



EU HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM ANNUAL MEETING

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What is EUREGHA?

It is a **Network of European Regional and Local Health Authorities**. Its mission is to promote **collaboration** amongst regional and local health authorities in Europe and with the institutions of the EU and other international stakeholders.

Our priorities: Value Based approach, Health promotion, Cross-border health, eHealth, integrated care. **The 2018 Policy cycles are on Primary care and Integrated care.**

Who are the members?

The network gathers **15 Full members Authorities and 4 Observers**: Skåne (SE), Scotland (UK), Catalonia (ES), Flanders (BE), German-speaking Community of Belgium (BE), South Limburg (NL), Lower Austria (AT), Wales (UK), Region Östergötland (SE), Podlaskie (PL) , Veneto (IT), Emilia Romagna (IT) , Tuscany (IT) Vysočina (CZ), Buskerud (N).

Observers: Occitanie (FR), Eindhoven (NL), West Finland (FI), EU Prevent (NL)

11 members are border regions

EUREGA's Chair is Nick Batey, from Wales. EUREGA has an Executive board of 8 members and a General Assembly.

EUREGHA activities and tools

Advocacy

- Making the voice of regional and local health authorities heard at EU level
- Liaising with the EU institutions and international stakeholders
- Reinforcing the partnership between EUREGHA member regions and the EU institutions.

Policy monitoring

- Providing access to tailored monitoring of information on health-related legislation and funding through reports, e-mails, weekly InfoFlashes and bimonthly newsletters.

Profile promotion

- Disseminating booklets and publications of EUREGHA members' best-practices
- Organising high-level events in Brussels
- Organising exclusive policy briefings and annual conferences

Partnership building

- Providing opportunities for cooperation and exchange of experiences with other European regions

Project development

- Monitoring calls for proposals and tenders
- Disseminating partner searches
- Providing participation opportunities, through EUREGHA, in EU projects, Joint Actions and initiatives

Proposal for a Thematic Network

Healthcare in cross-border regions: THE CONTEXT

- Border areas are home to **30% of the European population**.
- 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 of free movement of labour and services which leads to disadvantages in the economic, social and cultural development. All these factors significantly **affect healthcare systems in border regions**.
- The geographical working area for enterprises and their markets, healthcare providers and institutions, skills and training services for the workforce, educational institutions and regional governments often encounter **more obstacles than in non-border regions, which makes the delivery of health care services less efficient**.
- Furthermore, citizens are **limited in their choice of and accessibility to health care and there is less room for cooperation**, which can potentially create **health inequalities**

Proposal for a Thematic Network

Healthcare in cross-border regions: THE EU AGENDA

- **Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**
- **Communication "Boosting Growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions" (20/09/2017)**
- **Study - Cross-border cooperation: capitalising on existing initiatives for cooperation in cross-border region (27/03/2018)**
- **Report of the Commission on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU (21/09/2018)**
- **Strategic Conference "Enhancing Healthcare Cooperation in Cross-Border Regions" organised by DG REGIO and DG SANTE (4/12/2018)**

Building on existing tools: Study on capitalizing on existing initiatives for cooperation in cross-border region

1. **CBHC initiatives are more effective in regions where ease of cooperation** is already established, e.g. due to similar welfare traditions or close historical ties.
2. Support should be given to key players **such as regional policy-makers or hospital managers to reduce transaction costs of CBHC.**
3. There are several scenarios for future CBHC, one of the most realistic ones being one which **builds regional networks oriented towards addressing local and regional needs.**
4. Regional networks are likely to represent a low-cost option, but the downsides are that they are likely to remain small-scale and they may create inequities by not benefiting all regions equally.
5. Top categories of CBHC initiatives to receive EU-funding over the past 10 years are: **knowledge sharing and management, shared treatment & diagnosis of patients**
6. Collaborations such as **high-cost capital investments and emergency care** tend to have more discernible economic and social benefits, but **require more formalised terms of cooperation.**
7. Although information on the **effectiveness and sustainability of current CBHC** initiatives is scarce, **funding of CBHC projects could help achieve these aims.**

Objectives and Outcomes

- Using the outcomes of the event "**Enhancing Healthcare Cooperation in Cross-border Regions**" on 4 December 2018
- Working within the already-established **internal Working Group on Cross-border healthcare**
- Discussing the first draft of the Joint statement and collecting inputs during the next **EUREGHA General Assembly and study visit in Lower Austria**
- As the **Secretariat of the European Committee of the Regions' Interregional Group on Health and Well-being**, EUREGHA will organise a dedicated meeting and collect inputs from CoR members in the coming year
- Maximising the impact of the Joint statement through the recently-launched **EUREGHA campaign "[Health in all Regions](#)"**
- Stakeholders may include EU regions, **local and regional health authorities, healthcare providers, enterprises, research and development centres, the higher education sector and regional development agencies.**

Thank you for your attention!



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