



ACTIVITY REPORT

2018



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2018 In a nutshell

1 Answer to a **PUBLIC CONSULTATION** on the next MFF

1 **POLICY PAPER** on “The future of health in Europe beyond 2020” for which we run

1 **CAMPAIGN** (raising the support of 1 Institutions, 3 MEPs, 15 Regions, and 8 organisations)

P **ARTICIPATION AS EXPERT** in the field in high-level Brussels events

WE ORGANISED SEVERAL EVENTS:

1 **CONFERENCE** with the EU Commissioner Andriuskaitis during the #EUregionsweek

1 **EU HEALTH SUMMIT**, organised with **1** **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COALITION** of 28 organisations

where we presented the Coalition’s

20 **RECOMMENDATIONS** for the new EU Commission and EU Parliament

4 **MEETINGS** of the **INTERREGIONAL GROUP ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the EU Committee of the Regions

WE BROUGHT OUR MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR:

1 **HIGH-LEVEL ANNUAL CONFERENCE** on the role of regions in shaping tomorrow’s Healthcare systems

1 **NEW BOOKLET** of EUREGHA members **BEST-PRACTICES** on Primary care

1 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
3 **POLICY BRIEFS**
4 **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

AND WE WELCOMED

2 **NEW MEMBERS:** the regions of Scotland (UK) and Buskerud (NO)

WE WORKED HARD ON COMMUNICATION:

1 **BRAND NEW WEBSITE**
20 **WEEKLY INFO-FLASHES**
5 **NEWSLETTERS**



+600 followers on **TWITTER**
+250 likes on **FACEBOOK**

FINALLY, OUR PROPOSAL FOR

1 **THEMATIC NETWORK** on **HEALTH-CARE IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS** on the EUHPP was accepted

AND WE WERE GRANTED

1 **NEW H2020 PROJECT** on Value-based procurement of Health innovation (EURIPHI)

Foreword

2018 has been a crucial year for EUREGHA. The network was able to better position itself in the EU arena by creating new strategic partnerships both with the EU institutions and with international and European health stakeholders.

Four major activities were at the core of this advocacy strategy:

1. **THE CONFERENCE “GLOBAL CHALLENGES, TERRITORIAL ANSWERS: THE FUTURE OF HEALTH IN EUROPE”.** During the event, organised as the Secretariat of the Inter-regional Group on Health and Well-being of the European Committee of the Regions, EUREGHA presented its position paper “The Future of Health in Europe beyond 2020” to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis. This high-level political event reinforced the role of EUREGHA as one of the main voices in Europe advocating for a stronger regional dimension of EU health policies and programmes. On this occasion, we strengthened our relationship with the WHO Brussels office, the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). The latter asked inputs from EUREGHA to define its position on the ESF+ Health strand and to contribute to the opinion on the European Commission “Communication on digital transformation of health and care”.



2. **HEALTH IN ALL REGIONS CAMPAIGN:** during the above-mentioned conference, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis called for concrete actions by saying: “We owe a lot of our successes to collaboration, which can be further enhanced at the local and regional level” and called on participants to work more closely together. This is why EUREGHA decided to also involve external organisations and physical persons and give them the possibility to support the “Health in all Regions” campaign by signing EUREGHA’s position paper on “The future of Health in Europe beyond 2020”. The objective was to create a consensus around our values. As a result, both the European Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament, among the others, joined our Campaign. In particular, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur for the European Parliament opinion on the Health strand of the ESF Plus, signed EUREGHA’s position pa-

per and accepted all our amendments in his draft.

3. **EU HEALTH SUMMIT.** This first ever EU multi-stakeholder event brought together European leaders, policymakers and health stakeholders to discuss how Europe could develop and take the lead in areas such as research and innovation, health data and digital health, healthcare organisation and financing, as well as health in all policies. The aim of the Summit was to distil recommendations for the next European Commission and European Parliament to bring the necessary changes about. EUREGHA was one of the founding members of the coalition and led the “Policies for health” Policy Group, thus ensuring the regional dimension of health is well-reflected in the policy recommendations of this multi-stakeholder exercise. As a result, EUREGHA reinforced its partnership with crucial European and international stakeholders in the health sector.

4. **EURIPHI PROJECT.** In August, the network has been awarded with a new strategic Horizon 2020-funded project: EURIPHI. In EURIPHI, Public Procurement Organisations (PPOs) involved in different Public Procurement for Innovation and/or Pre-Commercial Procurement are teaming up around a novel approach of Value-Based Procurement (VBP) joined by national/regional procurement organizations and service providers with a common vision: developing a value-based procurement of innovative solutions

to enable the transformation of health and social care delivery. This project will help to reinforce EUREGHA’s advocacy activity and policy development around the concept of value-based healthcare.

During the first quarter of the year, EUREGHA completed its participation in the **SUNFRAIL PROJECT** and submitted two project proposals under the HORIZON2020. During the year, EUREGHA continued organizing the meetings of the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group on Health and Well-being; monitoring policy and identifying opportunities in the prioritized policy areas; and organizing meetings with members and member delegations.

Moreover, during 2018, EUREGHA was pleased to welcome two new members: **SCOTLAND (UK)** and **BUSKERUD (N)**.

Looking forward to 2019, EUREGHA will devote the first policy cycle to Value-based healthcare and focus on eHealth during the second part of the year. We will also have a focus on Cross-Border Healthcare through the dedicated Thematic Network on the European Health Policy Platform.

This report highlights the key EUREGHA activities of 2018.

NICK BATEY
EUREGHA CHAIR

For further information or queries on specific activities, please don't hesitate to contact the EUREGHA Secretariat at secretariat@euregha.net.

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Prioritised Policy Areas during 2018

As of 2017, EUREGHA introduced a new way of working, in so-called “Policy Cycles”, putting a specific focus on a certain topic selected by the Executive Board during a six months’ period.

2018 was seen as a “pilot” year for this way of working, and concrete expected outcomes and deliverables were still to be defined. In general, the Policy Cycles aimed at permeating regular EUREGHA activities with a stronger focus on certain topic – including newsletters, events, projects, networking and exchanges.

For 2018, two topics were chosen: PRIMARY CARE (January-June) and INTEGRATED CARE (July-December).

Here is an overview of undertaken activities in the respective prioritised policy areas and, furthermore, other policy areas that were tackled.

Primary Care

During the EUREGHA Policy Cycle on Primary care (January – June), EUREGHA closely monitored EU policy developments and events and liaised with stakeholders in this area.

On 23 March, organised a meeting of the COR IRGHW on the topic **The Future of Primary Health Care in Europe** attended by the WHO and the Chair of the Expert panel of the European Commission on “Effective ways of Investing in Health”.

On 6 December, during the Annual Conference, EUREGHA published its **new booklet of various best practices** from EUREGHA’s members discussing how they are successfully implementing primary care in their region. The sharing of best practices at the annual conference is a crucial part of EUREGHA’s mission to encourage cross-border dialogue and the dissemination of knowledge.

Integrated Care

During the EUREGHA Policy Cycle on Integrated care (July – December), EUREGHA closely monitored EU policy developments and events and liaised with stakeholders in this area.

On 6 December, EUREGHA organised a meeting of the COR IRGHW on the topic **Integrated Care in Europe: The Way Ahead**, where EUREGHA member Region Skåne presented a good local practice. More information about COR Inter-regional Group meetings can be found on page 11.

Integrated care continued to be one of the most prioritised areas for EUREGHA in 2018, given our participation as Dissemination lead partner in the SUNFRAIL project. The activities of EUREGHA related to SUNFRAIL are discussed in more detail below on page 14.

On 6 December, EUREGHA held its high-level conference on the topic of **Changing Today for Tomorrow** gathering around 70 participants from across Europe representing a wide array of organisations, all interested and engaged in the discussion of the health care of tomorrow. The main objective of the conference was to gather in-

put and to discuss what crucial changes are needed in today’s health care systems, to ensure and maintain sustainable and effective care for tomorrow’s needs. The conference especially aimed to underline the important role that regions can play to make these changes. To this end, EUREGHA members presented several best prac-

tices on **primary care reform** and **integrated care**. Other conference speakers discussed how the regional and local levels can contribute, not only in terms of joining the ongoing debate among policymakers and stakeholders but also in terms of executing and implementing necessary changes.

Cross-border Healthcare

In November, EUREGHA proposed a “Thematic Network” on the European Commission EU Health Policy Platform aiming to develop a Joint Statement on “Healthcare in Cross-border Regions” together with other EU stakeholders in health over a one-year cycle. A poll was opened on the Health Policy Platform website where stakeholders could vote for their preferred thematic network. EUREGHA ended up on 4th place and was selected as one of the thematic networks for the 2019 Cycle.

Browse the webpage of the Thematic Network:



eHealth

On 1 October, EUREGHA Vice-chair Toni Dedeu participated as a discussant in the 20th NAT Commission meeting at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). On this occasion, NAT Commission members discussed the topic of digital health together with Fernando LÓPEZ MIRAS (EPP/Spain), rapporteur of the **CoR opinion on the European Commission Communication on the Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single Market**. After the rapporteur’s remarks, Mr Dedeu, EUREGHA Vice-Chair, took the floor and provided inputs to the NAT Commission members by mentioning a number of regional best practices in the field of eHealth:

- **EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION (IT)** – The Emilia Romagna **eHealth infrastructure** is based on an **eHealth network (SOLE)**, the **Regional Health Record (HER)** and the **Personal Health Record (PHR)**. The

aim is to create an integrated network of local health trusts, hospitals, general practitioners and paediatricians and to provide, through the Electronic Health Record (EHR), the clinical history of every citizen in the region. The region is also a partner of the **ACTIVAGE** project;

- **FLANDERS (BE)** – Within the Benelux context (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg) expertise and know-how have been exchanged and agreements were made to **practically and legally share data across borders**. Moreover, to facilitate citizens' easy mobile access to their health data, the Flanders Agency for Care and Health is currently supporting the setup of a mobile accessible website for each citizen to consult – **MyHealthViewer**. Finally, in order to stimulate caregivers to share data, **Vitalink**, the digital platform of the Flemish authority, allows the sharing of care and well-being data in a safe way;
- **CATALONIA (ES)** – PADRIIS, the **Health Analytics Programme for Research and Innovation of Catalonia**. Thanks to this programme, the scientific community can reuse and cross-reference the data generated by the integrated health system of Catalonia, which gives a significant boost to research, innovation and evaluation in health;
- **SCOTLAND (UK)** – **Implementation of Technology Enabled Care (TEC programme)**. The programme was set up with the aim of accelerating the implementation of digital interventions which had a sufficient evidence base, particularly in home and community settings;

- **TUSCANY (IT)** – The **“Electronic Health Card” (EHC)** project aims to assist and facilitate connections between citizens, the Regional Health Service and the Public Administration. The main outcome of the project was the creation of the **Personal Health Record (PHR)**, a digital collection of health data, information and clinical documents of patients provided by health services with the consent of patients and accessible to patients and health professionals;
- **BUSKERUD (NO)** – The **Digital Night Surveillance Project**, IoT-based monitoring technology was developed and successfully implemented in public healthcare services. Benefits were realized for the patients, the relatives and the partners in the network and the novel IoT technology disrupted established workflows in the care services.



Collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions



European Committee of the Regions

Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing

EUREGHA continued to act as the Secretariat of the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Well-being (IRGHW). In 2018, EUREGHA organized five meetings with the group, in March, May, July, October and December, as well as a constitutive meeting with the group Bureau in February discussing the 2018 work plan.

The first meeting took place on 23 March on the topic **“The Future of Primary Health Care in Europe”**. During the meeting, the speakers highlighted that changing health needs demand a more responsive primary care, capable of integrated care delivery. Ms Luminita Silvia Hayes, senior advisor for the Brussels office of the World Health Organization, spoke about the importance of healthcare systems being strong and resistant enough in order to survive in a rapidly changing environment and underlined the importance of solidarity. She concluded by suggesting a way to strengthen our healthcare systems for all people is to make sure that no one is left behind, early investment in primary care is key and the role of regional authorities is essential. Jan De Maeseneer, who is the chair of the expert panel on effective ways of investing in health, illustrated the benefits of investing in primary care

since 90% of newly-presented problems can be addressed at the primary care level. Investing in primary care will also work towards more preventative measures instead of waiting until people are ill.

The May meeting was devoted to **“Precision Medicine, HTA and Future European Scenarios”**. Ms Sacrédeus, Chair of the IRGHW, highlighted that, with an ageing population and a growing number of chronic diseases, Europe needs to change its healthcare paradigm. By placing the patient at the centre, personalised medicine can bring this change in all EU health systems. Moreover, the implementation of personalised medicine across the EU is strictly linked to the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) procedure, which Commission legislative proposal aims to harmonise the methodology and clarify the data requirements for assessment purposes. During the meeting, Ms Irene Norstedt, DG RTD, outlined the different activities which have been carried out at EU level in the field. More specifically, in 2013 the European Commission developed a Staff Working Document on “use of ‘-omics’ technologies in the development of personalised medicine”. In 2017 the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed)

was established in order to facilitate collaboration with and between EU Member States and regions in the field and to use research as a driver for personalised medicine. The group delivered an Action Plan covering actions which can be taken at regional, national, European, or even international level in the area of basic research, implementation in health care, education and training, and patient empowerment. The European Commission has also funded an ERA-NET project. In order to make progress in this area, from 2011 to 2020 the European Commission has made a significant investment from both the former FP7 and the current Horizon 2020 programme.

The third meeting took place on 5 July on the topic “**Big data and the health sector: the way forward**”. Ms Sacrédeus highlighted that the healthcare industry generates large amounts of data and it is now time to learn how to make the best use of them in order to protect and promote health for every patient in the EU. Mr Senn, DG CNECT, stated that the digitisation of economies and daily life of citizens is one of the main trends of the last decade and a major challenge for the years to come. The European Commission conducted a Mid-Term Review of the Digital Single Market which also included an EU-wide survey aimed at taking into account citizens’ expectations and feelings about health data. The results showed that few citizens have easy access to their own data. The Chair gave then the floor to regional experiences in the field. Toni Dedeu, Director, Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia Ministry of Health, presented the “Programme for Health Data Analytics of Catalonia” (PADRIS) for research and innovation. The PADRIS programme has demonstrated that, through

the use of big data, there is an improvement of the research capacity and care processes which leads to a significant improvement of the health of the population.

The fourth meeting took place on 9 October, during the European Week of Regions and Cities, on the topic “**Global Challenges, Territorial Answers: the Future of Health in Europe**”.

The event opened with remarks from Ossi Martikainen, member of the CoR and Chair of the CoR Commission for Natural Resources (NAT), who explained the rising issues Europe is facing in terms of healthcare. Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety spoke about the need to develop preventative healthcare, rather than disease-centred care. Moreover, Mr Andriukaitis mentioned the different EU funding tools available to invest in the health sector, such as the Investment Plan for Europe and the European Structural and Investment Funds. Mr Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Member of the European Parliament and of the ENVI Committee pointed out that European institutions must work together to address the current inefficiencies in the healthcare sector and to encourage coherence between countries. During the meeting, Ms Birgitta Sacrédeus focused on the importance of new technologies and the need to meet with the industry, academia, the public sector, and the civil society to cooperate and work together in a common platform. The first session concluded with Leen Meulenbergs, the WHO Representative to the EU, who announced that the World Health Organisation is going to focus a lot more on partnerships, as it is only by acting together that the health-related Sustainable Development Goals can be fully achieved. The second part

of the event consisted of a panel discussion including an interactive session with the audience. Panellists answered some questions and discussed with the audience. Nick Batey, EUREGHA Chair, highlighted that it is necessary to shift from low-value to high-value interventions and underlined the key role of partnerships.

The December meeting was on the topic “**Integrated Care in Europe: The Way Ahead**”. Ms Sacrédeus highlighted that in recent years, Europe

has faced important demographic changes affecting the ageing population. As a result, increased chronic conditions, multi-morbidity and an ageing population of both the workforce and patients have led to the development of a new integrated care model across Europe. Isabella Notarangelo, Health Economist, European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) presented the ICT4Life project. ICT4Life is a three-year project financed under Horizon 2020, which started 2016 with the aim to

provide ICT services for integrated care and increase the quality of life of patients with Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and other dementias as well as their caregivers. Prof Jonas Christensen, Malmö University disclosed the AppSam project whose overall purpose of the AppSam project was to develop a common understanding of the needs of dementia care in countries with different welfare models through transnational interdisciplinary collaboration.



Visit the Interregional Group webpage:



Participation / Collaboration in European Fora

On 12 November EUREGHA participated in a meeting with the **EU Health Policy Platform**. The main objective of the meeting was to gather European stakeholders in health was to present and discuss ongoing Joint Statements as well as to define the topics of upcoming thematic networks. EUREGHA, also on behalf of Lower Austria (Healthacross Initiative) presented a proposal to create a new Thematic Network on Healthcare in Cross-border Regions.

Participation in European projects and tenders

In 2018, EUREGHA participated in three EU funding proposals: IproTeach, Sharp@work, EURIPHI. The last one has been approved by the EC. It will run from January 2019 to June 2020.



SUNFRAIL Project

In 2018 EUREGHA participates as lead partner of the WP of Dissemination in **SUNFRAIL** (May 2015–February 2018). The project aims at improving the identification, prevention and management of frailty and care of multimorbidity in community-dwelling persons (aged over 65) in local and regional settings in the EU.

The major commitment for EUREGHA in 2018 was to contribute to the organisation of the project Final Conference in Bologna (IT), on 7 February, and for the financial and activity reporting

BOOST Project

In 2018 EUREGHA participates as lead partner of the WP of Dissemination in **BOOST** (January 2018–December 2021). The overall aim of the BOOST project is to develop, implement, and test a new Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) based population approach to promote mental health and well-being in primary school children. The approach will then be implemented in mainstream school environments and academic teaching by class-teachers themselves. This will ensure school acceptance of the approach and it will indirectly target many more children.

During 2018, EUREGHA attended the kick-off meeting, a project meeting, six Steering Committee (SC) and several teleconferences with the project consortium. Moreover, the Secretariat presented BOOST during the event “Building a Brighter Future: Promoting, Protecting and Improving Young People’s Mental Health in Europe”, on 28 March, and to a delegation of students from Oslo, on 2 October.

The major commitments for EUREGHA in 2018 were the launch of the website and social media to contribute to the dissemination activities.

Watch the introductory video:



Collaboration with other Networks

In March, EUREGHA was among the promoters of the **EU Health Summit**, a multi-stakeholder



event organised from within and across the health community that seeks to bring together European leaders, policy makers and health stakeholders to discuss how Europe could develop and take the lead in areas such as research and innovation, health data and digital he-

alth, healthcare organisation and financing as well as health in all policies.

The “Healthcare coalition” put together **recommendations** for a shared vision for the future of health in Europe, calling upon the next European Commission and European Parliament to bring about necessary changes. The recommendations call for the European Commis-

sion, in particular, to have the tools and governance in place, including at high level, for ensuring a health perspective in all their policies, believing that the EU has an important role to play in ensuring a healthy future for Europe. EUREGHA actively contributed to the drafting of the recommendations.

On 29 November the EU Health Summit took place in Brussels. During the event, EUREGHA Chair, Nick Batey, participated as a speaker and moderator in two-panel sessions.

Position paper on the Future of Health in Europe beyond 2020 – #HealthinAllRegions

On 9 October EUREGHA Chair Nick Batey presented the position paper “The future of Health in Europe beyond 2020” to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, and launched the “Health in all Regions” campaign. The campaign is open to European regional and local authorities, external organisations, and physical persons. The objective is to create a consensus around EUREGHA’s values.

The key objectives of the campaign are:

- Invest in innovative health policy making; shifting to a Value-Based approach;

- Tackle health inequalities;
- Ensure health promotion and prevention: shifting from a drug approach to behavioural changes;
- Foster integrated care to offer a service that is closer to the citizen;
- Innovate health in order to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the digital revolution and technological innovations;
- Invest in border regions.

So far, the following stakeholders have signed:

- 3 Member of the European Parliament;
- 15 European Regions;
- The European Committee of the Regions’ Interregional Group on Health and Well-being;
- 8 organisations and/or associations.

EUREGHA contributed to shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020

EUREGHA has officially contributed to the public consultation on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) launched by the European Commission. By sending its position on the next generation of EU financial programmes, EUREGHA makes sure the Commission takes into account the needs and interests of the public health sector and in particular regions and local authorities’ needs when designing comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 EU budget.

In particular, EUREGHA presented recommendations regarding:

- Health and wellbeing policies and programmes/initiatives;
- Health programme, Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds.

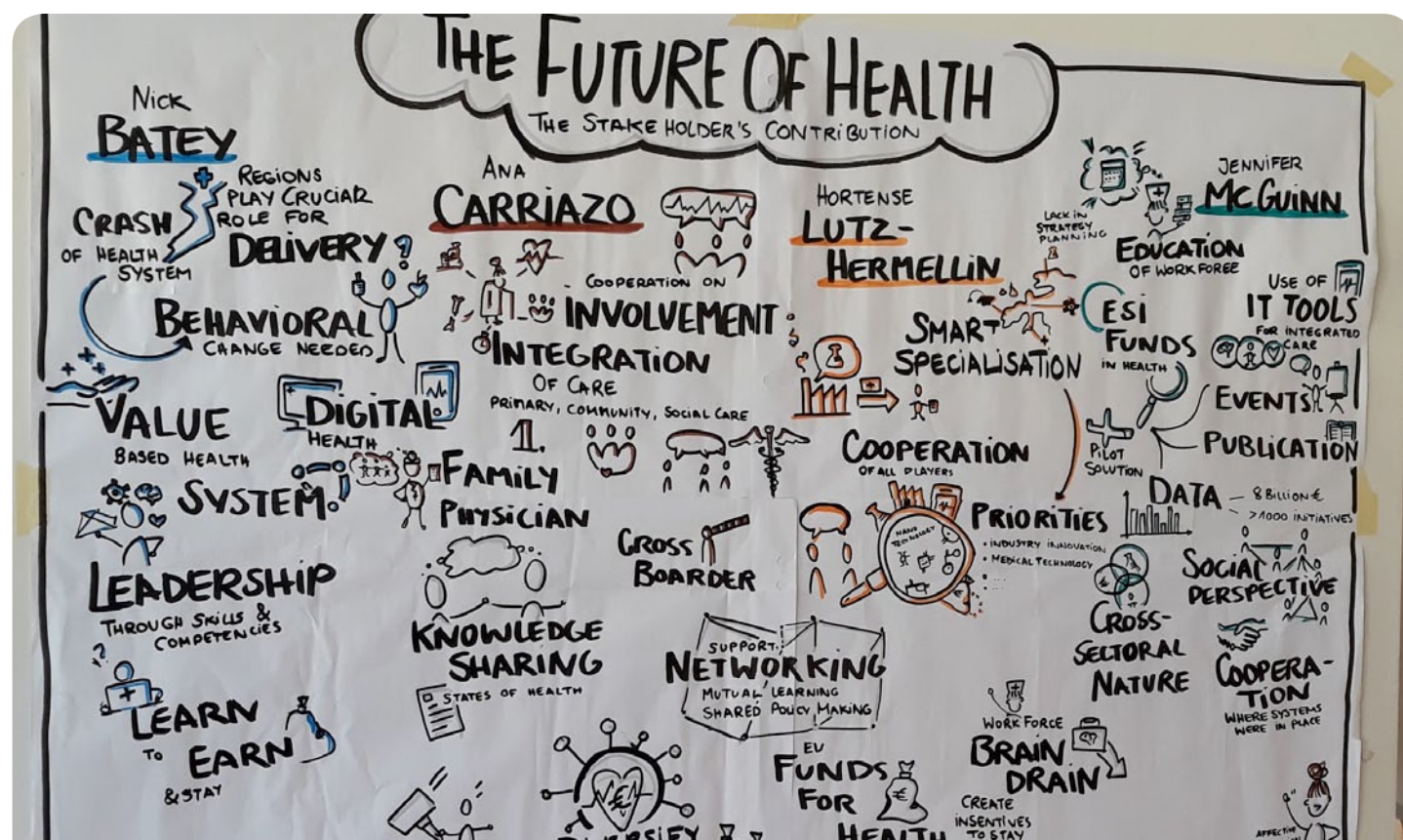
Cohesion Alliance

EUREGHA subscribed the #CohesionAlliance, a coalition of those who believe that EU cohesion policy must continue to be a pillar of the EU’s future. The Alliance was created through cooperation between the leading European associations of cities and regions and the European Committee of the Regions. It demands that the EU budget after 2020 makes cohesion policy stronger, more effective, visible and available for every region in the European Union.

Read EUREGHA full new Position Paper:



All EUREGHA publications are online:



Events

During 2018 EUREGHA organized several seminars and conferences, and below the most important events are discussed in detail.

Brussels-based Health Meetings

The first Brussels-based meeting took place in May at the at the Welsh Government EU Office on “Investing in people: the European Social Fund and the health sector”. During the event, Ms Maeva Roulette, DG EMPL, explained the role of European social policies and programmes and their potential for the health sector.

The second Brussels-based meeting took place in September at the Emilia-Romagna Region Delegation to the EU. The event was a Policy Briefing on “The new Interreg programme: a focus on cross-border health care”. Valeria Cenacchi, DG REGIO, presented the main changes introduced by the Commission proposal for the Interreg programme with a focus on the role of regional authorities in implementing cross-border cooperation in health.

The third Brussels-based meeting took place in November at the Welsh Government EU Office on “Funding instruments for investing in health: synergies and innovation”. The focus of the meeting was to explore opportunities, synergies, and complementarities provided by the current and new financial tools to regional and local health authorities.

EUREGHA High Level Annual Conference

The 2018 EUREGHA Annual Conference “**European Regions for Health. Changing today for tomorrow**” took place in December and gathered around 70 participants from across Europe representing a wide array of organisations.

Through panel discussions and the presentation of regional best practices of integrated care and primary care reform, EUREGHA presented its vision on the policies, skills and investments needed for the healthcare of tomorrow.

Lorenza Badiello, Head of the Emilia-Romagna Region Delegation to the EU, and host of the event, welcomed the participants and underlined how important it is to not view healthcare from a silo perspective. She said that continued healthcare policy must remain a success story in the region of Emilia-Romagna and concluded by saying that their commitment to EUREGHA continues to be strong.

In his introductory remarks, Nick Batey, Chair of EUREGHA, said that he was proud to see that EUREGHA’s mission of ensuring that the regional perspective on health is heard and taken on board by the institutions, is gaining recognition. Introducing the campaign “Health in all Regions”, EUREGHA’s position on the Future of Health in Europe beyond 2020, he said that even though in the EU healthca-

re is predominantly a national competence, regions and local authorities share responsibilities and competencies in the sector.



During the first panel, Tom Vermeire presented on the complete primary care reform that has taken place in Flanders, Belgium over the past eight years and Etty Nilsen, representing Buskerud, Norway, presented the Digital Night Surveillance Project as a best practice example addressing the needs of municipal healthcare services. The discussants, Federico Paoli, Policy Officer, Structural Reform Support Service, European Commission and Ruth Kalda, Professor of Family Medicine, University of Tartu, Estonia, were invited to give their reflections on the best practices.

Donna Henderson, representing Scotland, presented the first best practice example on the second panel on integrated care and Emilia-Romagna, represented by Donato Papini, described how integrated care is ensured through primary care in the region. Discussant Brian O’Connor, Chair of the European Connected Health Alliance (ECHAllian-

ce), said that he was optimistic seeing genuine change across Europe, exemplified by the EUREGHA best practices. Filip Domanski, DG SANTE, concurred with O’Connor and asked the presenters what problems they still face and what went wrong in the projects.



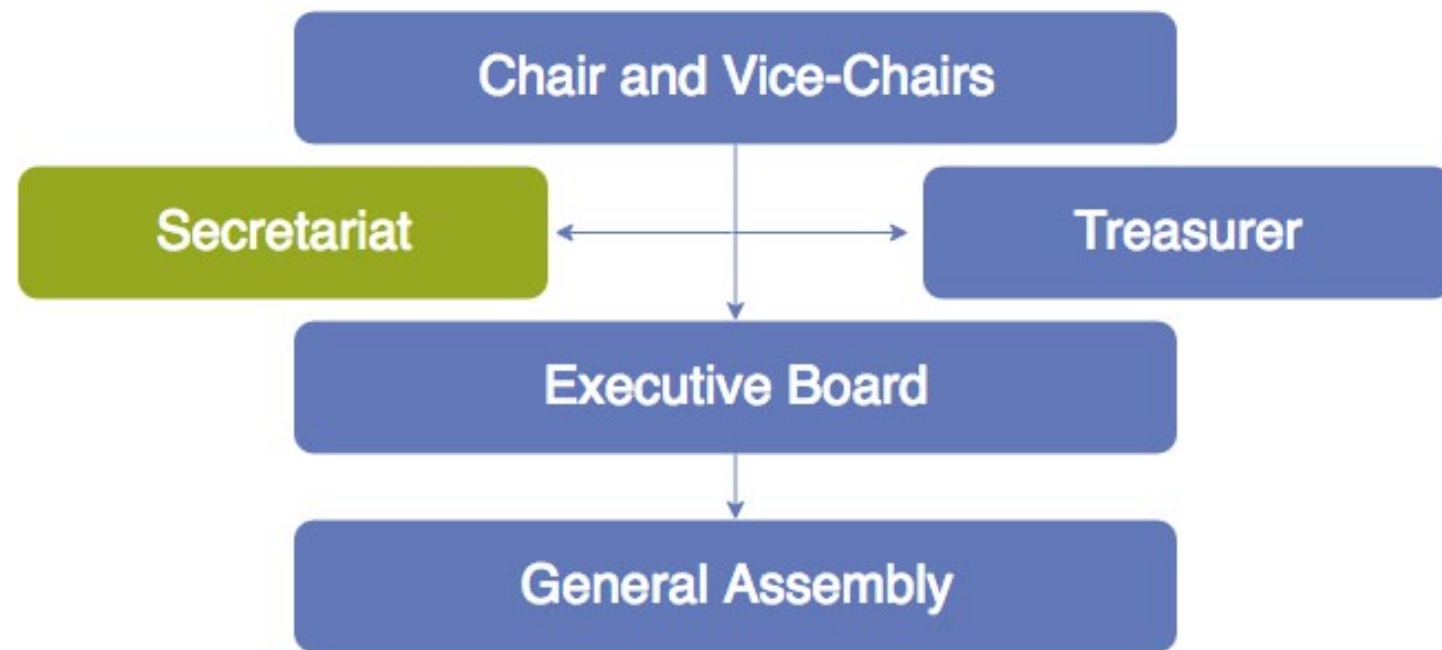
During the third panel, external speakers from international organisations, such as the WHO, EFPIA and the International Foundation for Integrated Care, presented concrete initiatives.

Throughout the conference, it became clear that in healthcare, business, as usual, is unsustainable with high costs for everyone. However, to create sustainable solutions for healthcare, a change in the narrative is needed. Instead of discussing “spending”, “investment” should be the core principle.

Project events

EUREGHA contributed to the organisation of the Final Conference of the SUNFRAIL and dissemination events for BOOST. More information about these events can be found under the respective headlines above.

About EUREGHA



Structure

EUREGHA Chair: Wales;

EUREGHA co-Vice-Chairs: Catalonia and Lower Austria;

EUREGHA Treasurer: South-Limburg.

The 2018 Executive Board consists of Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Flanders, Limburg, Lower Austria, Skåne, Tuscany, and Wales. Further details can be found below in the section General Assembly.

The Secretariat continued to have the capacity of two full-time employees and was reinforced by two full-time interns through a convention with the University of Bologna and two part-time one through an agreement with the Vesalius College.

Core Activities

Membership

During 2018, EUREGHA officially welcomed two new members: Scotland (UK) and Buskerud (N).

Over the year, the Secretariat held several presentations for delegations representing EUREGHA members visiting Brussels, for instance, South Limbourg. The Secretariat also held promotional meetings with regions and actors interested in EUREGHA, such as Northern Sweden (SE), East Poland (P), Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions (SE), West Finland (FI), Marche Region (IT), NTNU (N).

Executive Board Meetings

Five Executive Board meetings during 2018:

in February, March, July, October and December.

In February, the meeting started with some Secretariat update, in particular, the Communications and Project Assistant and the Trainee Recruitment. The draft proposal for budget 2018 has been shared and approved within the board members. Valentina Polylas informed the Board about the CoR IRGHW Work Plan 2018 that was adopted by the Bureau on the 1st of February 2018.

At the Executive Board meeting in March, Board members welcomed Mita Talenti, new Communications and Project Assistant to the EUREGHA Secretariat. Moreover, Mikaela Nordenfelt, ADS Insight consultant, was recruited as a support in the organisation of EUREGHA's Annual Conference. Between the Advocacy update, it was discussed the segment of the Cohesion Alliance Declaration by EUREGHA, the contribution to the Public consultation on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the participation in the Healthcare coalition and the presentation of a Thematic Network on cross border healthcare.

In July, Ms Polylas outlined the main events scheduled for the second part of the year such as the Event within the European Week of Regions and Cities, the European Health Summit, the Event on Cross-border cooperation in healthcare and the EUREGHA Annual Conference. In order to set the scene and provide inputs for the working group,

Ms Polylas delivered a presentation about the next generation of spending programmes (the ESF+, Horizon Europe, Interreg, the European Regional Development Fund, InvestEU) and the health-related priorities they address. The Buskerud Region (NO) officially joined the network.

At the Executive Board meeting in October, Valentina Polylas introduced EUREGHA's new trainees Emily Young and Matteo Cervi. Ms Polylas debriefed the EB members on the main outcomes of the morning event "Global Challenges, Territorial Answers: The Future of Health in Europe" and all the Executive Board members agreed on launching the #HealthinAllRegions campaign and boosting the network's advocacy activity through this tool. Ms Polylas updated the EB members on EUREGHA's involvement in the Healthcare Coalition and in the organisation of the EU Health Summit and in particular the Working Group "Policies for Health" led by EUREGHA.

At the Executive Board meeting in December, the Board discussed the 2019 Work Programme.

General Assembly

The annual EUREGHA General Assembly was held on 16 May. The General Assembly officially ratified Region Scotland as Full Member. The General Assembly further endorsed:

- The closure of the budget of 2017.
- The proposed budget for 2018.

The EUREGHA Project involvement and the EUREGHA Activity Report and Advocacy for 2018 were presented by the EUREGHA Secretariat.

All GA annual meeting's minutes are online:



Newsletter

EUREGHA publish 5 bimonthly newsletters for the Members including information about EUREGHA activities; news on mental health, news on cross-border health care, EU policy news; EU health news; calls for projects and tenders; and open public consultations.

During 2018 EUREGHA introduced and published 20 weekly info flashes for the members with more detailed information.

Participation in Conference

EUREGHA participated in several EU and international conference and disseminated the minutes of the following events to the members:

- 23/01 “Boosting investment in social infrastructure in Europe”
- 24/01 “Making visible the invisible on headache pain: Sharing successful experiences across Europe”
- 03/09 Committee of the Regions’ stakeholder consultation on the European Territorial Cooperation
- 12/09 Committee of the Regions’ stakeholder

der consultation on the ESF+

- 13/09 “Discover good practices for regions and cities”
- 24/09 “Diabetes and Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention in Europe”
- 25/09 “Enhancing value in European Health Systems”
- 27/09 “Big data for better health: hype or hope?”
- 28/09 “Tackling chronic diseases in the workplace”
- 18/10 “Implementing Outcomes-based Healthcare. How measuring outcomes leads to better patients’ health and sustainable health systems”
- 18/10 “ICT4LIFE HORIZON2020 PROJECT – Final conference “Meeting the Challenges of Digital Health Innovation for Integrated Care in the EU”
- 24/10 “SCIROCCO Final Conference “How to Accelerate Scaling up of Integrated Care in Context”
- 25/10 “Digital health for all”
- 19/11 “INTEREST GROUP ON RHEUMATIC AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES (RMDS) Future of Health and Social Policy in the EU: Post-election and Post-Brexit Challenges”
- 19/11 “Vaccination challenges and EU cooperation. What is the way
- 27/11 “PAYING TO BREATHE Launch of the CE DELFT Study “Health impacts and health costs of Diesel emissions in the EU”

Moreover, the Secretariat took part at the following conferences as a speakers:

- 26/02 “Advancing disability policies after the EU Accessibility Act”
- 19/11 Future of Health and Social Policy in the EU: Post-election and Post-Brexit challenges.

Communication and Social Media

In 2018 EUREGHA developed a **new website** with up-to-date information about the network, and a section on the projects in which EUREGHA participates, in order to clearly create synergies and linkages to these projects. The objective was to increase transparency and accountability by publishing the details

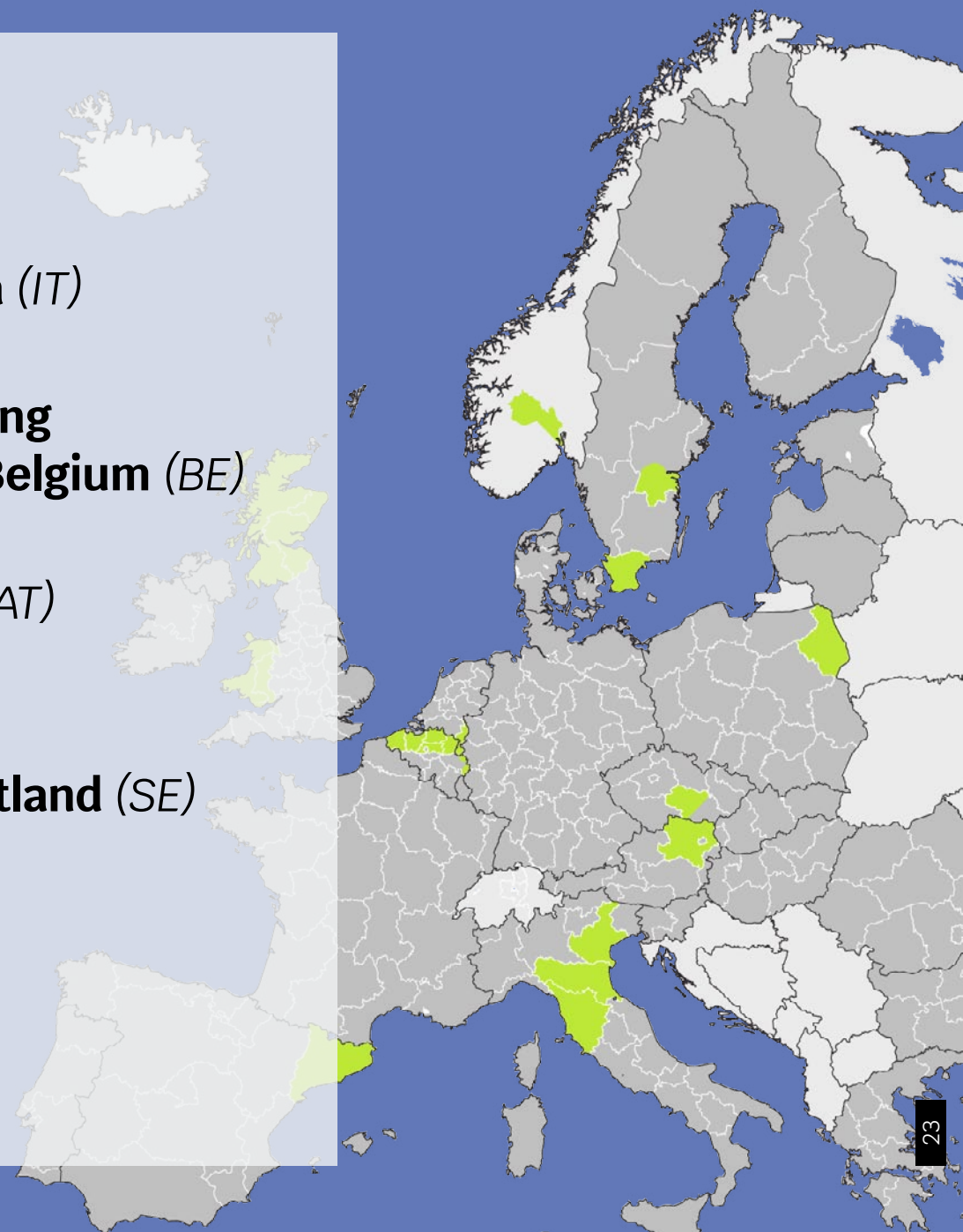
of the Board members, EUREGHA’s Statutes, EUREGHA’s collection of best practices, position papers, public consultations, agendas and minutes of the annual conferences.

As for Social Media we got:

- 600 more followers on Twitter
- 250 more followers on Facebook

Our members:

Buskerud (NO)
Catalonia (ES)
Eindhoven (NL)
Emilia Romagna (IT)
Flanders (BE)
German-speaking Community of Belgium (BE)
Limburg (NL)
Lower Austria (AT)
Vysočina (CZ)
Podlaskie (PL)
Region Östergötland (SE)
Scotland (UK)
Skåne (SE)
Tuscany (IT)
Veneto (IT)
Wales (UK)



EUREGHA is the reference network for European Regional and Local Health Authorities. We bring 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.

FOLLOW US

Website www.euregha.net

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 **EUREGHA**



Bringing regions together for better health