

ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



2020 in a Nutshell



ADVOCACY

- Answer to the public consultation on the **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**
- Campaign "**Regions Against COVID-19**"
- EUREGHA - EuroHealthNet Joint Statement on the use of the next **European and structural investment funds for strategic investments in health and social services**
- EUREGHA - ERRIN Joint Statement on the **regional and local perspective on the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer**
- 3 new partnerships:
 - **European Alliance for Value in Health**
 - **Patient Access Partnership (PACT)**
 - **OPEN EU**
- Recognized as member of the **eHealth stakeholder group of DG CNECT, European Commission**



MEMBERS

- 1 high-level annual conference
- 2 policy briefings
- 6 executive board meetings



EU PROJECTS

- EUREGHA won two new H2020 projects:
- COVID-19 (**PERISCOPE**)
 - Active and Healthy Ageing (**IN-4-AHA**)



NEW MEMBERS

- Joined Euregha:
- **AreSS Puglia** (IT)
 - **Cross-border Institute of Healthcare Systems in Prevention** (NL)



EVENTS

- 1 **EU Health Summit: Time for Action!**
- 1 conference during the European Week of Regions and cities: **Cohesion Policy and Health: investing in a healthy and socially just regional development**
- 3 meetings of the **Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing**



COMMUNICATION

- + 260 followers
+ 252 followers
- For members:
23 info flashes
61 event reports
4 newsletters

Complementary information about this publication can be accessed



via **QR codes**

via the **textual hyperlinks**

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Foreword

2020 was a year full of unforeseen events, and it is safe to say that COVID-19 influenced the way of working for everyone throughout the world. As this is particularly true for the healthcare sector, we are pleased to conclude that [#Health-InAllRegions](#) remained EUREGHA's core mission. Perhaps even more than ever.

Notwithstanding the difficult circumstances, EUREGHA's advocacy strategy revolved all around the **3P's: partnerships, projects, and profile-raising**. EUREGHA was able to fortify its position at the European level and reinforced its cooperation internally.

Partnerships were officially consolidated to advance the "Health in all Regions" agenda in Brussels. We are now a member of the Steering group of the Patient Access Partnership (PACT), founding member of the European Alliance for Value in Health, member of the EU-Open platform on obesity, and member of the e-Health stakeholder group of DG CNECT.

Bilateral cooperation was established with EuroHealthnet and ERRIN which resulted in the production of two ambitious Joint statements on Cohesion policy and the Horizon Cancer Mission. We submitted six different project proposals and we have been awarded two new Horizon 2020 projects: **IN-4-AHA** (Innovation Networks for Scaling Active and Healthy Ageing) and **PERISCOPE** (Pan-European Response to the ImpactS of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics). In terms of profile raising, EUREGHA was asked to co-organize and participate as a speaker in leading initiatives and conferences at the EU level and ran the campaign **"Regions against COVID-19"**.

As acting Secretariat of the European Committee of the Regions' Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing for the mandate 2020-2025, we were also able to strengthen cooperation and dialogue with the European institutions.

NICK BATEY
EUREGHA CHAIR



We are particularly proud that the network expanded with two new members:

AReSS Puglia (IT) and the **Cross-border Institute of Healthcare Systems in Prevention** (NL).

This fast-growing pace of the association is in line with one of the most important lessons taught by the pandemic: local and regional health authorities exert a pivotal role in improving the efficiency and quality of health and social care systems and services, and in promoting public health. EUREGHA's mission is to bring regional and local health authorities together to improve health policy in Europe. With health on the top of the EU political agenda, we are ready to take ownership of this role to ensure, once again, health in all Regions for all the European citizens.

Nick Batey

Best regards.

One year of COVID-19

Most of EUREGHA's members were at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic and were forced to swiftly adapt to the circumstances. The national and regional approaches, as a result, run like a thread through EUREGHA's advocacy strategy.

The EUREGHA Secretariat released an official statement in March 2020.

The message of the statement underlined the need to flatten the curve and it, therefore, announced that the General Assembly, planned in Barcelona at the end of March, had to be postponed. To collect all the data and innovation in healthcare, the EUREGHA Secretariat launched a successful **Regions against the COVID-19 campaign**. Seven regions contributed with experiences in the field of telehealth, citizen and information campaigns, and other integrated measures for prevention, control, and treatment purposes.

EUREGHA released several joint statements together with other organizations and alliances. The first statement was issued together with the European Parliament Interest Group on Equitable Access to Healthcare and PACT. This was followed by a statement on the EU4Health budget cuts together with the EU Health Coalition. In this statement, the Coalition pledged for a more generous budget allocation to the EU4Health Programme in the Multi-annual Framework (MFF).

The COVID-19 outbreak underlined various weaknesses in our society and health and care systems. The European Commission has mobilised a call as part of the Coronavirus Global Response Initiative to fight the pandemic and to improve understanding of the behavioural and socio-economic impacts of the outbreak. EUREGHA, and 31 other organizations, together applied with a proposal. It was successful and the new project, PERISCOPE, was assigned and work started in November 2020.

EUREGHA Director Valentina Polylas, furthermore, participated in various meetings on COVID-19, such as the European Committee of the Regions EPP Group Coronavirus Task Force.



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Prioritised Policy Areas

Personalised medicine

Personalised medicine has emerged as a concept to help to address healthcare challenges with strategies for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment tailor-made for individuals or groups. The aim is to make sure that patients receive the specific treatments that work best for them. The EUREGHA Secretariat has closely followed news and developments regarding personalised medicine, its interventions, and its outcomes. That is the reason why the EUREGHA Secretariat delivered an internal Dossier on Personalised Medicine in May 2020.

Health Systems Innovation

The second policy cycle of 2020 was dedicated to Health Systems Innovation. EUREGHA strengthened its relationship with the [TO-REACH](#) project, a Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action, whose objective it is to deliver a strategic research agenda as an input for the Horizon Europe Strategic Partnership. As a result, EUREGHA was mentioned in the draft proposal for the European Partnership under Horizon Europe on transforming health and care systems.

EUREGHA participated in a number of events related to the transformation of health and care systems. On 27 February, Valentina Polylas -Director of EUREGHA- participated in a 1-day Conference on ["Innovation in Health"](#), organized by the Government of Navarra. This event was held in the framework of "the permanent meeting forum", a platform dedicated to the Smart Specialization Strategy of Navarra that aims to share information with its users on various collaborative initiatives at the EU level. The conference was promoted by the Delegation of the Government of Navarra in Brussels, as a part of Navarra's European Action Plan.

In addition, EUREGHA dedicated its [High-level Annual Conference](#) to the ongoing transformation of the health and social care systems in Europe. The opinion of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health on the organisation of resilient health and social care system following the COVID-19 pandemic was considered a key part of this event and EUREGHA's overall advocacy strategy.

During the Executive Board (EB) meeting in December 2019, a large number of challenges were identified:

- Mental health
- Health promotion and prevention
- Value-based healthcare & outcome measurement
- E-health
- Cross-border healthcare
- Personalized medicine
- Health system innovation

Eventually, the Board selected **personalised medicine** and **health system innovation** as the main topics for the policy cycle of 2020.

It is not a surprise that [COVID-19](#) was marked as a top-priority in March. Even though the pandemic dominated the advocacy strategy, the EUREGHA Secretariat was still able to work around the original topics and managed to deliver satisfactory results.



Above, Valentina Polylas at the Innovation in Health Conference, February

Collaboration with the Committee of the Regions

In July, the European Committee of the Regions **Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing** was renewed. This means that EUREGHA will act as the Secretariat of the group for another five years. The CoR Interregional Groups are platforms to exchange views and create new ideas among local and regional health authorities in the Member States. In total, three meetings were held in July, October and November 2020.

The CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing Constitutive Meeting was held on 02 July. The members used this discussion to explore which topics should be put on the top of the group's agenda. It was clear that COVID-19 and its effects should be examined throughout the meetings. The members furthermore agreed that the **EU4Health** programme, the pharmaceutical strategy, and the overall future structural funds should be added to the overall calendar as well.

On 15 October, EUREGHA coordinated the **"Cohesion policy and health- Investing in a healthy and socially just development"** workshop in partnership with the European Committee of the Regions, DG SANTE (the European Commission), and EuroHealthNet. The workshop was organized within the framework of the **European Week of Regions and Cities 2020**.

In November, the third and last meeting of the year was held. This meeting was used to facilitate a discussion between the Committee of the Regions' Rapporteurs on several new EU health policies (EU4Health, cross-border health threats-

new mandate for the ECDC, EU Health emergency mechanism, pharmaceutical strategy, new mandate for the EMA, cross-border healthcare, lessons learned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the European Health Union) and the members of the CoR. The debate was moderated by EUREGHA Chair Nick Batey.

Other topics that were discussed during the meeting relate to how to address health inequalities, the discussion around healthcare competencies on the EU level, and how regional stakeholders can be involved in healthcare transformation.



Above: "Cohesion policy and health- Investing in a healthy and socially just development" workshop, 15 October

Participation in EU projects & tenders

7

In 2020, EUREGHA participated in several EU-funded projects and contributed to a number of calls for proposals.



The **BOOST** project, which aims to build social and emotional skills and mental health resilience in young children throughout Europe, continued. As the schools closed



BOOST website

due to the pandemic, the piloting phase of the project was delayed. Nonetheless, the BOOST consortium published a policy brief "The need for a more systematic approach to promoting mental wellbeing among children in schools" in English, Spanish, Norwegian, and Polish.

On 18 November, EUREGHA organized the webinar: "Promoting mental wellbeing amongst children in schools: paving the way towards a more systematic approach".

The event was organized to inform the audience about the developments of the BOOST project and to re-discuss the importance of SEL programmes and the overall work with mental wellbeing among children in schools.

EUREGHA (as lead of WP7 on Communication and Dissemination) published a project newsletter and maintained the website and social media accounts.



The **European wide Innovation Procurement in Health and Care**

(**EURIPHI**) project held a number of events throughout the year: the EURIPHI International Roundtable



Euriphi website

(February), the EURIPHI Health Regional Network Webinar (May) and the EURIPHI Final Internal Project Meeting (June).

The project was wrapped up with the final EURIPHI Dissemination Webinar, organized on 16 July. The webinar presented the main outcomes of the project and described how the EURIPHI Value-based Community of Practice and the EURIPHI Health and the Social Care Regions Network can grow and set the foundation to respond to EU cross-border PPI/PCP calls.



Above: EURIPHI International Roundtable, 10 March



Above: EURIPHI Health Regional Network Webinar, May

EUREGHA was awarded two new EU-funded projects in 2020: PERISCOPE and IN-4-AHA.



PERISCOPE stands for “**Pan-European Response to the Impacts of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics**”.



[Periscope website](#)

This project aims to understand the social, economic, behavioural and mental health-related aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. PERISCOPE, launched in November 2020, will run for three years. The project started with an internal kick-off meeting.

in4aha

The second project, **IN-4-AHA** (**Innovation Networks for Scaling Active and Healthy Ageing**) is an EU-funded project which arises in continuity with the achievements



[IN-4-AHA website](#)

and legacy of the **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing** (EIP on AHA). Bringing together supply and demand actors, the project aims to identify, support, and enhance the most important innovation ecosystem elements in active and healthy ageing to create a sustainable model for innovation scale-up, and encourage the relations between stakeholders by addressing the challenges of innovators in the market uptake, and expansion in the domestic and cross-border markets. The project started in January 2021.



Above: Periscope Kick Off Meeting, November

Collaboration with other networks



EUREGHA continued its collaboration with the **EU Health Coalition** and co-organized several events. On 04. February, partners of the EU Health Coalition gathered in Brussels for the conference: “**Towards outcomes-based healthcare in Europe – How can the State of Health in the EU show the way?**” to discuss the national and regional implementation of the State of Health in the EU. Another large event was the EU Health Summit. This second edition of the Summit was

held on 26 October in digital format. EUREGHA chair Nick Batey hosted the break-out session “**Policies for Health**”, with guests Normunds Popen (Deputy Director-General for Regional Policy, European Commission) and Paola Testori Coggi (National Technological Cluster on Life Sciences (ALISEI) & Former Director General for Health and Consumers, European Commission)

As COVID-19 changed the narrative on healthcare in the EU, the members of the **EU Health Coalition** joined forces to release several powerful joint statements and position papers. The Coalition, for instance, called upon the EU to put a common, coordinated, and solidarity-based EU action

in place to tackle COVID-19. Later on, during the budget negotiations, the EU Health Coalition took a clear position to make sure that health ministers have a pivotal role in the EU Recovery Instruments negotiations. The Coalition, furthermore, pledged for an ambitious EU4Health programme. Health research was also addressed in five different statements on planned budget cuts of Horizon Europe and the need for implementation of a European Health Research Council.

During the Covid-19 crisis, it became apparent that health stakeholders need to work together to ensure that the principle of “leaving no-one behind” will be prioritized in any future crises.



Above: Panel Debate at the EU Health Summit, 04 February



Above: Nick Batey at the EU Health Summit, 26 October

It is with that in mind that EUREGHA has joined the **Patient Access Partnership (PACT)** in 2020.



PACT is a patient-led multi-stakeholder network which brings together patients, the medical and public health community, industry, EU institutions and policymakers on a national level. The platform aims to find innovative solutions that will improve access to quality healthcare in Europe. EUREGHA is happy to support the workstreams of the **PACT Steering Committee** by embedding the regional perspective into the discussion.



PACT website



European
Alliance for
Value in Health

EUREGHA, furthermore, is one of the founding members of the **European Alliance of Value in Health**. This new Alliance was launched on 16 November 2020 and represents a broad range of EU associations representing scientific and professional societies, patients, hospitals, life-science industries.

The vision of the Alliance is based on value-based, sustainable, and patient-centred health systems.



Above: Promotion of EU Health Coalition.

The Alliance will issue joint opinions, bring together members and connect new actors (from the European, national and local level), and share knowledge and information.



EUREGHA also joined forces with OPEN-EU, a new initiative within OPEN, launched in 2020. It seeks to ensure that all relevant European institutional strategies and policies integrate measures that support people living with obesity.

OPEN-EU is part of the global OPEN network which includes national coalitions in over 15 countries.



European Alliance
for Value in Health
website

Further topics that were identified as crucial throughout 2020 are cross-border healthcare, eHealth, healthcare promotion and prevention, value-based healthcare and outcome measurement, and cancer. The EUREGHA Secretariat and its members worked around the clock to follow the latest developments in those areas and represent the network on a European and local level in the policy debate.

Cross-border healthcare

EUREGHA and Lower Austria (the Health Across Initiative) have published a joint statement on cross-border healthcare in border regions in 2019. The thematic networks are now closed and the results were presented during a webinar on the **EU Health Policy Platform** on 20 January. The Thematic Network was transformed into a Stakeholder Platform and EUREGHA continued its work around the topic as the manager of the platform.



During the **CoR NAT Commission meeting** on 5 March, Julia Winkler, the team leader of the Health across Initiative, participated in a discussion on cross-border healthcare. Rapporteur Karsten Uno Pederson (DK/PES) organized the meeting to exchange views on the upcoming opinion on “cross-border health care”.

Advocacy

Through Julia Winkler's contribution, it became clear how challenges in cross-border healthcare work in practice.



Above: Julia Winkler at the CoR NAT Commission meeting, 05 March

Healthcare promotion and prevention

An important partnership building upon healthcare promotion and prevention is the strong collaboration with the **European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO)** and the **Obesity Policy Engagement Network (OPEN-EU)**. On **World Obesity Day**, EUREGHA Director Valentina Polylas contributed to the Parliament Magazine's Special Supplement with a blogpost about the regional perspective on obesity.

To tackle this disease most efficiently, it is of utmost importance to use a whole system approach to include both environmental factors and individual behaviour changes.

Regional and local health authorities are situated best to rethink new strategies for obesity, taking into account a community-based approach and the importance of value.

Value-based healthcare and outcomes measurement

EUREGHA has worked intensively around the topic of value-based healthcare and outcome measurement through its EU-funded projects **EURIPHI**. On top of that, EUREGHA Director Valentina Polylas wrote an [expert blog](#) for **Med-TechWeek** on the role of regional authorities in value-based healthcare. Modernising the public sector in the EU is vital to keeping pace with today's societal challenges.

This is particularly true for the health sector, where improving high-quality affordable health-

EUREGHA's involvement in value-based healthcare is also visible due to its active role in the second **European Value-based Procurement Conference**. The event was organized on 01 December by the Value-Based Procurement Community of Practice, with the support of **EU-REGHA, EHPPA, and MedTech Europe**.

The [event](#) aimed to explore the full potential of the ongoing shift towards Value-based Procurement, a practice that is putting patients' needs at the centre of purchasing decisions, and attracted the attention of many European stakeholders and healthcare experts.

EUREGHA chair, Nick Batey, was the first speaker of the meeting and explored how COVID-19 slowed processes down, but on the other hand, pushed value-based procurement to the top of the political agenda.

The Vice-chair of EUREGHA, AQUAS Catalonia, represents EUREGHA in the **EU Commission stakeholder expert group on public procurement**. The task of this [group](#) is to provide the European Commission with expertise that can contribute to EU policies around public procurement. The expert group was renewed in 2020 and AQUAS (and EUREGHA) participated for the first time.

eHealth

EUREGHA was selected as a new member organisation of the **eHealth Stakeholder Group** in 2020. In this respect, EUREGHA supports the European Commission in the development of actions for the digital transformation of health and care in the European Union.

The mandate runs from 2020 until 2022.

All the organizations selected to work with the European Commission are associations or umbrella organisations linked to the European Union and represent patients, healthcare professionals, researchers and the Health Tech industry. The main role of the eHealth Stakeholder Group

lies in providing advice and opinions to develop policy and implement the [Communication](#) on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market.

Topics vary from health data, digital health services, cybersecurity for health and care data, digital tools for citizen empowerment and person-centred care.

Cancer

EUREGHA has closely followed the ambitious **EU's Beating Cancer plan**.

In May 2020, the EUREGHA Secretariat published its [contribution to the public consultation](#) on the plan launched by the European Commission.

By sending its position, EUREGHA makes sure that the Commission considers the importance of having an integrated care approach in any future steps in cancer care.

EUREGHA believes that qualitative cancer care evolves around an integrated care approach with screening and care delivery at the center. By exploring regional good practices related to cancer screenings and implementing evidence-based strategies for early detection, health professionals are placed best to target vulnerable

groups of people. Cancer patients and cancer survivors experience significant challenges in their daily lives. In particular, the survivorship topic with its physical, emotional, and financial consequences, should be addressed at EU level. Moreover, cancer survivors are also at a greater risk for developing second types of cancers and other health conditions.

In October 2020, EUREGHA joined forces with the **European Regions Research Innovation Network (ERRIN)** to raise the regional voice in the future [Horizon Europe mission on cancer](#).

The two networks believe that the European Commission's initiative to address cancer in the form of a mission is good, it should however be evident that this mission can only thrive when stakeholder engagement and a regional dimension are being safeguarded within the design and implementation of the process.

The two organizations organized several meetings with DG SANTE to discuss how regional entities can contribute to the EU's Beating Cancer Plan and Horizon Europe Mission.



Above, Nick Batey at the 2nd European Value-Based Procurement Conference, 01 December

care is crucial to coping with an ageing population, chronic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, person-centred solutions, and many other issues. To address such challenges, we need innovative tools such as Public Procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI) and Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP). Those can be used effectively to prove that the market can deliver commercially stable technologies before procurers commit to buying large volumes of end-solutions.



Joint statement

A regional and local perspective
on the Horizon Europe Mission on
Cancer



Above, Joint statement EUREGHA and ERRIN on the relevance of regional voices in beating cancer, October

EUREGHA (co-) organized several webinars and conferences in 2020. This chapter outlines the most important events that were organized by the EUREGHA Secretariat.

Cohesion policy and health Investing in a healthy and socially just development



Above: Joint statement EUREGHA and EuroHealthNet on strategic investments in health and social service, 15 October

On 15 October, EUREGHA coordinated the **”Cohesion policy and health- Investing in a healthy and socially just development”** workshop in partnership with the **European Committee of the Regions, DG SANTE (the European Commission), and EuroHealthnet**. The workshop was organized within the framework of the **European Week of Regions and Cities 2020**.

During this meeting, **Normunds Popenis** (DG REGIO) explained how to reform EU healthcare systems via programmes (such as EU4Health) and other funds and investments.

He underlined the need to acknowledge social, economic, and regional differences in this process. **Loukianos Gatzoulis** (DG SANTE) pointed out the importance of cohesion policies as a valuable tool for future healthcare systems.

He noted that the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester should have a leading role in the upcoming programming period. **Caroline Costongs** (EuroHealthNet) stated that COVID19 showed the need to step up investments to reinforce health and care system preparedness, responsiveness, and resilience while ensuring cross border cooperation.

Solidarity, sustainability, and equity are crucial throughout this process.

During the event, a **Joint Statement** was launched by EUREGHA and **EuroHealthNet** touching upon the use of the next European Structural Investment Funds for strategic investments in health and social services.

EUREGHA and EuroHealthNet state that we must develop holistic regional health strategies which focus on a new governance approach, better coordination with other EU policies and tools, partnerships with health and social stakeholders, and more effective use of instruments and programs such as the Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and INTERREG.



Joint Statement

EUREGHA high-level Annual Conference “Foresee, adapt, transform. Building the European health and social care systems of the future”

On 09 December, EUREGHA held its high-level annual conference. The conference was organized to discuss the ongoing transformation of the health and social care systems in Europe. The event aimed to bring together national and regional health stakeholders to explore which problems we are facing and how we can cooperate to build more resilient healthcare systems.

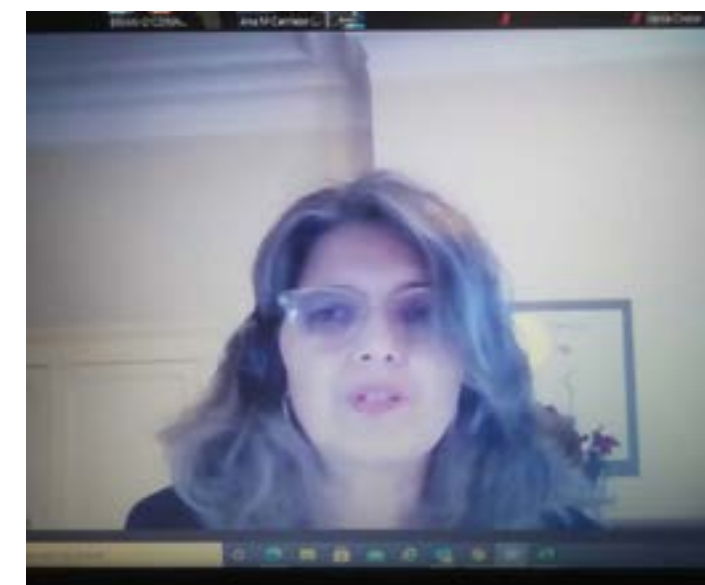
Jan de Maeseneer, the Chair of the European Commission Expert Panel on Effective Ways of investing in health, dedicated his intervention to the new opinion “The organization of resilient health and social care following the COVID-19 pandemic”. **Andrea Renda**, Senior Research Fellow CEPS, presented the H2020 PERISCOPE project, which aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged the participants to contribute to the project by sending in good practices of innovative solutions that were implemented in communities and regions.

Throughout the panel debate, EUREGHA members and external stakeholders exchanged their views on which urgent changes are necessary for the European health and social care systems to ensure better health in all regions.

The panellists agreed that we should not reinvent the wheel and that it is crucial to create patient-centred ecosystems that bear in mind both the needs of the citizens and the overall challenges in the field of healthcare.

In order to succeed, we must learn from the people on the ground, who are best placed to identify both problems and solutions.

Maya Matthews, Head of Unit B1 Performance of Health Systems at DG SANTE, in her closing remarks, stressed the need for a more important role for Europe in the field of healthcare and analyzed which European actions have already been taken. She underlined that it is crucial to exchange information, collaborate among the Member States and Regions, and address inequalities to protect the most vulnerable citizens. During the debate, EUREGHA, the ECHAlliance and the RSCN stressed the idea of establishing an **Interregional thematic partnership for smart specialisation (TSSP)** on health and wellbeing.



Above: Maya Matthews at High-Level Annual Conference, 09 December



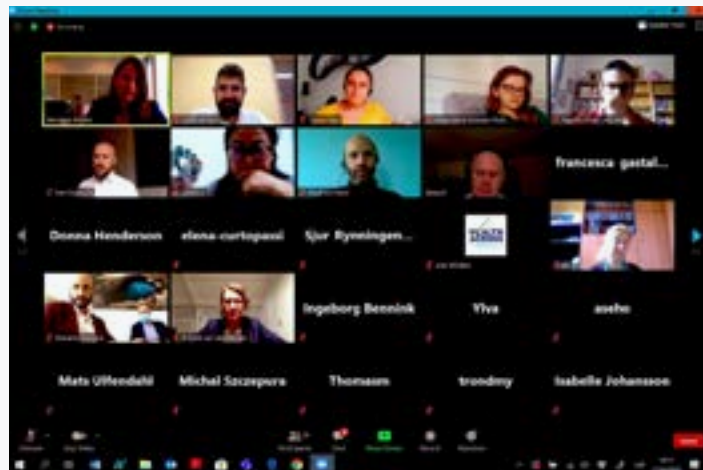
Report

Chair: Wales

Co-vice Chairs: Catalonia and Lower-Austria
Treasurer: Scotland

2020 Executive Board: Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Flanders, Scotland, Lower Austria, Ostergotland, Tuscany, Wales.

Secretariat: It continued to have the capacity of two full-time employees and was reinforced by five full-time interns through a convention with the University of Bologna (IT) and one part-time trainee through agreement with the Vesalius College (BE).



Above: General Assembly, 17. June

CORE ACTIVITIES

General Assembly and Executive Board

The General Assembly of 2020 was originally planned in March in Barcelona. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this meeting had to be rescheduled to 17 June. During this occasion, new members (Northern Ireland and AReSS Puglia) officially presented themselves and were ratified by the other members. On top of that, a presentation was held about the overall budget, the state of play around projects, and members discussed EUREGHA's achievements and plans for the upcoming years.

Throughout 2020, six executive board meetings were held. The first meeting was organized on 25 March and was used to understand the needs of the members during the first months of the pandemic. The members agreed that the "Regions against COVID-19" campaign can be used to underline regional actions in crisis situations. During the second meeting of 29 April, it became clear that the COVID-19 situation is challenging for regions, and that the members share similar challenges and opportunities.

The Executive Board members concluded that the pandemic seems to have good consequences for digital healthcare.

One month later, on 22 May, a new meeting was organized. COVID-19 dominated the agenda, but it became clear that the first shock passed and members were able to think about sustainable solutions for the future.

The attention of EUREGHA members shifted to contact-tracing and increasing the testing capacity to open the society.

After the summer a new meeting was held on 22 September. During this occasion, members discussed how the regions dealt with the effects of the first lockdown and how primary and hospital care was reinstated.

The meeting in November dealt with the sustainability of EUREGHA and the topics for the EUREGHA high-level Annual Conference. The last meeting of the year was mainly dedicated to the working programme of 2021 and the European policy framework.



Full report

Newsletter

The EUREGHA Secretariat published four newsletters. They were shared with the extensive database of EUREGHA and covered topics related to COVID-19, mental health, cross-border healthcare, value-based healthcare, and EU policies.

The newsletters included interesting interviews with EUREGHA members. The EUREGHA Secretariat furthermore published 23 info-flashes in 2020. The bi-weekly info-flashes are a member-only service and are rich summaries of all regional and health policy developments.

Communication and Social Media



The EUREGHA Secretariat has maintained its active presence online and has published 38 news articles on its website. The posts include photos, videos, and infographics.

All the information was published on social media accounts Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. The objective was to increase transparency and accountability. On the website, one can find information about EUREGHA's mission, EUREGHA Statutes, agendas, and minutes (of the annual conferences) and other publications such as best practices, position papers, and public consultations.

EUREGHA will soon launch the new Knowledge Management System. This private website will serve as a library and calendar for EUREGHA members and will help to easily access qualitative and reliable information and documents.



EUREGHA website



+ 260 followers
 + 252 followers

Participation in Conferences

22 JAN "ICom taking care of EU Health care Policy"

04 FEB "Towards outcomes-based healthcare in Europe – How can the State of Health in the EU show the way?"

07 FEB "Coronavirus Webinar" – DG SANTE, Unit c3 Crisis Management and preparedness in health

18 FEB "ICom INNOVATIVE EUROPE: THE WAY FORWARD, Taking Stock and Thinking Ahead"

24 FEB "Sirocco exchange webinar"

03 MAR "A European Union that ensures patient access and sustainability"

03 MAR "Patient Safety Policy Summit"

04 MAR "Changing the status quo in obesity – Launch of the Obesity Policy Engagement Network (OPEN EU)"

05-06 MAR "EURECO Forum "Supporting Inclusive Health for All"

10 MAR "EURIPHI International Roundtable"

24 MAR "EAPM Croatia Presidency Online Conference – Defining the healthcare ecosystem to determine value"

26 MAR "SCIROCCO Exchange Webinar – Have we progressed integrated care in Europe?"

26 MAR "Blood and Beyond: Rethinking blood use in Europe"

26 MAR “ATA COVID-19 Response Webinar Series In Partnership with ECHAlliance: Lessons Learned from Our EU Partners”

27 MAR COVID-19: A systematic crisis

02 APR “Italy battles against COVID-19: Where are we, what was done, lessons learnt”

03 APR “Opportunities to Tackle the Covid-19 Crisis through Innovation Procurement”

07 APR “Continuity and coordination of care: preparing the health care workforce to meet the need of chronic patients Webinar”

09 APR “Masks: what is the latest evidence? What is the position of WHO?”

16 APR “Mobilizing EU collective intelligence to defeat COVID-19”

11 APR “Cancer and COVID-19 – short term reality, long term vision”

20 APR “Europe COVID-19 battle: The industry response” – EFPIA and Vaccines Europe

23 APR “COVID-19 in Lombardy and Veneto: what happened?”

28 APR “Big Data and the Future of Population Health”

30 APR “COVID-19 in patients with rare diseases of the respiratory system” – ERN-LUNG and the European Respiratory Society (ERS)

30 APR “Key challenges and opportunities for the prevention of mental health in the aftermath of COVID-19”

04 MAY “COVID-19: Balancing the reality of the pandemic’s budgets and the ongoing needs of cancer patients”

05 MAY “My City-Lab Talk Series – AI in Genomics for Delivering Personalised Care”

13 MAY “Profiling and training the healthcare work of the future: Preparing health care professionals to the ongoing digitalisation of care: Innovation readiness, digital leadership and literacy”

14 MAY “The WHO Covid-19 Technology Pool: the solution to ensure global access to Covid-19 health technologies”

21 MAY “European Hospitals and Covid19: Reacting and Adapting”

09 JUN “EFPIA and Vaccines Europe; United in the search of a COVID-19 Vaccine”

11 JUN “Rethinking Health Systems: Integrated Care and Empowerment of Primary Care” – European Diabetes Forum and EFPIA

18 JUN “Croatian Presidency: Treatment Outcomes”

25 JUN “Relaunch of the MEP Interest Group on Equitable access to healthcare”

08 JUL “How to prevent and cure COVID-19”

09 JUL “New Initiatives Takes on the Antibiotic Innovation Challenge: Bridging the gap between science and patients”

13 JUL “Recommendations for health research in Europe – Design for Impact” – Scientific Panel for Health

01 SEP “Better health systems and policies revealed from research and innovation”

08 SEP “Health First Europe’s Webinar on Patient Safety Best Practices across Europe; Learning from regional success stories

18 SEP “EU vaccines strategy”

21 SEP “Every day counts; accelerate access, beat cancer”

21 SEP “Launch of the European Code of Cancer Practice”

23 SEP “European R&I Days: Co-designing Horizon Europe Interactive session on cluster Health”

02 OCT “The future of mental health, rights, and recovery in Europe”

08 OCT “Cancer care in Europe: Where are we in 2020? An Introduction to EFPIA’s Interactive Cancer Data Comparator”

08 OCT “How can a European Reference Network on Communicable Disease Advance Hepatitis Elimination”

09 OCT “COVID-19 Contact tracing. The usefulness of mobile apps”

26 OCT “EU Health Summit 2020 – A shared vision for the future of health in Europe”

29 OCT “SAPHIRE workshop: access to health data: the role of regional actors, gatekeepers, providers, and individuals”

04 NOV “Good life, ageing & technology – Creating a vision of care in times of digitization”

05 NOV “Demographic change and healthy ageing: a European Parliament perspective”

06 NOV “Using capacity-building tools to generate health and care innovation”

12 NOV “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Drug Shortages (But Were Afraid to Ask)”

18 NOV “Promoting mental wellbeing amongst children in schools: paving the way towards a more systematic approach”

19 NOV “Health at a Glance: Europe 2020”

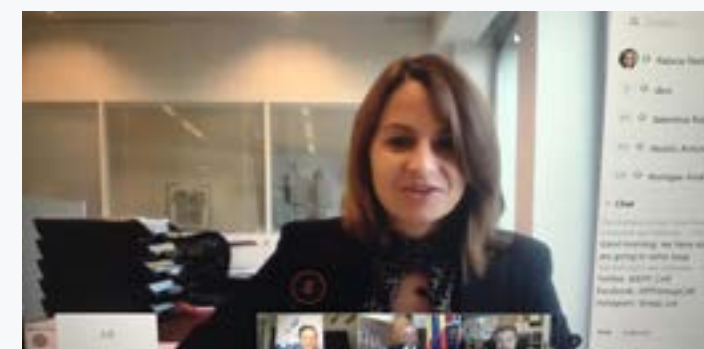
19 NOV “ONE health approach, MULTIPLE answers: Citizens’ engagement & stakeholders’ actions to tackle antimicrobial resistance and sustain EU progress”

24 NOV “Cancer Prevention: What’s worth the effort?”

26 NOV “Making data usable: regional considerations, best practices and examples”

01 DEC “Second Value-based Procurement Conference”

03 DEC “Making mental health matter”



Above: Valentina Polylas at the Corona Task Force Meeting, November

EUREGHA is the reference network for European regional and local health authorities. It brings 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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