

INTERREGIONAL GROUP ON HEALTH & WELLBEING

2020-2025

Brussels, 07th of January 2020



**European Committee
of the Regions**

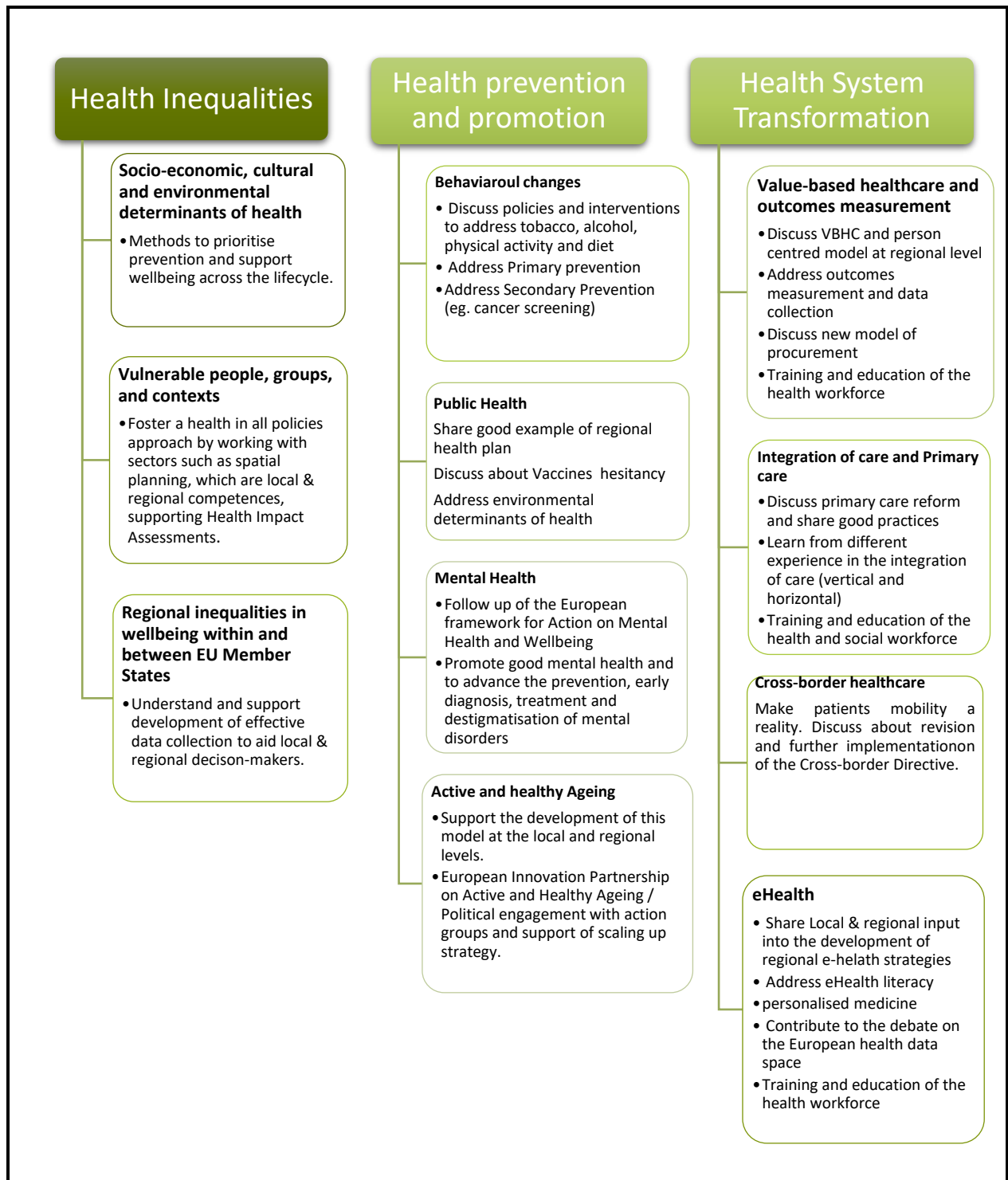
For the period 2020-2025, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) interregional group on health and wellbeing will focus on three core priority themes:

- health inequalities;
- health prevention and promotion;
- health system transformation.

The group will prioritize prevention and promotion, primary care reform and integration between health and social care services, advocate for an economy of wellbeing approach and will aim at contributing to the achievement of the SDGs goals.

For each area, a dialogue will be ensured with the European Commission, key international bodies (such as the World Health Organisation and the OECD), and relevant stakeholders from civil society, industry and academia.

An overview of the issues within the priority themes is illustrated below:



Enhanced Dialogue

- Cooperation with European Commission, European Parliament
- Cooperation with WHO-Europe and OECD
- Cooperation with stakeholders (NGOs, academia, industry)

The **objectives** of the interregional group are:

- To promote an understanding of how **all sectors affect the health of citizens and communities**, and that, subsequently, a multi-level governance approach is needed to improve and sustain health and wellbeing across Europe;
- To share ideas and knowledge on the **investments to support effective, accessible and resilient health systems and improve the health of society**. This should emphasise the role of local and regional governments, in particular the implementation of the European Structural and Investments Funds;
- To exchange experiences on current challenges in relation to implementing **health system reforms** in a climate of limited resources and rising demand, stressing the use of EU tools such as the Structural reform support programme ;
- To enable discussions on regional and local policy initiatives to build **cohesive and sustainable communities** that promote and enable healthy behaviours;
- To pay close attention to **vulnerable groups** in society, including those with disabilities, and **address mental health equally with physical health** by mainstreaming a health equity perspective throughout the group's work;
- To inform CoR Members of the latest **research and innovation** in relation to tackling the major chronic diseases and burden of multi-morbidities in an ageing population, as well as mission-related objective (eg. Cancer) and partnership on Health and care system transformation under Horizon Europe;
- To explore means and opportunities to facilitate in-depth discussions of the group, without presenting any additional resource or administrative burden on the CoR;
- To communicate effectively with CoR officials to ensure the work of the group is complementary and supportive to ongoing CoR business;
- To continue positive and meaningful **cooperation** with DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission as well as any other relevant DGs, European Parliament, WHO-Europe and OECD.

Working method

The group will be composed of 1 permanent Chairperson (Birgitta Sacrédeus, EPP) and a bureau of members who committed to support the development and review the progress of the group.

The interregional group plans to meet at least 4 times per year in line with the respective Plenary sessions of the European Committee of the Regions. The bureau of the group meets at least once per year in person. The secretariat of the interregional group on health will be provided by the European Regional and Local Health Authorities association (EUREGHA).

A [dedicated webpage](#) for the group is created within the EUREGHA website to communicate about events, meetings and any relevant news. The page will contain information about the Chair, bureau and members and reports of all the meetings.

2020 schedule

| Date | Topic | Details |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| Tuesday 2 July | Constitutive Meeting | Via Webex |
| 12-15 October (<i>date and time tbc</i>) (European Week of Regions and Cities) | Cohesion Policy and Health | TBC |
| Tuesday 10 December | EU4Health Programme | TBC |

Further details

The secretariat can be contacted with any queries related to the group:

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