

EUREGHA AND WHO REGIONS FOR HEALTH NETWORK – JOINT CONFERENCE

The role of regions towards future-proof, resilient and connected health systems

5th Dec 2022 (14.00 – 18:00 CET)

Brussels, European Committee of the Regions & live-streamed

SPEAKERS BIOS

Hilde Crevits

Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders and Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family, Flanders, Belgium



Hilde Crevits was born on 28/06/1967 in Torhout and is Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister of Welfare, Family, Public Health and Fisheries.

She went to Ghent University to study law. In July 1990 she obtained her Law degree with great distinction. Since 1 October 1990 she has been working as a lawyer in Bruges. From September 1990 to May 1996, she became a part-time assistant at the Department of Civil Law of the Faculty of Law of Ghent University under the direction of Prof. Dr. Hubert Bocken. Most of her work was dedicated to the creation of an environmental law database. From May 1996 to November 1996, she worked as a part-time cabinet employee at Mayor Moenaert in Bruges, where she followed up on road safety.

Hilde Crevits has been active in politics for quite some time. In October 2000, her political career began. From 25 October 2000 to 7 July 2004, she was a Provincial Councilor for the province of West Flanders. From 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2006, she was a municipal officer of the city of Torhout for the following competencies: public works, district and urban renewal, city heritage, energy and utilities, environment, and legal disputes.

After that, she became First Municipal Officer of the City of Torhout (from 2 January 2007 to 28 June 2007) for a wide array of competences, including public works and housing policy, environmental care and environment permits, city heritage, information and participation policy, energy and utilities, and legal disputes.

Between 7 July 2004 and 28 June 2007, Hilde Crevits was a Flemish Member of Parliament for the electoral district of the province of West Flanders, after which she became Flemish Minister of Public Works, Energy, Environment and Nature on 28 June 2007 (until 13 July 2009). From 13 July 2009 to 25 July 2014, she became Flemish Minister of Mobility and Public Works. On 25 July 2014, she became Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister of Education. On 2 October 2019, Hilde Crevits became Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister of Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture, and since 18 May 2022 Hilde Crevits is Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister of Welfare, Family, Public Health as well as Fisheries.

Between 1 June 2016 and 1 January 2019, she was mayor of Torhout, with Kristof Audenaert as acting mayor given her position as Deputy Minister-President and Flemish Minister of Education. Since 1 January 2019, she has been Chairman of the City Council of the city of Torhout.

Dimitra Panteli

Programme manager, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies



Dimitra is a member of the Observatory’s Senior Management Team and is based at the Secretariat in Brussels.

Her work focuses on evidence-informed health policy and evidence-based health care in Europe, particularly regarding quality of care, coverage and access. She leads the Observatory’s pillar of work on Innovation and supports its knowledge brokering programme in evidence briefings, webinars and policy dialogues.

Before joining the Observatory, Dimitra worked as a senior research fellow at the Department of Health Care Management at Technische Universität Berlin, a role she held for more than 10 years. She holds a doctorate in public health from the Technische Universität Berlin, a Masters in Science – Public Health from the Charité Medical University in Berlin (as a scholar of the German Academic Exchange Service), and a Medical Degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. She spent the 2016–2017 academic year as a Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellow in Washington, DC.

Kaisa Immonen



Director of Policy, European Patients' Forum

Kaisa Immonen (MA) is Director of Policy at the European Patients' Forum (EPF). She holds a Master's degree in Health Policy, Innovation and Management (Maastricht University) and in International Relations (University of Kent at Canterbury/University of Tampere). She leads EPF's policy and advocacy team, provides strategic analysis and advice, and maintains high-level relationships with EU and international organisations and stakeholders.

Kaisa represents EPF on the European Medicines Agency's Patients and Consumers Working Party, where she was co-chair in 2016–2022. She participated in the EMA's COVID-19 task force in 2020–22. She represents EPF on the OECD's Health Care Quality and Outcomes working party, the International Patient Advisory Panel for the OECD PaRIS initiative, and the CIOMS working group XI on patient involvement. In her personal capacity she is a member of the Patient Panel of The BMJ. Her personal interests include patient and citizen participation in healthcare improvement, patient safety, and health literacy.

She has a background in policy, stakeholder management and communications roles in non-profit organisations and the private sector.

Sally Lewis



National Clinical Director for Value-Based Healthcare, Wales, UK

Sally is a GP and has front-line experience of primary care at its most challenging.

She entered a career in medical management in 2011 and was appointed to Assistant Medical Director for Value-Based care in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in 2014. Since 2018, Sally has been leading the national Value-Based healthcare programme in Wales which is now part of the World Economic Forum's Global Coalition for VBHC. She is an Honorary Professor at Swansea School of Medicine.

Fulvia Raffaelli



Head of Unit, Digital Health, DG SANTE, European Commission

Fulvia joined the Commission in 2002 and since then took up responsibilities in several highly complex regulatory and technical projects. After a few years dedicated to the economics of environmental policy, she worked on chemical legislation (REACH and CLP), first as policy advisor then as responsible for the implementation of the Authorisation and Restriction processes. Deputy Head of Unit since 2009, she moved to the Strategic Policy Unit in 2012 to be in charge of inter-institutional relations and the

implementation of COSME (SMEs supporting programme). From 2015, she has lead the unit in charge of Circular Economy, Energy efficiency and Climate related policies in DG GROW. The implementation of the Ecodesign Directive, the implementation and revision of the Construction Products Regulation and the digital and green transition of the construction ecosystem were also part of her portfolio. Since September 2022, she joined DG SANTE to lead the Digital Health unit.

Born in 1969 in Italy, Fulvia Raffaelli has studied in Italy, Belgium and France and is graduated in Contemporary History, European Political Affairs and Political Science. She has three boys and loves sports and travels!

Isabelle Johansson

Head, Region Östergötland's EU Office



She holds an MA in Business and Commercial Law from the University of Linköping with a focus on EU law and an MSc in Applied Economics in Banking and Financial markets from the University of Bath. Before joining Region Östergötland she has experience from SEB and the French Chamber of Commerce in Sweden and since joining the EU Office she has set up and developed the region's european cooperation in the healthcare field but she also has expertise on other topics such as the cohesion policy. She has recently been heavily involved in the region's response to the proposal of the EHDS.

Matthias Wismar

Programme manager, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies



Matthias is a Programme Manager at the Observatory based in Brussels.

His work focuses on health policy, politics and governance, the health workforce, European integration and intersectoral action and the Sustainable Development Goals. He is developing studies, policy briefs, rapid responses and face-to-face dissemination and knowledge brokering formats, including policy dialogues, evidence briefings and webinars.

Matthias holds a PhD in Political Science from Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany).

Julia Winkler



EU Project Manager, Lower Austria / Healthacross

Julia Winkler is EU project manager at the Lower Austrian ‘Healthacross initiative’. The initiatives overarching goal to improve the health and quality of life for citizens living in border regions. The premise is to enable equal access to health care services for citizens, regardless of their place of residence. Within the framework of INTERREG, Lower Austria cooperates with its neighbouring regions from Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary in various fields of health and is pioneer in cross-border healthcare. Healthacross represents Lower Austria throughout Europe in different health networks, such as EUREGHA, WHO RHN and euPrevent.

Donata Meroni



Head of Unit, Health monitoring and cooperation, DG SANTE, European Commission

Donata Meroni is Head of the Unit ‘Health monitoring and cooperation, Health networks’, in the Public Health Directorate of DG SANTE, European Commission. She was previously Head of the Unit in the same Directorate dealing with health Promotion and diseases prevention and funding instruments, and head of the health and food safety Unit in the Executive Agency for Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food (CHAFEA) in Luxembourg.

She has been working with the Commission since 2002, when she joined DG SANCO to work at the Food and Veterinary Office in Ireland. In 2006, she moved to Public Health Directorate in Luxembourg, working as deputy head of the ‘Health Programme’ Unit dealing with the second and third Health Programmes and health communication issues. She managed the ‘Ex-smokers are unstoppable’ anti-tobacco campaign, the five editions of the EU Health Prize for journalists, the Public Health website, the Health Portal and the Health EU newsletter.

From 2013 to 2017 she has worked as deputy head of ‘Country Knowledge and Scientific Committees’ Unit managing the Secretariat of the Scientific Committees on Health, Environmental and emerging risks (SCHEER) and on Consumers Safety (SCCS) and dealing with the Electromagnetic fields dossier.

In 2017, she was appointed head of Unit in Chafea, in charge of the implementation of the Third Health Programme and the Better Training for Safer Food Initiative.

She is chartered agronomist and had worked in Italy for 13 years, in both private and public sector before joining the Commission.

David Novilo Ortiz

Head, Data, Analytics and Digital Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe



David has over 15 years of experience in senior and leadership positions working in public health in the data and digital domains. Currently, he is the unit head at the World Health Organization, coordinating the digital health flagship initiative and leading the development and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework for health and health systems within the European Region.

He has obtained a Masters and Ph.D. in Information Sciences from the University Carlos III of Madrid (UC3M), and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Bordeaux and the Public University of Navarre. He sits on the editorial board of the International Journal of Medical Informatics, and serves pro bono as an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at University College London and as an adjunct professor at the University of Utah.

Giovanni Gorgoni

Chair, European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA)



Giovanni Gorgoni is the CEO of AReSS Puglia, the regional government agency of the Apulia Region for innovation in health and social care. Currently, he is also chair of EUREGHA (European Regional and Local Health Authorities), vice president of Italian network NISAN (health clinical costing), and professor of Public Management at Bari LUM University. Previously he administered the Apulian Health Department, two local health authorities and he has been facility manager, financial manager and operations manager in the healthcare sector between Rome and Milan. He's a health economist with current practices on VBHC, digital health and clinical network design.

Bettina Maria Menne

Coordinator of the healthy settings program, WHO Venice office



Dr Bettina Maria Menne is currently the coordinator of the healthy settings program in the WHO Venice office for investment for health and development. This includes the coordination of the small county initiative (SCI) and the Regions for Health (RHN) among other duties. During 2020 she acted as WHO representative to Albania, leading the COVID 19 response.

From 2016 to 2020, she lead the Health and Sustainable Development Program, of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The main achievement was the Roadmap to implement Agenda 2030 in European countries, endorsed at the 67th session of the Regional Committee, as well as direct technical, political and scientific input

on the health aspects of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, to WHO European Member States, programs and Divisions as well as coordinating the UN issue-based coalition on health and well-being (IBC health), and the European contribution to the Global action plan on health and well-being (GAP).

From 1997 to 2016, she developed main activities on climate change and health and environmentally sustainable health services, focusing on increasing health system resilience to climate change (adaptation), protecting from extreme weather events and infectious disease risks, tracking and promoting health co-benefits of green-house gas emission reduction and developing methods and tools for environmentally sustainable health care. In that function, she and her teams provided the technical and strategic input into the series of European Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences and the WHO European regional framework for action on climate change and health.

Dr Menne is German by nationality, has two children, and is a medical doctor and medical specialist in hygiene and public health, graduated from the medical faculty of the University of Perugia, Italy.