



# ACTIVITY REPORT

2019



# 2019 in a Nutshell



## ADVOCACY

**Joint Statement on “Healthcare in cross-border regions”**, supported now by 2 MEPs and 40+ organizations.

**Statement on Cohesion policy and health in the next MFF** promoted together with the EU Health Coalition.

**Participation as expert in the field** in high-level events organized in Brussels.



## COMMUNICATION

+ 274 followers

For members:

+ 105 followers

**26 Info flashes**

+ 209 likes

**47 Event reports**

**5 Newsletters**



## NEW MEMBER

**Northern Ireland** joined EUREGHA



## EVENTS

1 Conference on **Value-based healthcare**.

1 Conference during the #EUregionsweek on the **SDGs for a Healthy Social Europe** in partnership with WHO Europe and the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

4 meetings of the **Interregional Group on Health and Well-being** at the CoR.



## EU PROJECTS

EUREGHA participated in **three project meetings** and organized **three dissemination** events, for the two Horizon 2020 projects in which it takes part: **BOOST**, on mental-health resilience in children, and **EURIPHI**, on Value-based procurement in healthcare.



## MEMBERS

**1 High-level Annual Conference** on a “Healthy and Cohesive Europe”

Booklet of EUREGHA members **best practices on eHealth**

**1 General Assembly** and study visit in Lower Austria

**4 executive board meetings**

**2 policy briefings**



## EUHPP

The EUREGHA-led **Thematic Network on Healthcare in Cross-Border Regions** hosted on the EU Health Policy Platform will be transformed into a **Stakeholder Network** to maintain the regional voice in the health debate.

Complementary information about this publication can be accessed



**via QR codes**

**via the textual hyperlinks**

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# Foreword

**NICK BATEY**  
EUREGHA CHAIR



In 2019, EUREGHA went through numerous thrilling developments. The network was able to improve its visibility and better position itself in the EU arena by establishing new partnerships. Existing collaborations were enhanced, and further steps were taken towards deep cooperation with EU institutions and international and European health stakeholders. This Activity Report will list all EUREGHA's achievements as a basis for following actions in the upcoming years.

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

## 1. THEMATIC NETWORK ON HEALTHCARE IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS:

EUREGHA ran a Thematic Network on the European Health Policy Platform intending to release a Joint Statement drafted together with a large number of engaged stakeholders. This exercise was jointly coordinated with Lower Austria, the EUREGHA Vice-Chair.

The European Union counts 40 internal land borders among the 28 Member States. Border areas are home to 30% of the European population – 150 million citizens, respectively. The socio-economic development of border regions is often hampered because of their peripheral location and the differences in legislation compared to their neighbouring countries. Border regions experience hindrance in free movement of labour and services, which leads to disadvantages in the economic, social and cultural development. Similarly, all these factors significantly affect

healthcare systems in border regions. This means that citizens are limited in their choice of and accessibility to health care, and there is less room for cooperation. This situation can potentially create health inequalities. We thought that a set of recommendations for policy actions was needed to address these issues and improve the implementation of the Directive on Cross-border Healthcare. As a result, the Joint Statement received the support of over 40 organizations and individuals. Remarkable is that the Joint Statement received support from Members of the European Parliament as well; Biljana Borzan and Tomislav Sokol signed our joint Statement. The complete lists of supporting individuals and organizations can be read on the dedicated webpage on EUREGHA's website.

## 2. TOWARDS A HEALTHY AND COHESIVE EUROPE: EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENTS FUNDS 2021-2027

On 5 December 2019, EUREGHA held its high-level annual Conference dedicated to the future of ESI Funds. The meeting showcased a delicate balance of speakers from the European Commission and regional and multi-stakeholders from the private and public sector. The high-level political event reinforced the role of EUREGHA as

an important voice in Europe, advocating for a stronger regional dimension of EU Health policies and programmes. On this occasion, we strengthened our relations with the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG CONNECT, AND DG SANTE) and other relevant stakeholders.

## 3. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE EU HEALTH COALITION

After a successful first edition of the EU Health Summit in 2018, which brought together European leaders, Policy-makers, and health stakeholders, EUREGHA continued backing the EU Health Coalition in its mission to improve the overall healthcare system. The Coalition sets the context for thrilling discussions on how Europe could develop and take the lead in areas such as research and innovation, health data and digital health, healthcare organizations and financing. By contributing to the policy paper called “a shared vision for the future of health in Europe”, EUREGHA helped to draft 20 recommendations. In 2020, the EU Health Coalition will organize its second EU Health Summit, which is dedicated to the recommendations mentioned above. EUREGHA proved to be a fierce supporter during the preparations of this event.

Looking forward to 2020, EUREGHA will devote its first policy cycle to personalised medicine. By improving existing partnerships, we will strengthen the relationships with organizations and policy-makers and seek to develop projects in line with our advocacy strategy outlined in the position paper “Health in all Regions”. By being an active and visible organization in the EU, we aim to move forward with raising the regional voice in the health debate.

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# Prioritised Policy Areas during 2019

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As of 2017, EUREGHA introduced a new way of working, in so-called “Policy Cycles”, putting a focus on one specific topic selected by the Executive Board for six months. 2018 was seen as a “pilot” year for this way of working, with concrete outcomes and deliverables that helped to advance the internal knowledge of the network.

**In 2019, EUREGHA worked with two policy cycles again: [VALUE-BASED HEALTHCARE](#) and [EHEALTH](#).**

In general, the Policy Cycles aimed at permeating regular EUREGHA activities with a stronger focus on a certain topic – including newsletters, events, projects, networking and exchanges – to advance the members knowledge on a given topic.

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

## Value-Based Healthcare

During the Policy Cycle on Value-Based Healthcare (from January to June 2019), EUREGHA closely monitored EU policy developments and events and liaised with stakeholders specialised in this area. A dedicated dossier was developed for internal use of the members.

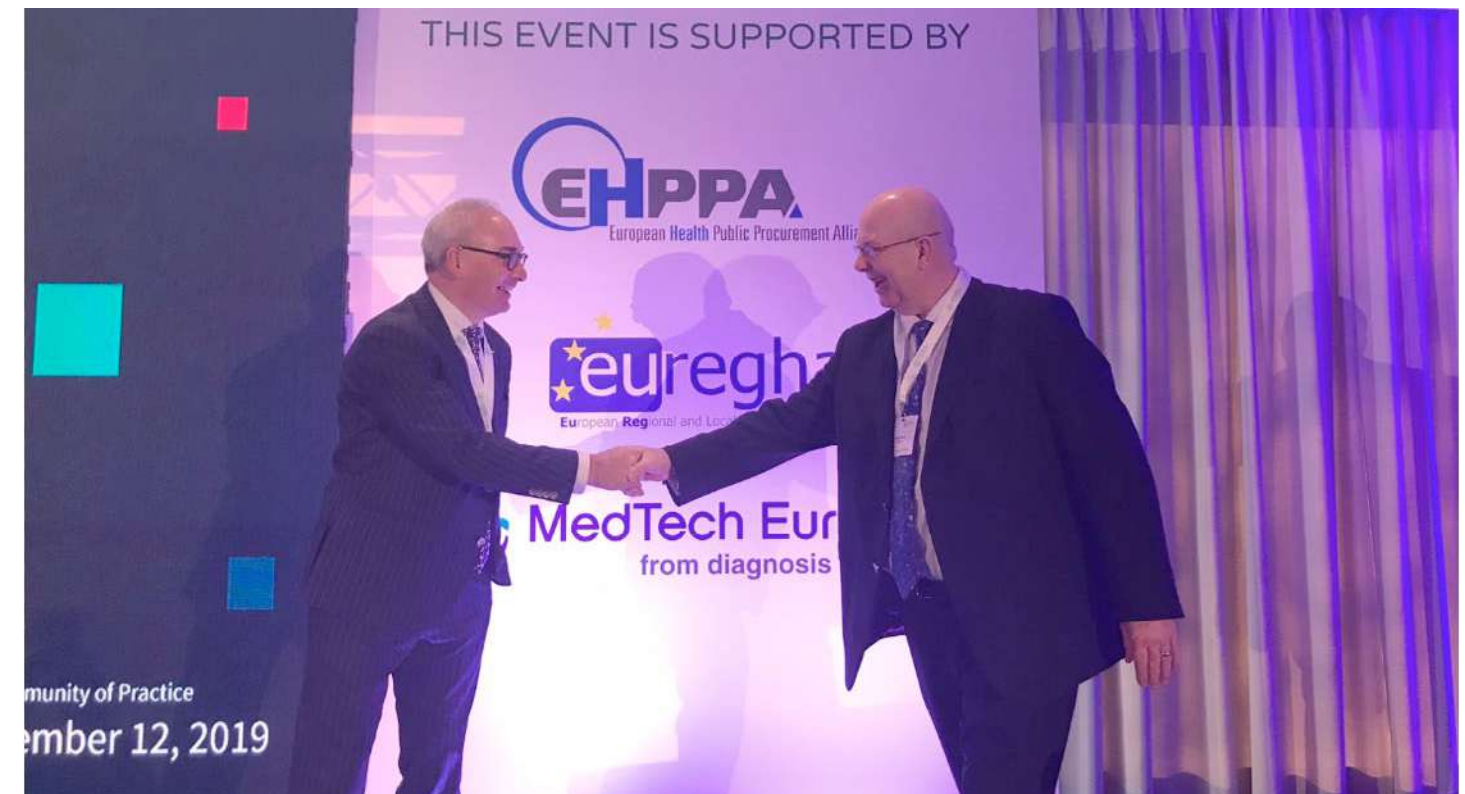
In January, the **first EURIPHI project meeting** was held in Brussels: EUREGHA met with 25 partners from 10 EU countries that work on value-based Most Economically Advantageous Tendering (MEAT) procurement. Steps were taken towards the establishment of the “**Euriphi Health and Social Care Regions Network**”. On 10 April, EUREGHA organized the Conference **Towards a Value-Based Healthcare system: from concept to implementation**.

The event was supported and promoted by the EU Health Coalition.

EUREGHA, moreover, organized a CoR **Interregional Group on Health and Well-being meeting on the topic of Value-Based Healthcare** in April. During the event, Prof. Sabina Nuti, member of the European Commission’s “**Expert panel of effective ways of investing in health**”, discussed with regional speakers on concrete territorial examples and perspectives on Value-Based healthcare.

Last but not least, EUREGHA acted as a supporting organization for the “**1st European Value-Based Procurement Conference: a new paradigm in Health Care**”, which took place on 12 December 2019.

The Value-Based Approach continued to be one of the most prioritised areas for EUREGHA in 2019, given our participation as work package leader in the EURIPHI project. More information [on page 11](#).



*Above, on the right, EUREGHA Chair Nick Batey at the 1st VBHC Conference, 12 December*



**[1st VBHC Conference Statement](#)**

## eHealth

From July until December 2019, EUREGHA’s policy cycle was devoted to eHealth. A dedicated dossier was developed for the members to analyse the EU actions on digital health.

On 23 and 24 September, EUREGHA’s Director Mrs Polylas represented the network during “the Big Data,

Electronic Health Records and Health Governance event” organized in light of the Horizon 2020 project Regions4PerMed.

During the full Policy Cycle period, EUREGHA collected best practices from our member about the topic of eHealth. In December, the network published a booklet of 11 best practices from

eight different regions. Moreover, EUREGHA bolstered its relationship with DG CONNECT by putting forward a candidacy for the eHealth Stakeholder Group which was approved in 2020.



**[E-Health Booklet](#)**



# Collaboration with the Committee of the Regions

During the year 2019, EUREGHA maintained its position of Secretariat of the CoR Interregional Group on Health and Well-being (IRGHW). In total, five meetings were held in April, June, and December, as well as a Constitutive meeting in February to discuss the annual work plan and an event at the EU Regions week (more info on page 15).

The first meeting took place on 11 April on the topic **Value-Based Healthcare in Europe– Challenges and Opportunities**. During this discussion, it was emphasized that the sustainability of the healthcare systems is facing unprecedented challenges from an ageing population and increased prevalence of chronic diseases. If the regional level of healthcare implements the so-called Value-Based approaches, it is possible to improve the overall stability of healthcare systems in the long run. During the meeting, best practices in Value-Based approaches of Wales, Catalunya and Tuscany were discussed.

The following meeting was informal. This gathering took place on 17 June and concerned about the topic of **Active and Healthy Ageing**. As demographic changes occur in all European Member States, a new and more active approach is necessary. Various speakers discussed how initiatives

and specific issues differ from country to country and region to region. They furthermore indicated examples of specific national programs and initiatives. The meeting was the occasion to present and discuss the **own-initiative opinion on “Active and healthy ageing”** by Birgitta Sacrédeus, IRGHW Chairwomen.



Above: Silas Olsson, HealthAccess, 17 June

On 26 June, a meeting on the topic of **Healthcare in Cross-Border Regions** took place in the European Committee of the Regions. During the gathering, the current situation of healthcare systems in border regions was discussed. Mrs Birgitta Sacrédeus, chair of the CoR Interregional Group, mentioned that living in a border does not lend itself well to the free movement of labour and services and therefore healthcare systems of border regions are significantly affected. During a presentation held about the EU Health Policy

Platform Joint Statement on Healthcare in Border Regions, Mrs Julia Winkler (Project Manager of Health across) explained why it is important to map crucial challenges in cross-border healthcare. She mentioned that challenges need to be identified to scale up successful existing experiences. Mr Henri Lewalle, from the Franco-Belgian Health Observatory, continued by discussing



Above: The SDGs for a Healthy Social Europe, 9 October

the legal basis for cross-border healthcare which lies in the Treaty of Maastricht, which encourages cooperation across the borders. Another crucial piece of legislation is the Directive on Patient's Rights in Cross-border Healthcare (adopted in 2011). The meeting was concluded by Mrs Dorota Tomalak, who discussed the effectiveness of the Regional Hubs that the European Committee of the Regions is placing throughout Europe, from which 23 out of 36 regions are border regions.

The last and fourth CoR Interregional Group meeting was dedicated to the topic of **The State of Health in the EU Cycle** and took place on 5 December. The event was hosted by Jean-Luc Vanraes, a Belgian European Committee of the Regions member. Following the publication of the Country

Health Profiles and Companion Report, the meeting explored how the State of Health in the EU can be implemented at a national and regional level to address challenges in the current health systems and to show the way towards outcomes-based healthcare in Europe. The State of the Health in the EU is an initiative carried out by the European Commission, the European Observatory on Health Systems Policies, and the OECD. The first speaker, Sylvain Giraud, Head of the Unit on Performance of National Health Systems (DG SANTE) at the European Commission, discussed the five major trends of the report which are: tackling the decline in vaccination confidence across the EU, digital transformation for health promotion and disease prevention, strengthening the evidencebase on access to healthcare, looking at the health workforce, and understanding access to medicines. Subsequently, Mr Willy Palm, Senior Advisor at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies emphasized the project is not about naming and shaming of countries with poor health statistics, but to understand the problem that healthcare systems face. He discussed the main points about health in the EU, all assessed according to three performance dimensions: effectiveness, accessibility, and resilience.





# Participation/ collaboration in EU fora

Throughout the year 2019, EUREGHA has actively worked on delivering a Joint Statement in collaboration with Lower Austria (Healthacross Initiative). On 12 November 2018, EUREGHA participated in a meeting with the EU Health Policy Platform to gather European health stakeholders to discuss ongoing Joint Statements while defining new topics. The event was furthermore used to present the initial proposal to create a new Thematic Network on Healthcare in Cross-border Regions.

On 10 January, EUREGHA received the news that the proposal has passed and selected as **one of the four Thematic Networks of 2019**. In the middle of March, EUREGHA members gathered in Lower Austria for the official presentation of the Thematic Network, which was combined with the annual Study Visit. The Joint Statement of the Thematic Network was initially drafted by EUREGHA Director Ms Valentina Polyas and Ms Winkler (Healthacross Initiative). The text was presented on 26 June during the CoR Interregional

Group on Health and Well-being. Moreover, during the WHO Regions Network Annual meeting in June, a special session was held to discuss the joint Statement with several stakeholders. The second webinar was organized in September. The Thematic Network was officially presented during the EU Policy Platform Annual Meeting that took place on 17 of October. **Over 40 individuals, regions, universities and organizations endorsed the Statement, including two prominent MEPs.**



Above: EUREGHA Director Ms Polyas and Healthacross officer Ms Winkler



# Participation in EU projects & tenders



In 2019, EUREGHA participated as **lead-partner of the Work Package of Dissemination** in BOOST.

The key commitments for EUREGHA in 2019 were to update the social media and website of BOOST to the dissemination activities and to organize the first dissemination event in Brussels. 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 be implemented in school environments and aims to involve academic teaching by class-teachers themselves. This will ensure the school acceptance of the approach, and it will indirectly target many more children throughout Europe.

Throughout 2019, EUREGHA attended the **second BOOST project meeting in Poznan**, in Poland. Furthermore, EUREGHA participated in several teleConferences with the project consortium. In addition to the consortium activities, EUREGHA worked on building contacts in the EU arena by meeting with officials from the European Commission and attending meetings with Brussels-based organizations focused on mental health issues. On 24 October, **EUREGHA hosted the**



**BOOST website**

**first dissemination event in Brussels.** With speakers from the European Commission, the consortium, and organizations specialised in the Mental Health sector, the topic of SEL-based learning and the economy of Well-being were discussed.



**Euriphi website**

Since 2019, EUREGHA is a project partner of the EURIPHI project. This Horizon 2020 project evolves around the topic of Public Procurement Innovation (PPI) and Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) and the development of a MEAT Value-based approach to healthcare procurement. EUREGHA is a member of several Work Packages, including one to set up a "European regions network".

Throughout the entire year, **EUREGHA worked intensively to set up a regions network** and involve its regions in the establishment of this activity. Moreover, the Secretariat attended several events and project-meetings, as well as delivered social media support. **EUREGHA co-organized with the Coordinator, MedTech Europe, a breakfast meeting** on the 16 of March and a **lunch debate** on the 12 of December **to gather inputs from regional practitioners on VBHC.**

# Collaboration with other networks



EUREGHA worked closely together with the EU Health Coalition throughout 2019. To secure that the dynamic multi-stakeholder platform keeps evolving, EUREGHA actively participated in policy group meetings to keep thinking about innovative solutions to existing barriers in the European health spheres.

Whereas EUREGHA takes a supportive role in the

organization of the EU Health Summit, **the EU Health Coalition also supported EUREGHA with the organization of the “Towards A Value-Based Healthcare System: From Concept to Implementation”** event that took place on 10 April 2019. With the collaboration of the EU Health Coalition, the event reflected on a much wider audience by a varied panel of speakers from all the industries.

**EUREGHA furthermore supported the EU Health Coalition’s call for a strong health dimension in Cohesion Policy 2021-2027.** The call points out that overall investments

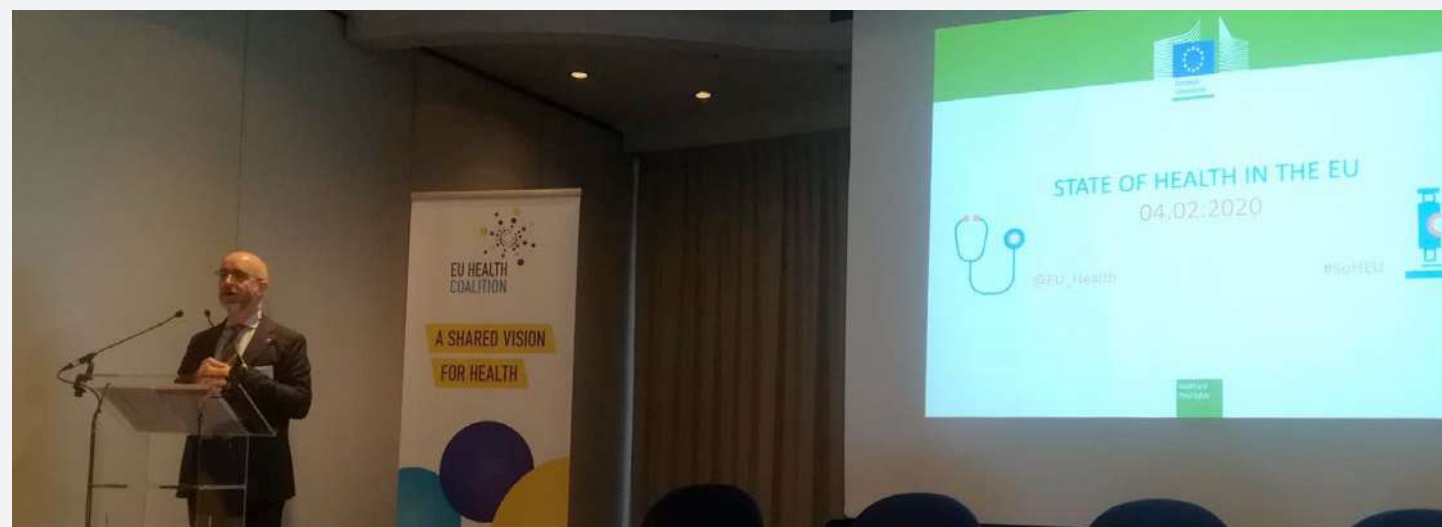
can be ensured when the Health Programme will be implemented within the EFS Plus Regulation. Moreover, the Coalition believes that smart specialisation strategies should be flexible and easy to accelerate the way the market of pan-European works.



**EU Health Coalition**



**Paper on the Cohesion policy ‘21-’27**



**Above, Sylvain Giraud – DG SANTE, Towards A Value-Based Healthcare System, 10 April**

## WHO Regions for Health Network (RHN) Annual meeting

From 26 until 28 June, EUREGHA attended the annual meeting of the WHO Regions For Health Network. The 3-day event was hosted by the provinces of the Euregion Meuse-rhine to celebrate the **25th anniversary of the Network**. The events took place in Aachen (DE), Maastricht (NL), Liege and Hasselt (BE) and EUREGHA was among the speakers of the Conference. **The full event focused on three main topics: equity, participatory approaches, and human resources for health.**

During the event, EUREGHA chair Mr Nick Batey discussed the association’s actions on EU level and indicated **good practices from Wales, Emilia Romagna, and Buskerud**. Furthermore, **EUREGHA held the last session on Healthcare in Cross-border Regions**. Mr Karsten Uno Petersen from the Committee of Regions tackled the **EU healthcare cross-border directive implementation**. Moreover, Ms Julia Winkler, from Healthacross together with Mr Nick Batey, presented EUREGHA’s **EUHPP Joint Statement on Healthcare in Cross-border Regions**. Finally, the participants were divided into small groups to discuss the current challenges, goals and solutions related to cross-border healthcare. During the discussion, the main topics which came to light to improve the cross-border healthcare were: the analysis

## Advocacy

of National Contact Points’ governance and financing, better engagement of the civil society, the attention on sustainability, the linguistic problem, the exchange of data and transparency. The outputs of this discussion were used as input for our Joint Statement on CBHC.



**Meeting's report**

## CoR NAT Commission

On 12 November, EUREGHA chair Mr Nick Batey participated in a panel debate during the 26th CoR Commission for Natural Resources’ meeting. The debate took place to exchange views on the working document on “Cross-border Healthcare Cooperation”, and **Mr Nick Batey was invited to contribute by sharing his experiences from a regional perspective**. The meeting proved to be the perfect moment to introduce the audience to EUREGHA’s **EUHPP Joint Statement on “Healthcare in Cross-border Regions”**. During the gathering, he emphasized the **importance of removing obstacles leading to health inequality**. Furthermore, he stated that close cooperation by sharing good-practices allows regions to take into account their diversities.



During 2019, EUREGHA organized several seminars and Conferences. This chapter discusses the most important events in detail. The events vary from collaborations with the EU institutions to events organized at our own premises.

## Conference and Study Visit in Lower Austria

The occasion was the **first gathering of the EUHPP Thematic Network on “Healthcare in Cross-border Regions”**. During the event, taking place on 13 March, speakers were invited to explain why cross-border policies are important for their regions. Dr Martin Eichtinger, who spoke on behalf of Lower Austria, explained how his region works closely together with Czech and Slovak regions. EUREGHA Chair Mr Nick Batey pointed out the importance of networks such as EUREGHA for building relationships, links, and connections to address common global challenges, particularly related to health inequalities. Mr Batey highlighted that thanks to this Thematic Network, the EUREGHA will hear and learn from a variety of experiences and leave with a much stronger community of practitioners and professionals who are working towards a common set of goals to improve cooperation across Europe further.

During the event, the speakers linked to pieces of legislation such as the **Directive on the “Application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare”** and the **Regulation on the “Coordination of Social Security Systems”**. Further ongoing programmes were explained by a representative of DG REGIO.

During an interactive panel debate, the

audience explored the potentials of the Thematic Network on “Healthcare in cross-border Regions” by presentations of several regional stakeholders on their main observations. Arguments were presented related to administrative issues by different models of healthcare systems and different levels of administrative decentralisation.

During the Conference, it was pointed out how important data collection is for cross-border cooperation. EUREGHA’s observer **EU Prevent** is currently working on a platform of Euregional health Data where data is shown on a regional level and where it is possible to analyse trends.

The study visit (14 and 15 March) included a visit to the **Hospital of Melk** and a presentation on the projects **Unlimited Health Together** and **Bridges for Birth**. Both projects are excellent examples of cross-border hospital cooperation. On the 15 of March, the participants visited the Hospital of Gmünd and heard about the **Healthacross**



Above, Two-day study visit in Lower Austria, March

**for future** project. The project, in which Lower Austria cooperates with the regions of South Bohemia (CZ) and South Moravia (CZ), focusses on two main pillars: cross-border health care provision and cross-border health cube. The main objectives are to ensure inpatient cross-border healthcare and expand it to inpatient care for Czech patients and to prepare a “Cross-border health centre” for the border region.

All in all, the Conference and Study visit are concrete examples of cross-border health cooperation and truly match EUREGHA’s mission to improve healthcare systems.

## The SDGs for a Healthy Social Europe: Time for partnership and innovation

On 9 October, EUREGHA organized the “SDGs for a healthy social Europe” Conference in collaboration with the **European Committee of the Regions**, the **European Commission**, and the **World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe**, within the framework of the **European Week of Regions & Cities 2019** (EWRC). With help from various speakers, the Conference aimed to engage with European health stakeholders on how individuals and organizations should meet the SDG goals to ensure good health and well-being for European citizens.

The first session of the event was dedicated to the strategic perspective on how working across governance levels and breaking the

silos benefits the procedure of reaching SDGs. During the debate, all speakers of the session agreed that **securing a multi-layer approach by several parties is crucial in order to reduce inequalities in the European health sector**. Bridges were built on the belief that no one should be left behind as it is important to recognize that healthy societies participate more in social and economic life. Eventually, a healthy society will result in more sustainability.

**During the second session, the speakers and EUREGHA chair Mr Nick Batey discussed the topics of good governance, communities, and investments.** These are the three main pillars of health promotion and disease prevention. The session aimed to detect possible actions that regional and local health authorities can undertake to improve the EU healthcare system as well as change the behaviour of the patients through an “Economy of Well-being” approach.

The Conference was concluded by **Ossi Martikainen, Chair of the NAT committee**, who highlighted that important improvement are made at local and regional levels; however, more partnership is needed to accomplish bigger outcomes. His closing words were “**To succeed in making Europe the healthiest place alive; we need individual, societal, and global engagement**”.



Study visit report



EWRC's event report



## EUREGHA High-level Annual Conference

Last year's Annual Conference, held on 5 December, had the theme **Towards a healthy and cohesive Europe**. Various health experts were brought together to discuss the future of **ESI funds for health**.

Even though health was not a specific priority among the 11 thematic objectives of the ESIF 2014-2020, the **European Social Fund (ESF)** and the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** covered health **investments in improving access to healthcare, reducing health inequalities, and boosting healthcare reforms for around €9 billion**. With more than 7,000 health-related projects financed in the programming period 2014-2020, cohesion policy demonstrated its crucial contribution to supporting social and economic convergence around Europe and helping to ensure the health of EU citizens.

As cohesion policy is one of the main European policy and investment instrument to achieve the EU treaty objective of economic, social, and territorial cohesion, significant resources should be allocated to investments in health prevention and promotion, health care and health infrastructures within the Multiannual financial period 2021-2027. To this extent, **it is important to foster a positive dialogue** among European, national and regional public authorities, industry, and civil society to ensure these investments genuinely contribute towards more equitable access to healthcare and improved well-being for citizens, as well as more efficient, resilient and sustainable health systems.

**Mr Normund Popens**, Deputy Director-General for Regional Policy at the European Commission, started the Conference with a keynote speech. He emphasized that this is the right time to think about how funds are distributed. He stated it is crucial to identify existing gaps in healthcare by working together with healthcare professionals to make precise investments.

After the keynote speech, moderator and EUREGHA chair Mr Nick Batey led the engaging audience through interventions of **Commission officials (DG CONNECT and DG SANTE) and regional experts from Flanders and Tuscany**. The afternoon was concluded by a multi-stakeholder panel debate with participating representatives from the private and public sector on the topic of building a common vision for health.



*Above: Normunds Poppens - DG REGIO, 5 December*



**Report & presentations**

**Chair:** Wales

**Co-Vice-Chairs:** Catalonia and Lower Austria

**Treasurer:** Scotland

**2019 Executive Board:** Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Flanders, Scotland, Lower Austria, Ostergotland, Tuscany, and Wales. For further information consult the General Assembly's section below.



*Above: Executive Board family photo, General Assembly*

**Secretariat:** It 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 (IT) and two part-time trainees through an agreement with the Vesalius College (BE).

## CORE ACTIVITIES

### General Assembly and Executive Board

The **General Assembly, taking place in March**, started with a warm welcome to **Buskerud as a new member of EUREGHA**. During the meeting, the new Executive Board was elected, and the provisional budget of 2019 was discussed and approved. Further changes in the statutes (such as a change

# About us

in address and the officialization of three categories in memberships) were reviewed and accepted.



**Full report**

Throughout 2019, **five Executive Board Meetings were held in April, June, October, and December**.

At the Executive Board meeting of April, Emilia-Romagna officially received a role in the EUREGHA Executive Board. After the meeting it was evident that **all EUREGHA Regions have been working towards the same direction focusing on primary care and specialised care**, working with hospitals, to give prestige to professionals and decrease health inequalities. It was clear that this brings many possibilities to cooperate. Plans were drafted to work on a document on eHealth to share data, priorities and project proposals.

In the meeting of June, it became clear that a strong mandate on Value-based Health-care is crucial and helpful and plans were prepared to further work on the particular topic by participating in the **EFPIA VBHC Think Tank** and engaging in the organization of the **First Value-Based procurement event in December**. The regions highlighted their focus areas and main activities, varying from digital health, artificial intelligence in health and collaboration between region's to

improve their healthcare systems.

During the Executive Meeting in October, two new trainees and one new Communications and Project Assistant were introduced to the team. EUREGHA Director Ms Valentina Polylas provided updates on collaborations with various projects and organizations such as [Regions4PerMed](#) and the [SAPHIRE Project](#). Further upcoming events were discussed, including the “EU Health Summit of 2020”, the “State of Health in the EU” Conference, and the EUREGHA Annual High-level Conference on “ESI Funds and eHealth”. Taking into account the planning of 2020, discussions were held the two policy cycles for the year, and whether a specific region should take the lead.

During the last meeting of 2019, which occurred in December, the Executive Board welcomed **new member Northern-Ireland**, represented by Mr Neil Goodwin. Mrs Polylas discussed EUREGHA’s priorities and updated the Board members on each of them.

## Newsletter

In 2019, **EUREGHA published 5 newsletters**. They were shared with members and close contacts of the network and covered topics related to mental health, cross-border health, Value-Based healthcare, eHealth, health promotion, EU policy, EU Health news and calls for projects and tenders. Moreover, **26 bi-weekly** Info flashes were sent out to the members of EUREGHA.

## Communication and Social Media

In 2018, EUREGHA developed its new website. During 2019, the EUREGHA Secretariat published regular articles (**22 in total**) on the website including photos, videos, and infographics. The information was cross-shared on EUREGHA’s accounts on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

The objective was to **increase transparency and accountability** by publishing the details of the events.

On the website, one can find information on the Boards members, the EUREGHA’s Statutes, agendas and minutes of the annual Conferences, and EUREGHA’s publications: collections of EUREGHA’s members best practices, position papers, and public consultations.



+ 274 followers



+ 105 followers



+ 209 likes



EUREGHA website

## Participation in Conferences

The EUREGHA Secretariat organized several of the following conferences and took part at all of them as panellist:

**18 APR** “CoR Interregional Group on Health and Well-being: Challenges and opportunities”

**23 MAY** “1st European Value-Based Procurement Conference: A New Paradigm in Healthcare”

**17 JUN** “CoR Interregional Group on Health and Well-being: Active and Healthy Ageing”

**26 JUN** “CoR Interregional Group on Health and Well-being: Healthcare in Cross-border Regions”

**23-24 SEPT** “Big Data, Electronic Health Records and Health Governance”

**09 OCT** “SDG for a Healthy Social Europe: Time for Partnership and Innovation”

**16 OCT** “EURIPHI Breakfast Workshop”

**17 OCT** “DG SANTE Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group Meeting Subgroup of National Contact Points”

**17 OCT** “EU Health Policy Platform – Annual Meeting”

**06 NOV** “Mep Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain: “Ensuring Equitable Access to Treatment, Services and Support”

**12 DEC** “1<sup>st</sup> EU Value-Based Procurement Conference: A new Paradigm in Healthcare”

**13 DEC** “EUREGHA’s High-level Annual Conference – Towards a healthy and cohesive Europe”

Moreover, the Secretariat participated in several other EU and international Conferences and disseminated the minutes of the following events to its members:

**25 JAN** “The NHS and UK Health Law: Where now after Brexit?”

**30 JAN** “Digital Health Literacy”

**30 JAN** “2019 European Week of Regions and Cities Kick-Off Meeting”

**12 FEB** “Integrating genomics into personalised healthcare: a science-for-policy perspective”

**18 FEB** “Why Organ Donations Matters to Us All”

**20 FEB** “Patient Access Partnership Presents – “EU Collaboration in Health for Better Access: Taking Stock and Looking to the Future”

**13 MAR** “SUSTAIN Final Conference: Sustainable Tailored Integrated Care for Older People in Europe”

**14 MAR** “Digital Technologies to Address Silver Economy Needs”

**20 MAR** “All Policies for a Healthy Europe Manifesto Launch”

**21 MAR** “Personalized Medicine: Innovation through Participation? In dialogue with medical researchers and patients towards a leading-edge healthcare system”



**25 APR** “The SmartHealthSystems Expert Roundtable”

**7 MAY** “Invest and Protect: Sustainable Financing to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)”

**14 MAY** “A greener health: how to foster environmental sustainability in Healthcare”

**15 MAY** “Workshop for the Commission for Economic Policy on Implementing Public Procurement at Local and Regional Level: Challenges and Opportunities”

**28 MAY** “Flanders demonstrates: Cooperation Between Industry & Healthcare through Integrated Business Models”

**4 JUN** “Expert Panel on Effective Ways of investing in Health- hearing on Value-Based Healthcare Draft Opinion”

**4 JUN** “Presentation of the European Court of Auditors Special Report: EU actions for cross-border healthcare significant ambitions but improved management required”

**13 JUN** “Vaccine Hesitancy- Understanding it to regain trust”

**13 JUN** “Health WG Meeting: Uptake of innovation in hospitals through skills development”

**25 JUN** “2019 European Kidney Forum: Organ Donation and Transplantation in Europe”

**10 JUL** “#COHESIONALLIANCE Conference: Together for a strong cohesion policy 2021-2027”

**11 JUL** “The future of health: Advancing the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Europe”

**10 SEPT** “Breakfast Seminar: Innovation in Healthcare Design – What have we learned?”

**11 SEPT** “Tackling Heart Failures in Europe: Accessing Innovation & Fostering Integrated Care”

**24 SEPT** “Tomorrow’s Technologies for Today’s Health- European Research and Innovation Days”

**24 SEPT** “Staying Healthy in a Fast-Moving World”

**25 SEPT** “Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases”

**26 SEPT** “For an Innovative and Globally Competitive Health Care Industry”

**26 SEPT** “Personalised Medicine and the Regional Dynamic”

**01 OCT** “Hearing for the New Health Commissioner Designate: Stella Kyriakides

**06 OCT** “Lung Cancer: Early Diagnosis and Screening”

**08 OCT** “The Big Data Revolution for Public Health”

**08 OCT** “Achieving Award winning Healthcare Transformation: the Northern Ireland Example”

**10 OCT** “BE RIGHT- Moving Towards a Human rights-based approach in care settings / service provision for people with mental health issues

**16 OCT** “EULAR World Arthritis Day Conference 2019: A Sustainable and Effective EU Health Policy for Citizens: Focusing on chronic diseases and inclusion in social and economic life”

**22 OCT** “Policy Briefing on Approaches to Implement and Measure the Progress towards Economic, Social, and territorial cohesion at EU and Member States level”

**23 OCT** “Effective Ways of Investing in Health- hearing on options to Foster Health Promoting Health Systems”

**14 NOV** “Presentation on European Court of Auditors (ECA) Report on Antimicrobial Resistance”

**14 NOV** “IDF Europe Symposium: Improving the Well-being of People with Diabetes and those at Risk”

**20 NOV** “A new Direction for Allergy and Asthma Health in Europe”

**03 DEC** “Innovations in Health and Social Care: Enhancing Health and Well-being in Europe”

**04 DEC** “7th French National Alliance for Life Science and Health (AVIESAN) Meeting”

**EUREGHA is the reference network for European regional and local health authorities.** It brings together a critical mass of knowledge and expertise and encourage diversity with the purpose of helping our members to improve the efficiency and quality of health systems and services in Europe.

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