

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



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# 2022 in a Nutshell



## ADVOCACY

- **10th Anniversary Statement defining policy priorities**
- Continuation of the internal WGs on Cancer and Cross-Border Healthcare, and launch of the **new WG on Digital Transformation**
- Continuous engagement with EU Institutions, in particular European Commission DG REGIO, DG SANTE and DG CONNECT
- Participation in the European Public Health Conference in Berlin, Germany and European Health Forum Gastein in Gastein, Austria
- Following closely the thematic network “Mental Health in All Policies”
- Support to the third and fourth European Value-based Procurement Conferences
- **Launch of the European Active and Healthy Living Coalition (EURAHL)**
- **Participation in key partnerships:** European Alliance for Value in Health; EU Health Coalition: OPEN-EU.
- **Participation as experts and speakers** in several high-level events organised in Brussels.



## EVENTS

- 1 Conference during the European Week of Regions and Cities: **“Realising the potential of digital health transformation in Europe: A focus on the role and experiences of Regional and Local Health Authorities”** in partnership with CoR and DG CONNECT
- 4 meetings of the Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing
- Joint High-Level Conference with WHO Europe Regions for Health Network
- Scientific coordination in the Sanitanova webinar on “Good Practices for improving the efficiency of cancer treatment in Europe”
- Final conference of the EU-funded project IN-4-AHA



## MEMBERS

- **1 High-level Annual Conference**
- **1 General Assembly**
- **12 Executive Board meetings**
- **New Secretariat's Director**



## EU PROJECTS

EUREGHA successfully closed the **IN-4-AHA** project and started implementing three new projects:

Digital and green skills in the health sector (**BeWell**)

Health innovation procurement (**Health Inno-Facilitator**)

Tender on **Overcoming Obstacles to Vaccination**

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY

- **1 statement re-defining EUREGHA's approach and priorities**
- **10th Anniversary special logo**
- **12 Video Testimonial from members**
- **Dedicated social media campaign and special newsletter**



## COMMUNICATION

- + 3003 followers (+309) + 294 followers
- + 1654 followers (+682)
- 20 news articles on euregha.net
- 5 newsletters
- 24 Bi-weekly members-only newsletters

# Foreword

We have said on several occasions that 2022 would be a special year for EUREGHA and it happened, but we never imagined that it would also be so busy and productive with so many excellent premises for our new decade: policy actions, events, projects, activities, new partnerships have been strengthening once again the unique position and role of EUREGHA in representing the voice of Regional and Local Health Authorities in Europe.

We have also said that it would be a year of transition and symbolically it was also in top roles, with the appointment of a new Director, Michele Calabrò, and a new workspace, leaving at the end of the year our previous Brussels' headquarters for a new office in close vicinity to the European Parliament.

The **10th anniversary** was of course celebrated, not only with the first in-person Annual General Assembly in Brussels after the COVID-19 period, but also with a [dedicated statement and campaign](#), involving several of our members in showcasing why EUREGHA is such an important network for regions and local authorities.

With the statement, **we have also traced the path for the near future of EUREGHA** and its approach moving towards a disruptive approach to achieve innovative, sustainable, future-proof health systems delivering better care for all. **Value-based, community and co-creation, digital transformation** will be the overarching lenses that we will use to envision the future and to steer our activities in the coming years.

In this context, noteworthy was the launch in September 2022 of the EUREGHA brand new **Digital Transformation Working Group**, bringing together regions and local authorities to discuss the hottest topics for digital health – starting, of course, with the European Health Data Space!

And as we began handling the lenses mentioned we remained dogged in the practical exploration of our historic focus needs – cancer, mental health, active and healthy long-living – bringing them in synergy outside our network as happened

in the ongoing collaboration for these topics with the **European Committee of the Regions Interregional Working Group on Health and Wellbeing**.

Another key word for 2022 is surely '**partnership**'. We have started fundamental collaborations with **new EU projects**, such as BeWell – focused on green and digital skills for the health workforce, and Health InnoFacilitator – focused on innovation procurement.

And again, our will to maintain exchanges with other partners who share our sensitivities and paths brought about the launch of the **EURAHL coalition** on active and healthy ageing launched in June 2022 and born in the framework of the IN-4-AHA EU project, which closed in December with an exciting Final Conference in Tallinn. In December we also had the pleasure to collaborate with the WHO Regions for Health Network for a successful joint [High-Level Conference](#).

Before leaving you to read our report, allow me to thank the real creators of this mass of activity starting with Valentina Polylas, Director until April, and our current hardworking staff: Michele, Robin, Marco alongside our 2022 trainees Emanuele, Carlotta, Katherine and Erika.

**Giovanni Gorgoni – EUREGHA's Chair**



**Giovanni Gorgoni**  
EUREGHA's CHAIR

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# 10th Anniversary Celebration and Statement



## EUREGHA 10th Anniversary Celebratory Logo

In 2022, EUREGHA had the pleasure of celebrating its 10th anniversary as a reference network for regional and local health authorities. A beautiful milestone to celebrate, reflecting on the last 10 years and looking forward to the years to come. The Secretariat collected video-testimonials from EUREGHA members to hear in their words what the value of EUREGHA membership is, and how they hope the network will develop itself in the future.



**EUREGHA 10th Anniversary Page**

With this memorable occasion also came a revision to EUREGHA's strategy based on lessons from the last years and inputs from members. Over the past 10 years, EUREGHA has grown from an informal collaboration into a firmly established Brussels-based network that brings together 19 members and acts as a bridge for regional and local health authorities, between them, and with the whole health ecosystems. From people to health and care systems actors, to European institutions, policies, and frameworks.

This 10th Anniversary came at a particular time for healthcare at European level. The COVID-19 emergency painfully exposed weaknesses of our current health and social care systems, causing health authorities across the entire world to rethink their priorities and objectives. Furthermore, the pandemic also shook things up at European level, leading to the discussion about building a European Health Union, large scale initiatives such as the European Health Data Space, and new and enriched funding programmes such as EU4Health. In this context, EUREGHA's objective becomes even more important: bringing regions together to **contribute to achieving innovative, sustainable, future-proof health systems delivering more accessible and better care for all**. Members' brainstorming and discussions at the Annual General Assembly 2022 shaped a renewed approach, mix-

ing the traditional EUREGHA flagship focus with new angles needed to reach its objectives in this evolving environment.

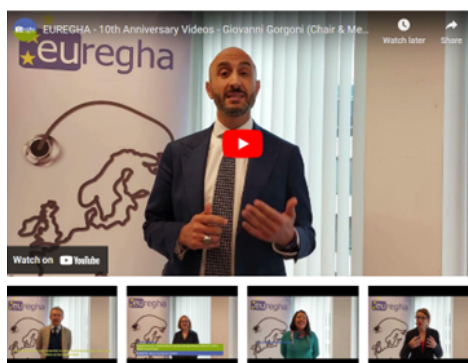
Through this new approach, EUREGHA views the future of healthcare through **three lenses**:

- **Value-based healthcare**
- **Digital transformation**
- **Communities and co-creation**

As we are looking at the future of healthcare through these lenses, EUREGHA identifies a set of **enablers** representing how we can achieve it:

- **Policies and frameworks**, setting the scene and providing the right incentives and instruments to achieve change.
- **Education, skills and literacy development**, for both health workforce and people.
- **Procurement strategies**, adapted to innovation and a value-based approach "to make things/change happen".
- **Health systems integration**, within and beyond borders.
- **Health Promotion and Prevention**, to tackle health challenges before the treatment level.
- **Co-creation approaches**, to ensure that the healthcare community needs are fully taken into consideration in health policy and implementation.
- **Smart Specialization in Health**, building on cross-regional cooperation that would advance regional competitiveness, with each region completing its own value chain.

The entire 10th anniversary statement and the special members' video testimonials are available [here](#).



**EUREGHA 10th Anniversary - Members' Testimonials.**



# Collaboration with the CoR

5

On 8 February, the **Committee of the Regions' Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing (IRGHW)** kicked off its 2022 activities with the constitutive meeting to set priorities for their meetings throughout the year. Following up on the exchanges in 2021, the digital transformation of health systems was confirmed as one of the thematic spotlights, as well as mental health. In addition, the issue of gender in health policies was raised as a potential interesting focus.

The first meeting of the year, held fully online on 22 April, was dedicated to the **State of Health in the EU**, completed and published in December 2021. It was an occasion for CoR members to take a deep dive into the publication and discuss some critical issues related to how to build a European path toward healthcare systems' resilience, thanks to the participation of Ms. Francesca Colombo, Director of the Health Division at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Ms. Maya Matthews, Head of Unit of the DG SANTE, European Commission.

On 30 June, the IRGHW returned to meet physically again after more than two years, due to the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The event focused on the topic of **gender and health and the underlying inequality challenge**, and saw the participation of Dorota Sienkiewicz, Senior Policy Coordinator at EuroHealthNet, Hendrik Van Poppel, Chair of the EU Policy Office at the European Association of Urology, and Co-chair of the European Cancer Organisation's Inequalities Network, and an example from Emilia-Romagna Region (IT, EUREGHA Member), represented by Fulvia Signani and Flavia Franconi, Members of the Center of Studies on Gender Medicine, University of Ferrara (IT).

On 12 October, it was time for the Interregional Group to meet in the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, through the participation in a workshop on "**Realising the potential of digital health transformation in Europe: A focus on the role and experiences of Regional and Local Health Authorities**", organised in collabora-

tion with the Committee of the Regions' NAT, European Commission's DG CONNECT and EUREGHA.

The IRGHW held its last meeting for 2022 on 1 December, titled "**Towards a European Strategy on mental health**". This meeting was an opportunity for IRGHW members to deepen the topic of mental health in all policies, thanks to the contribution of Francesca Centola, Policy and Knowledge Officer at Mental Health Europe, and explore the potential of digital solutions for mental health. The discussion was enriched by the example of the Swedish national platform (INERA) brought by Isabelle Johansson, Head of Region Östergötland's EU Office, Region Östergötland (SE, EUREGHA Members), which includes digital treatment and support of cognitive behavioural therapy to address several conditions such as depression and anxiety.



**CoR Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing on Mental Health – (December 2022).**



**IRGHW**  
web page and  
meeting reports

# Participation in EU projects & tenders



The PERISCOPE project (**Pan-European Response to the Impacts of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics**) aims to promote a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the outbreak and spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic through multidisciplinary research based on different levels of analysis: clinical, technological, socio-economic and political.

In 2022, EUREGHA joined forces with AQUAS (Agència de Qualitat i Avaluació Sanitàries de Catalunya) and Mental Health Europe to produce a **Massive Open Online Course** on “**Strengthening territorial response for better health**”, with the special contribution of EUREGHA’s members AreSS Puglia and GGD Zuid Limburg / euPrevent, who kindly provided their expertise, experience, and vision on the topics addressed. The course, [available on Coursera](#) for free and in a self-placed mode, aims to provide learners with key concepts and tools needed to get regions more prepared for future large-scale risks, covering four topics that have proven to be crucial during the COVID-19 outbreak: procurement lines, digitalisation and transformation of healthcare systems, cross-border cooperation, and ending stigma and improving mental health.

EUREGHA supported the project with dissemination of news and information about its research outcomes, activities, and initiatives through social media channels, newsletters, and internal channels. On the 24th and 25th of October, after almost two years since the project’s kick-start, the 32 partners finally met in person in Como (IT) for a General Assembly to discuss the current status and plan the activities for the project’s last year (ending in November 2023).



**Periscope  
website**



The IN-4-AHA project (**Innovation Networks for Active and Healthy Ageing**) is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) building on the legacy of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA). Aiming to connect supply and demand actors, IN-4-AHA works to identify, support, and enhance the most important innovation ecosystem elements in the field of active and healthy ageing. The main project deliverable will be an innovation scale-up model, complemented by a roadmap and playbook to boost the (cross-border) uptake of innovative digital technologies for elderly health and social care. The project started in January 2021 and ended with a final conference in December 2022, in Estonia.

Like the previous year, IN-4-AHA organised numerous online stakeholder workshops and webinars to collect input on and validate the project’s deliverables, as well as to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning within the European AHA community. EUREGHA continuously coordinated the dissemination of these events and initiatives through the project’s media channels and by supporting partners’ dissemination through communication kits.

In addition to the online events, EUREGHA also hosted a hybrid brainstorm session with consortium partners for the formulation of [policy recommendations](#) (D7.4) in June 2022, which were finalized and disseminated online in December 2022.

The highlight of the IN-4-AHA project, namely the **final conference**, also took place in December 2022 in a hybrid format. With consortium partners and AHA stakeholders from all over Europe joining in person or viewing online, praise from the **European Commission’s Vice-President Dubravka Šuica**, the conference allowed us to close off the project with fulfilment and the realisation that IN-4-AHA’s work has helped others progress and the developed models and tool-kits will continue to support innovation for active and healthy ageing and living in Europe for years to come.



During the final year of the project, EUREGHA has worked to establish an informal coalition of willing and interested EU-wide networks and organisations, including some of the partners from IN-4-AHA, working on Active and Healthy Ageing/Living issues with the purpose of pooling our knowledge and harmonising efforts within the community (where appropriate) towards more concerted actions. Still largely informal, but governed by a Terms of Reference and grouped under the acronym **EURAHL – European Active and Healthy Living Coalition**, this network of stakeholders aims to continue working together after the IN-4-AHA project has ended and is brainstorming what actions could be undertaken in this joint format to support ongoing activities and new initiatives in the field of Active and Healthy Living.



**IN-4-AHA  
website**



With the 18-month extension granted to the BOOST consortium in the previous year, the project continued throughout 2022 with implementation of pilot activities that had been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic and research into the links between Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), school climate, and mental health of pupils.

As leader of the Work Package on Communication and Dissemination, EUREGHA continued to spread news, information and latest developments through the BOOST website and social media accounts. We published snapshots of the project's implementation status in Poland, Spain, and Norway, on the BOOST website at the beginning of the year. Later, in May 2022, the consortium truly came back to life with the first in-person [meeting](#) since the pandemic, hosted by the University of Córdoba in Spain. After summer, EUREGHA organised a [webinar](#) on **lessons learned from COVID-19** within the framework of the BOOST project, accompanied by a keynote from MEP Alviina Alametsä, Co-Chair of the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing in the European Parliament. Over the



**BOOST  
website**

course of 2022, we published and disseminated two project newsletters, also permanently available on the project website.

Finally, as proof of the potential of BOOST in mental health promotion, the project featured in the European Commission's [Healthier Together](#) – EU NCDs Initiative, published in June 2022, among the key initiatives and actions to promote mental wellbeing of the population in the EU.



**BOOST Mental Health Consortium meeting  
in Córdoba (May 2022).**



In July 2022, the BeWell project officially kicked off its activities. BeWell, **Blueprint alliance for a future health workforce strategy on digital and green skills**, is a project funded through an Erasmus+, led by EHMA – European Health Management Association and entirely focused on skilling and upskilling of the health workforce.

Over four years (2022-2026), BeWell's 29 partners will focus on developing a **green and digital skills strategy for the health ecosystem** that can be implemented at a local, regional, national, and ultimately at the European level through the Pact for Skills.

In the context of the European Commission's Pact for Skills, BeWell, under the lead of EUREGHA (Work Package 8 lead), will be responsible for the set up and management of the [Pact's Large-Scale Partnership for the health ecosystem](#). The Partnership is an initiative entirely devoted to bringing together all health stakeholders, initiatives and projects active in the field of skills. The Partnership was officially launched in December 2022 with a virtual

event opened by DG Sante Director General Sandra Gallina and where EUREGHA Director Michele Calabrò, supported by BeWell's consortium partners, presented the Partnership manifesto, an overarching document which will drive the development of the initiative.



**BeWell**  
website



**BeWell – Launch event of the Large Scale Partnership for the health ecosystem, Online (12 December 2023)**



Kicked off in October 2022, the Health InnoFacilitator project gathers 7 EU partners with expertise in **innovation procurement** including healthcare clusters, innovation and PPI support and public/private healthcare buyers, and aims to create a community leveraging capabilities and promoting innovation procurement in healthcare services. The project focuses demonstrate relevance and effectiveness of cooperation between various stakeholders, supporting innovation actors (start-ups and SMEs) in healthcare to access public procurement, and supporting public and private buyers (hospitals, regional and local authorities, public and private purchasing centers) to launch Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI). Transforming the public procurement culture of multiple EU public buyers into one that systematically encourages added value for citizens and market innovation and



**Health**  
**InnoFacilitator**  
website

advances towards Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) is equally a strategic goal of the project. In InnoFacilitator, EUREGHA will lead the work of Work Package 2, building and maintaining a lively community of experts in innovation procurement through a dedicated platform and continuous engagement throughout this 24-months project.



**Health InnoFacilitator Kick-Off meeting, Paris (7-8 November 2022)**



**Tender on Overcoming Obstacles to Vaccination**

This service contract with European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) and DG SANTE of the European Commission aims to **identify administrative obstacles to vaccination in the European Union (EU)**, assess how these obstacles impact vaccination coverage rates, and highlight promising practices to overcome them.

The project is composed of six core tasks, taking place from July 2022 until April 2025: a mapping of vaccination services in all EU Member States to identify obstacles to vaccination of physical, practical and administrative nature; a large-scale survey of EU citizens and health professionals in all EU Member States to determine to what extent these obstacles have a negative impact on vaccination coverage rates; identification of best practices developed by EU Member States to overcome these obstacles; organization of onsite visits to the EU Member States from which best practices have been identified; piloting best practices in volunteering EU Member States; and the development of final recommendations.

EUREGHA will have a supporting role as subcontractor partner, mainly focused on facilitating participation and connections with Regional and Local Health Authorities.



**Tender**  
**LinkedIn page**

# Collaboration with other networks

In 2022, EUREGHA continued and strengthened its commitment to collaboration with other key stakeholders to further promote the role of regions and local authorities in health.



**European  
Alliance for  
Value in Health**

As member of the **European Alliance for Value in Health**, EUREGHA remains particularly active in the field of value-based healthcare, joining forces with other 11 partners and several affiliated organisations towards a shared vision for a Europe, where health systems are value-based, sustainable, and people-centred. In 2022, the EAVH focused its efforts on developing a taxonomy exercise to describe terms related to value-based healthcare and a first important step in the road towards a common language of a constantly changing and evolving field. EUREGHA and several of its members played a crucial role in this initiative by providing essential inputs and feedback from the regional and local health authorities perspective.



**EAVH website**



2022 was a busy year for EUREGHA's active participation in the European Health Coalition, a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together more

than 40 actors looking at mapping and shaping the future of healthcare in Europe.

EUREGHA, as lead of the Coalition's working group on Health Systems Integration, led the shaping of the group's renewed joint [recommendations](#) officially presented during the [EU Health Coalition Summit in November 2022 in Brussels](#), a high-level event with speakers from WHO, European Parliament, European Commission and key European and international stakeholders. The Health Systems Group's recommendation focused on two main pillars: incentivize integrated care across Europe through dedicated resources, competences development and assessment; and implement effective EU health policies and programmes coordination, within and across EU countries.



**EU Health  
Coalition  
website**



**Michele Calabrò, EUREGHA's Director, speaking at the EU Health Summit (November 2022)**



Set up within the activities of the IN-4-AHA as a joint effort of EUREGHA and University of Porto, EURAHL, the **European Active and Healthy Living Coalition**, was launched in June 2022. Governed by terms of references and promoted to the public with a dedicated webinar in November

2022, the Coalition brings together key European networks and initiatives active in the field of active and healthy ageing and living. The [Coalition](#) aims at strengthening relations, promoting synergies, exchanging information and knowledge, and connecting the voices of its members for a more cohesive AHL environment in Europe.



**[EURAHL website](#)**

## OPEN-EU

Obesity Policy Engagement Network

EUREGHA continued its cooperation with OPEN-EU, a coalition of key EU experts and policy - makers covering a wide range of areas aiming to implement a cross-cutting policy approach at an EU level to ensure that European strategies and policies integrate measures that effectively help support people living with obesity. In the framework of collaboration with stakeholders in the field of obesity, on 22 September, EUREGHA's Chair, contributed to an online event "Policy Stakeholder Session - Value Based Healthcare and Obesity", organised by the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO).



**[OPEN-EU website](#)**



## Digital transformation

EUREGHA's engagement in innovation and digital transformation accompanies the network since the beginning of its activities, and these topics have been confirmed as EUREGHA's pillars in the 10th anniversary statement. In September 2022, with the **establishment of a dedicated Working Group**, EUREGHA decided to start working on this field in an even more structured and synergistic way, in partnership with its members to address the challenges of EU digital health agenda. The primary aim of this group is to facilitate internal and external activities related to digital health for the secretariat and its members. Specifically, the Working Group was established to gather feedback, opinions and concerns from the regions about the **European Health and Data Space (EHDS)** proposal by the European Commission, one of the main files under the European Health Union project, with the potential to improve healthcare delivery, research capacity, health industry innovation and health policymaking. The group will focus on aspects such as regional and ecosystem readiness, critical needs, ongoing projects, and initiatives of interest. Among the goals, the WG will work on a [position statement on the EHDS implementation](#), which will be presented in 2023 during the discussion of the proposal at the European Parliament. To showcase EUREGHA's proactive approach towards digital health, the organization also organised a session during the European Week of Regions and Cities, with a specific focus on the EHDS proposal.

## Cross-border Healthcare

EUREGHA places great importance on cross-border healthcare, and as such, it is a central topic of action for the organization. In 2022, the Cross-Border Healthcare Working Group held two meetings, the first being the constitutive meeting in February and the second in March. During the first meeting, the group set their thematic priorities for the year and

members shared their involvement in initiatives and projects. It was during this meeting that the priorities of the year were decided, such as the possibility of conducting research on unmet needs for people living in cross-border area, using the Working Group to bring regional cooperative approaches at a pan-European level, and support organisations in integrating regional cooperation in their work. The second meeting, titled "Interreg Europe 2021-2027: Towards Better and Stronger Cooperation," provided an opportunity for the Working Group to engage with the European Commission, represented by DG REGIO, on the ongoing activities in their respective regions, as well as members' best practices. They discussed priorities, objectives, and the best ways to strengthen cross-border cooperation within the framework of Interreg 2021-2027. DG REGIO shared the latest updates concerning the new programming period and gave an overview on the cooperation programs adopted in domains for territorial strategies, health-related investments, and cross-border cooperation.

Another noteworthy activity in the framework of EUREGHA's cross-border healthcare in 2022 was the participation of EUREGHA in a session organised by EUREGHA Member Lower-Austria/HealthAcross during the European Public Health Conference in Berlin. The session allowed to foster relationships between EUREGHA, involved members and key stakeholders such as the WHO Regions for Health Network and AEHR - Association of European Border Regions.



**EUREGHA's Director with representatives from Lower Austria, euPrevent, WHO RHN and AEHR at the EPH Conference (November 2022)**



## Healthcare promotion and prevention

EUREGHA paid close attention to the topic of **obesity**, as it is among the leading causes of death and disability in Europe: its rates have reached “epidemic” proportions across Europe and are still rising, as stressed by the [WHO European Regional Obesity Report 2022](#). The European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) organised in September a [Policy Stakeholder Session on Value-Based Healthcare & Innovative Finance Mechanism to Address Obesity](#). Giovanni Gorgoni, EUREGHA’s Chair, had the chance to contribute to the debate, stressing that sub-national authorities play a key role in raising awareness and implementing targeted projects. In particular, he stressed that to address obesity, there is a need to enforce bundled payments, the most complete and perfect financing system.

During 2022, EUREGHA had the opportunity to participate and organize various events on one of the priorities of the network raised during the General Assembly 2022: **mental health**. In particular, the event “[Towards a European Strategy on mental health](#)” was organized on 1 December 2022 as last 2022 meeting of the CoR’s Interregional Group on Health and Well-being. On this occasion, regional representatives and EU stakeholders gather to discuss about the mental health in all policies approach and look at regional best practices in mental health and digitalisation.

In 2022, EUREGHA followed closely the activities and initiatives of the Thematic Network on “Mental Health in All Policies” on the EU Health Policy Platform, which brings together stakeholders within and beyond the health sector to share knowledge and provide policy recommendations on how to develop or expand existing mechanisms and approaches for integrated policies and actions to promote and protect mental health in the EU.

## Value-based healthcare and outcomes management

Another crucial topic for EUREGHA was the innovative Value-Based Procurement (VBP) approach supporting patient-centric, safe, high quality and affordable healthcare. Together with European Health Public Procurement Alliance and Med-Tech Europe, EUREGHA supported the **third European Value-Based Procurement Conference** in Brussels on 15 March. All the high-level speakers and experts from different fields joined forces to highlight the importance of collecting data from various stakeholders to integrate the concept of value within the core of healthcare systems and within procurement. Giovanni Gorgoni, EUREGHA’s Chair, stated that VBP could solve the lack of bundled payments starting from the “lower level” of healthcare to more complex projects that need a “partnership for care” supported by outcome-based contracting. On this trail, on 15 December 2022, EHPPA, MedTech Europe, Boston Consulting Group and EUREGHA came together for the **fourth European Value-based Procurement Conference** with a focus on sustainable health systems. The event aimed to explain from the perspective of various stakeholders how to accelerate a breakthrough in the transformation of health systems and increase sustainability by applying a Value-based Procurement approach. Applying VBP leads to the most economically ad-



**Giovanni Gorgoni, EUREGHA’s Chair, speaking at the third EU VBP Conference (15 March)**

vantageous purchasing by awarding a contract based on what citizens, health systems, health actors and society value. During the conference, it was stressed how VBP represents a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach providing solutions to enable efficient and effective health care of value to all.

## Cancer

Following the EUREGHA's publication of the [Booklet of Regional Best Practices](#) in Cancer in December 2021, the EUREGHA Working Group on Cancer kicked off the activities of 2022 with its constitutive meeting in February 2022. The **Europe Beating Cancer Plan** remained the centre of attention, with particular attention to new Council's Recommendations on cancer screening, and the need for an interaction and combination between regional strategies for cancer. The main activity of 2022 was the contribution in the [Sanitanova webinar on "Good Practices for improving the efficiency of cancer treatment in Europe"](#) held on May 5th and 6th, with scientific coordination of EUREGHA. EUREGHA co-facilitated and contributed to bridge the policies and practicalities of cancer treatment and care. Broadcasted online from a TV studio, this international webinar showcased and discussed **good practices for improving the efficiency of cancer treatment** in Europe. Representatives from the European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions, civil society, and local healthcare institutions presented their views, experiences, and best practices for cancer treatment and prevention. High-level speakers, such as Birgitta Sacredéus, Matthias Schuppe, Annika Nowak, and Eduardo Pisani, participated on the first day, while the second day focused on the scientific and technical aspects, with presentations from doctors and regional representatives (from EUREGHA members) showcasing their local good practices in improving the efficiency of cancer treatment. The webinar covered topics such as new digital cancer care processes, regional perspectives on planning for cancer control, multi-stakeholder approaches to drug governance, challenges and opportunities of cervical cancer screening programs, achievements in quality control, research and clinical innovations, innovative integrative approaches to cancer pa-

tients, and the role of the Veneto Oncology Network in combining clinical trials with real-world evidence.



**International Webinar "Good Practices for improving the efficiency of cancer treatment in Europe", Bari, Italy and online (5-6 May 2022)**

In the last Working Group meeting held in November, Apulia Region (IT) and Tuscany Region (IT) presented important lung **screening** projects and studies currently ongoing in Italy. Members were able to ask interesting questions about the difficulties faced by regions in implementing effective screening campaigns and the technical-scientific implementation of best practices. The spotlight on screening was even higher in those weeks because of the negotiations on the new Cancer Screening Recommendations in the Council of the EU, then adopted on 9 December 2022.



**Recap and materials  
International Webinar Good  
Practices for improving  
the efficiency of cancer  
treatment in Europe**

# Events

## EUREGHA General Assembly

On 8 and 9 June 2022, EUREGHA held its first in-person General Assembly since the start of COVID-19. A much-anticipated opportunity to meet with the members again and strengthen the ties within the EUREGHA family. For this occasion, the Secretariat invited all members to Brussels for two days of internal governance affairs, strategy, and reconnection.

On 8 June, EUREGHA members approved the 2021 Annual Accounts, the 2022 budget, and the financial forecast for 2023 and 2024. Members also had the chance to vote and elect two new **Executive Board members**, Emma Spear, Deputy Director Transformation Health and Social Care, representing the Welsh Government, and Dr Petra Dannapfel, Head Change Management and Processes & Research Manager Centre of Development for Region Östergötland. Ms Spear and Dr Dannapfel took over from the previous Board representatives for their regions, Nick Batey (former EUREGHA chair until 2021) and Mats Ulfendahl. The first day also officially **welcomed our two new members**, Liguria Region (IT) and the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives – CESCO (HU), and ended with a networking dinner to informally connect members.

The second day was fully dedicated to discussing the way forward for EUREGHA, in particular in view of the upcoming activities for its **10th Anniversary** (2012 – 2022). Following a presentation of the 2022 Work Programme by Director Michele Calabrò, members sat together to share regional experiences and priorities to shape the vision and topics driving EUREGHA's future activities. Members' inputs from these sessions

were used to guide the 10th anniversary statement and revision of EUREGHA's strategy described there.

## EWRC session “Realising the potential of digital health transformation in Europe: A focus on the role and experiences of Regional and Local Health Authorities

In 2022, the European Week of Regions and Cities celebrated its 20th anniversary. On 13 October EUREGHA, in collaboration with the CoR's NAT Commission and EC's DG CONNECT, organised a session on **realizing the potential of digital health transformation in Europe and the role of regional and local health authorities in driving this change**. The event was attended by high-level members of European institutions, EU experts, and regional representatives across Europe, with more than 120 participants on-site and online. The [session](#) discussed the **European Health Data Space** and its potential to improve healthcare delivery, research capacity, health industry innovation, and health policymaking, also thanks to the contribute of Marco Marsella, Head of Unit “eHealth, Well-Being and Ageing”, DG CONNECT. The pandemic has demonstrated the value of digital health services, with Italy seeing over a 50% increase in the use of electronic health records since the pandemic began, as Fidelia Cascini, Digital Health Expert at the DG for the Digitalisation of Italy's Ministry of Health, affirmed. The EU Digital COVID Certificate was also deemed a success as a shared model at the EU level. However, digital health transformation still faces challenges such as accessibility, data interoperability, and digital literacy. Digitalization has the potential to improve effectiveness and efficiency in healthcare, including cancer care, but it is critical to ensure that no one is left behind during the digital transformation. The war in Ukraine has also high-



**EUREGHA General Assembly 2022,  
Brussels, Belgium (8-9 June 2022)**



lighted how digital solutions could prove essential to support Member States' and local health systems coping with exceptional health challenges and the need to ensure the right to access healthcare. The event showcased examples from the regional dimension, including the ZorgAtlas dynamic dashboard in Flanders, Scotland's approach to innovation in health and care, and the EU-funded project THALEA in telemedicine.



EWRC event highlights



EUREGHA session at European Week of Regions and Cities, 13 October 2022, European Committee of the Regions

# EUREGHA High-level Annual Conference 2022

EUREGHA and the WHO's Regions for Health Network (RHN) jointly organised a [high-level conference](#) on Monday, 5 December 2022, with more than 100 participants attending in person and 50 joining online. The event was an opportunity for the networks to celebrate their respective 10th and 30th anniversaries and to discuss the role of regions in building and boosting more resilient and future-proof health and care systems in Europe. High-level representatives from the European Commission, WHO Europe, the European Observatory on Health



Annual Conference event highlights

Systems and Policies, and regional representatives discussed three topics at the core of EUREGHA vision: **value-based healthcare**, **digital transformation**, and **cross-border cooperation**. The event was co-moderated by Bettina Maria Menne, Coordinator of the healthy settings program at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and Michele Calabro', Director of EUREGHA. Among the speakers were Donata Meroni, Head of Unit for Health Monitoring and Cooperation at DG SANTE; Dimitra Panteli, Programme Manager at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies; and Matthias Wismar, Programme Manager at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. The speakers discussed the importance of regional and local authorities in policy decision-making and emphasised that participatory models and shared decision-making are essential in building more resilient health and care systems. David Novillo, Unit Head of Data and Digital Health at WHO Europe, presented the key elements of the new Regional Digital Health action plan for the WHO European Region, and Fulvia Raffaelli, Head of Unit Digital Health at DG SANTE, clarified the next steps of the European Commission's proposal. The speakers also discussed the importance of outcomes measurement and data evidence as the main enabler to boosting value in health and the need to also consider the qualitative component, which can reflect more appropriately the real living experiences of people. The audience brought up some regional examples of the use of EU funds for digital transformation, such as the work of Flanders to adapt their regional data system towards international standards to be compliant with the EHDS and cross-border healthcare.

Following the closing of the event, onsite participants had the chance to network and exchange views while visiting an **exhibition** of regional profiles and best practices from both EUREGHA and WHO RHN members.



EUREGHA and WHO Regions for Health Network Joint High-Level Conference, 5 December 2022, European Committee of the Regions

# About us

## Governance

### EUREGHA board composition 2022

**Chair:** Apulia

**Co-vice Chairs:** Lower Austria & Östergötland

**Treasurer:** Scotland

**Executive Board:** Flanders, Emilia Romagna, Wales, Catalonia, Scotland, Lower Austria, Östergötland, Apulia

In 2022, the EUREGHA Executive Board met twelve times to support and steer the secretariat's work in implementing the EUREGHA overarching strategy and annual activity plan. While the regions members of the Board have not changed – elections took place in 2021 and will take place once again in 2023 – it is noteworthy to mention the official change of representatives, for Wales, with Emma Spear, Deputy Director Transformation Health and Social Care, replacing former EB member and EUREGHA Chair (until 2021) Nick Batey, and for Region Östergötland, with Petra Dannapfel, Head Change Management and Processes & Research Manager Centre of Development Region Östergötland, replacing former representative Mats Ulfendahl and equally taking over his role of Vice-Chair. EUREGHA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr Batey and Mr Ulfendahl for their leadership and service to the network over the years!



**Dr. Petra Dannapfel and Ms Emma Spear, new Executive Board representatives from Region Östergötland and Wales**

As concerns the EUREGHA Annual General Assembly, the other regular key governance activity for 2022, please refer to the dedicated section under the [events](#) heading of this Annual Report.

## Secretariat

In 2022, the EUREGHA secretariat had a capacity of 3 full-time employees, a Director, a Policy and Project

Officer and a Communications and Project Officer, and it was supported by 4 trainees.

As concerns the full-time staff, in May 2022, EUREGHA introduced to its members and stakeholder the new Director Michele Calabrò, who took over from former Director Valentina Polyas. Michele joined EUREGHA with several years of experience in the EU health policy field, in particular covering health management, patients' advocacy and digital health industry.



**New EUREGHA Director Michele Calabrò and former EUREGHA Director Valentina Polyas**

The full-time staff of EUREGHA was completed by Communications and Projects Officer Robbin Kappelhof and Policy and Projects Officer Marco di Donato, both with EUREGHA since 2021. The staff was supported by four trainees, two in remote, Emanuele Albanese and Carlotta Santoni, and two in presence, Katherine Mahoney and Erika Musiari. The four trainees joined the secretariat via the ongoing collaboration with the University of Bologna and the Brussels' Vesalius College.



**Robbin Kappelhof,  
Communications and  
Project Officer**



**Marco Di Donato,  
Policy and  
Project Officer**





**Erika Musiari,**  
Trainee  
University of Bologna



**Katherine Mahoney,**  
Trainee  
Vesalius College Brussels

## Communication

### Newsletter

In 2022, EUREGHA produced 5 [EUREGHA network newsletters](#), including a special edition to promote the 10th Anniversary statement and campaign, sent out to our newsletter database and disseminated via our social media channels. Newsletters mostly contained updates on EUREGHA's activities, events, EU health policies, our projects, and any other relevant news, such as the transition to a new director in May 2022. In addition, the EUREGHA Secretariat provided its members with **bi-weekly info-flashes** with health-related updates on EU policies, funding calls, events, and more. While EUREGHA's newsletter reaches a wider external audience, the bi-weekly info-flash is a specific, members-only service, in which we also report member-specific news and sometimes attach event reports made by our team.

### Social media

The EUREGHA Secretariat has maintained its active online presence through its social media channels on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, and through the publication of 20 news articles on the EUREGHA website. **EUREGHA's Twitter account surpassed 3000 followers at the end of 2022**, and our LinkedIn following continues to grow significantly as well. The website remains a rich source of information that provides access to EUREGHA's mission, statutes, minutes of CoR IRGHW meetings and EUREGHA Annual Conferences, project news, and other relevant publications such as compilations of

EUREGHA members' best practices, submissions to public consultations, and annual activity reports. EUREGHA's social media channels are important dissemination routes for these contents, while also serving to live-tweet events and to amplify communications from partner organisations.

Twitter: 3003 followers (+309)

LinkedIn: 1654 followers (+682)

Facebook: 724 followers

Follow us!



### Participation in Conferences

**18 JAN** IN-4-AHA Workshop "Presenting the participatory design process toolkit: methods for co-creation in the AHA field".

**19 JAN** SPCC Webinar "Efficiency in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan".

**8 FEB** CoR Interregional Group on Health & Well-Being "Constitutive meeting".

**4 MAR** "From obesity to action: addressing obesity together".

**11 MAR** EU Health Parliament "Creating a resilient European Health Union by addressing inequalities".

**15 MAR** "3rd European Value-Based Procurement Conference. Collaborative approach to data collection and measurement tools".

**16 MAR** IN-4-AHA Workshop "Innovation scale-up model in the AHA field: introduction".

**29 MAR** LTPC Round Table "The importance of multi-level collaboration in addressing prostate cancer".

**12 APR** EPCEU & CHES Policy Dialogue on VBHC and cancer care

**21 APR** European Patients' Rights Day.

**25 APR** SAPHIRE Final Conference.

**5 MAY** SCIROCCO exchange Final Conference.

**5-6 MAY** Sanitanova Webinar "Good practices

for improving the efficiency of cancer treatment in Europe”.

**12 MAY** Boost Project Meeting in Córdoba.

**18 MAY** Vision4Health Workshop on European Health Data Space.

**19 MAY** IN-4-AHA Workshop “Public-private collaboration: Successful practices in up-scaling of innovation in AHA”.

**31 MAY** Euro Health Net Seminar “Growing strong in times of crisis”.

**8-9 JUN** Annual General Assembly.

**16 JUN** All.Can Global Summit.

**17 JUN** IN-4-AHA Workshop “Best practices month”.

**20 JUN** IN-4-AHA Workshop “WP7 Policy Recommendations Workshop”.

**23 JUN** PROMIS Salute Summer School “The inter-



**Michele Calabrò, EUREGHA's Director, at IN-4-AHA Workshop (20 June).**

nationalisation of Health System”.

**29 JUN** EFPIA Conference “From Crisis to Catalyst”.

**8 JUL** EU4Health Programme stakeholders' event.

**14 JUL** BeWell Project kick-off.

**14 SEP** Boost Project webinar “Building mental health resilience in children from school: lessons learnt from COVID-19 and innovative approach”.

**20 SEP** EC press conference “New approach on cancer screening”

**21 SEP** EASO Webinar “Is value-based health-care the best innovative financing mechanism to

address obesity?”.

**26-27 SEP** European Health Forum Gastein – Session “Data shouldn't be rocket science, Peter”.

**4 OCT** BeWell event “How can data guide the de-



**Michele Calabrò, EUREGHA's Director speaking at European Health Forum Gastein (27 September)**

velopment of digital skills workforce recruitment, retention and resilience”.

**10 OCT** EIP Reference Sites award ceremony.

**10 OCT** EU Regions Week official opening ceremony.

**12 OCT** #EURegionsWeek Workshop “Realising the potential of digital health transformation in Europe: a focus on the role and expertise of regional and local health authorities”.

**17 OCT** Live POLITICO's Health Care Summit.

**19-20 OCT** BeWell Workshop “Strategy development”.

**24 OCT** PERISCOPE Consortium meeting.



**BeWell Partners' meeting in Brussels (20 October).**

**28 OCT** Fortune Italia Forum Health.

**8 NOV** World Cancer Series “Improving outcomes through innovation, access and excellence”.



**Giovanni Gorgoni, EUREGHA's Chair, speaking at the Forum Health Fortune Italia (October 2022).**

**9 NOV** IN-4-AHA Webinar “Innovation scale-up process and model for the AHA field”.

**11-12 NOV** European Public Health Conference – Cross-border healthcare section organised by Lower-Austria and support BeWell's participation in the event.

**25 NOV** IN-4-AHA Stakeholder Workshop “Connecting networks on Active and Healthy leaving”.

**5 DEC** EUREGHA and WHO Regions for Health Network Joint Conference “The role of regions toward future-proof resilient and connected health systems”.

**12 DEC** BeWell Event “Launch of the European health multistakeholder partnership on skills gaps and emerging occupations”.



**Michele Calabrò, EUREGHA's Director, presenting IN-4-AHA Policy Recommendations in the Final Conference, Tallin (December 2022).**

**15 DEC** Value Based Procurement Conference “How to foster health systems transformation and increase sustainability through VBP”.



**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. #Regions4Health

#### **EUROPEAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES**

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## **Our members**

**Apulia (IT)**

**Catalonia (ES)**

**Emilia Romagna (IT)**

**Flanders (BE)**

**German-speaking Community of Belgium (BE)**

**GGD South Limburg (NL)**

**Liguria (IT)**

**Lower Austria (AT)**

**Northern Ireland (UK)**

**Östergötland (SE)**

**Podlaskie (PL)**

**Scotland (UK)**

**Skåne (SE)**

**Tuscany (IT)**

**Veneto (IT)**

**Viken County Council (NO)**

**Wales (UK)**

*Associate Members:*

**Cross-border Institute of Healthcare Systems & Prevention (NL)**

**The Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives (HU)**

