

Launch of the Committee of the Regions' Technical Platform for co-operation on Health

Structural Funds and Health: Learning lessons and next steps

on 11 June 2010 in Brussels

Organised by
Committee of the Regions, DG SANCO and Health Cluster Net
in collaboration with DG REGIO & DG EMPL

Programme:

09.15

Welcome

Isabel DE LA MATA BARRANCO , Principal Advisor - Public health and risk assessment ,
DG SANCO

Lucio GUSSETTI, Director for Consultative Works
Committee of the Regions

Dr Paolo STOCCO, General Director, Local Health Authority,
Veneto Region, Italy, Health ClusterNet member region

09.45

Health investments in the current programming period – challenges and opportunities

Jerome BOEHM, DG SANCO

10.00

Sustainable investment in the health sector – EIB Perspective

Christine Blades, EIB

Structural Funds opportunities to tackle health inequalities

Andor URMOS, DG REGIO

ESF opportunities for health investments

Dimo ILIEV, DG EMPL

11.00

Coffee break

11.30

Regional experiences

Healthcare Infrastructure planning and organizational change: the case of the "Aghii Anarghyri" General and Cancer Hospital, Athens, Greece

Georgios MARGETIDIS

Senior Scientific Officer, EAHC (formerly CEO of Greek Cancer Centre Project funded under FEDER, Attiki Regional Operational Programme)

Efficient modernising of health care in a rural region using Structural Funds

Prof Kurt J.G. SCHMAILZL

Medizinische Klinik A, Ruppiner Kliniken GmbH, Neuruppin, Brandenburg, Germany

Dean of Institut für International Health Management, University of Potsdam

12.45

Lunch Break

13.30

Parallel Workshops :

EUREGIO III: Lessons learned about using Structural Funds for health infrastructure

Barrie DOWDESWELL, ECHAA

Addressing health inequalities through Structural Fund investments in health care and beyond

Sue WOOLF , Debbi STANISTREET, University of Liverpool and Luisa AVEDANO, "Building Healthy Communities" – URBACT II thematic network – in collaboration with QeC- ERAN

15.00

Tea break

15.15

Futures thinking

What EUREGIO III is telling us about using Structural Funds for effective and sustainable health gains.

Prof Jonathan WATSON Executive Director, Health ClusterNET

Directions and level of health investment under Cohesion Policy in the 2014-2020 period – A critical perspective

Ourania GEORGOUTSAKOU

Senior Policy Coordinator, Assembly of European Regions

Health priorities in the future Programming period 2014-2020: how to address them effectively at EU, member state and regional levels

Rostislava DIMITROVA, DG SANCO

16.15

Conference ends

Workshop(by invitation only):

Contribution of EUREGHA on: how to better coordinate local and regional authorities working in the field of health?

Luigi BERTINATO, Veneto Region, EUREGHA Vice- Chair

CoR Technical platform for cooperation on health:

Next steps

Cedric JANSSENS, CoR NAT commission secretariat

17.00

Technical Platform ends

The importance of health to regional development

Within the European Union there has been growing recognition of the important contribution of health in achieving sustainable regional development. It has been acknowledged that health is a key factor for economical development and social cohesion as it contributes to EU citizens well being, economic wealth and prosperity. This is reflected in the EU's Cohesion Policy and in the 2007-2013 programming period wherein Structural Funds explicitly included health sector investment, with an early emphasis on health infrastructure. At midterm of the current programming period, it is crucial to start defining the role health-related investment will play after 2013 to consolidate an efficient and ambitious Cohesion Policy.

Regional cooperation on health at EU level

Local and regional authorities are responsible respectively for health services and healthcare in many Member States and are therefore key actors on health related issues as they are best placed to ensure that services meet local needs. It is therefore a key importance to have them closely involved in shaping and implementing EU strategies in this field. The EU Health Strategy for 2008-2013 objectives could be effectively implemented by involving regions in areas such as health promotion, sustainable health workforce, health inequalities and health investments from the EU Structural Funds. **The Committee of the Regions Technical Platform on Health** offers an opportunity for local and regional authorities to share their experience and collaborate on their priorities.

Seeking Structural Funds (SF) for health-related investments

To get access to and benefit from SF there are clear challenges for the health sector including: expertise about how SF work, difficulties to translate linkages between health objectives and Cohesion policy priorities and objectives, to ensure sustainable operation by complementing infrastructure investment with human resources capacity, to ensure strategic impact of health investments, and to use cross – sectoral policy approach. To increase health investments and maximize health gains in the next programming period, DG SANCO aims to introduce health priorities in the future SF Regulations and to support Member States and regions to include health in the national and regional development plans. If you are interested and involved in using SF for health-related investments, then this event matters. EUREGIO III project will share lessons from several case studies.