweden, and the Capital Region of Denmark respectively.

The award comes with a grant of DKK 1.6 million. The grant that accompanies the award must be used for further development and internationalisation of the collaborative work undertaken by the winning environments.

The prize will be awarded on 2 December 2013 in Sweden.

### **INNOVATION, IMPACT AND OUTCOMES**

Describe what makes your best practice innovative, its impact and outcomes. Please consider the following:

- Outline the key innovative elements of your best practice
- Include evidence on the impact and outcomes, if available
- Have formal or informal evaluations been performed?
- What success criteria are used to determine that your initiative is working well?

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

<http://www.skane.se/oresundaward>

### **CONTACT**

Rita Jedlert - [rita.jedlert@skane.se](mailto:rita.jedlert@skane.se)

## Building inter-regional health research connections and collaborations for the development of innovative projects which attract future funding

**NAME OF ORGANISATION:** NHS Research and Development Northwest

**REGION:** North West England, UK

**TOTAL REGION POPULATION:** 7.1 million

**BEST PRACTICE TARGET POPULATION:**

- NHS Academic Clinicians from NHS Trusts across the NW.
- Researchers from the 8 HEIs across the North West
- Patient and public groups
- Social care sector in the NW  
Local SMEs

**MAIN FOCUS OF BEST PRACTICE:** To build health research connections and collaborations through the development of partnerships between the NW of England and EU regions and enabling generation of innovative research bids by expanding and improving the current Catalyst programme and increasing the number of inter-regional agreements between the NW of England and other EU regions.

### SUMMARY

For 4 years, NHS Research & Development Northwest (NHS R&D NW) has been delivering a series of Catalyst events across the North West of England where a number of prominent people from specialist fields gather together with colleagues and health workers from diverse backgrounds to look at different ways of approaching collaborative working across organizations. Using Open Space Facilitation, the aim is to build new networks and connections to develop innovative research projects and bids for funding. Alongside these events, NHS R&D NW has been forming closer relationships with other European regions. The formal agreement between NHS North West (United Kingdom) and the Government of Catalonia, through the Ministry of Health, was signed in December 2012. This provides an official platform for health researchers to work together more freely across the two regions and to take part in study tours and joint events such as the Catalyst described above. Further agreements are currently being discussed with the regions of Flanders and Veneto.

### DESCRIPTION

In 4 years, the NHS NW R&D office has delivered 8 catalyst events in the Northwest of England. The Catalyst philosophy was born out of complexity theory - a theory based on the simple observation that chaos can breed brilliance. Therefore in recognition of the vast clinical and academic expertise in health research in the North West but a lack of effective networking among those with that expertise the Catalyst Programme was established.

Using Open Space Technology<sup>1</sup> a specialist topic is explored and examined. The following topics have been the subject of a Catalyst event to date:

- Pediatric respiratory and endocrine research December 2008

---

<sup>1</sup> **Open Space Technology (OST)** is an approach for [hosting](#) meetings, [conferences](#), corporate-style retreats, [symposiums](#), and community summit events, focused on a specific and important purpose or task—but *beginning* without any formal agenda, beyond the overall purpose or theme.

• Obesity	December 2009
• Infectious disease	November 2009
• Patient safety	May 2010
• e-Health	September 2011
• Cancer	November 2011
• Adolescents	July 2012
• Veterans	December 2012

Significant outputs have included closer working relationships between academic institutions in Manchester and Liverpool, proposals for studies looking at early warning systems for heavy users of hospital care and developing, evaluating and implementing new paradigms in activity programmes for obese adults. There has also been development of a network to discuss creating an emotionally intelligent safe practice framework for individuals and teams in safety-critical clinical and social care contexts.

In 2013/2014 Catalysts events will address research topics for primary dental care, dementia and family and work life reconciliation.

### **EU partners**

The Catalyst process supports the health policies of both NW England and partner EU regions by contributing to;

- Improved health outcomes
- Facilitation of research to discover how to deliver the safest healthcare
- The delivery of increased activity and output from invention and research
- The creation of a climate for retention, development and growth of both the health and research industries.

Interactive partnerships with other EU regions and formal agreements can enable to alignment of research strengths and areas for future development. Catalyst events have been run in partnership with the North West Health Brussels Office<sup>2</sup> enabling wider collaboration with European health partners such as Catalonia in Spain and Veneto in Italy. This can be part of a wider inter-regional study visit/program or by a video link. Formal agreements are an enabling platform for a level of collaboration that cannot otherwise be achieved. Therefore, NHS R&D NW intends to continue to pursue further agreements with other EU regions in 2014. Early work has already commenced on agreements with Veneto and Flanders.

This work is currently funded by NHS North West as part of the Northwest Research and Development teams' on-going programme of work supporting and educating the regional clinical workforce.

### **INNOVATION, IMPACT AND OUTCOMES**

- This programme of work creates new, exciting and innovative collaborations to develop research funding with a range of stakeholders including patients and the public on key health and wellbeing issues for the region.
- It identifies research questions of importance to policy makers, commissioners, service providers, clinicians, patients and the public
- The links between the NHS and other organisations across the EU and with Universities are improved to facilitate research and support changes in practice
- There is a contribution to the economic agendas of the North of England and EU regional partners, through the attraction of additional research and development funding.

---

<sup>2</sup> now known as the North of England EU Health Partnership [www.northofenglandeuhealth.eu](http://www.northofenglandeuhealth.eu)

- Colleagues in the North of England and other EU regions gain an idea of strengths and potential gaps in research in the region.

The events provide an ideal opportunity to connect with international work to enable participants to draw on fresh learning from outside their own region.

### **ETHICAL ISSUES**

In the highly competitive academic world, the main ethical challenge with Catalysts events and wider collaboration is the sharing of sensitive information that could give another organisation an advantage in the development of a project. However, the principle of both the inter-regional agreements and Catalyst is to encourage people and organisations to work together and increase the chances of a successful project by nature of the collaboration.

### **TRANSFERABILITY TO OTHER REGIONS**

The model or programme of Catalyst Events can be used across EU regions by partners by taking part in one of the NHS R&D Catalyst design processes and then supported to deliver their own Catalyst event using the North West Research and Development Catalyst Toolkit specially designed to help partners run their own programmes.

### **KEY LEARNING POINTS**

- Knowledge and understanding of research strengths across regions
- Challenges and gaps in health research across regions
- Better understanding of health and research networks across regions
- Broadens vision and scope for health research in the NW England
- Improves sharing of best practice both clinically and academically
- How to attract funding for research through enhanced inter-regional collaborations.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/programmes\\_of\\_work/catalyst](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/programmes_of_work/catalyst)

[http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/programmes\\_of\\_work/eu\\_funding](http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/programmes_of_work/eu_funding)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vEBcr\\_YkHU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vEBcr_YkHU)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwpQMtTSi5c>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QittwFkGvok>

### **CONTACT**

Professor Stuart Eglin - [stuart.eglin@researchnorthwest.nhs.uk](mailto:stuart.eglin@researchnorthwest.nhs.uk)