

## HEALTH WORKING GROUP

### ANNUAL PLAN 2023

#### WORKING GROUP LEADERS

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#### OBJECTIVES

ERRIN's Health Working Group (WG) supports members with early intelligence and regular updates about EU-level health policy-related issues, regulations, EU programmes and their funding opportunities. Creating opportunities for interregional cooperation in the Health area is one of the WG's main objectives. The WG is also a vehicle for networking, profile raising and promotion of good practices and projects among health stakeholders in the ERRIN regions.

#### CONTEXT

*What are the key EU level priorities, strategies, and events that the Working Group aims to follow up in 2023?*

- European Commission Work Programme 2023
- Year of skills 2023
- Swedish and Spanish EU Council presidency
- EU Care strategy
- European health data space
- Mission on Cancer
- Draft Work Programmes to look at: Horizon Europe Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) and other partnerships, EU4Health, Digital, Erasmus +
- Mental health strategy
- Healthier together

The Health WG activities relating to EU Missions or relevant Partnerships are:

- Mission on Cancer
- Transformation in Health and Care Systems

*Which funding programmes are important for the Working Group and how does the WG aim to facilitate project development?*

- Horizon Europe:
  - HORIZON-HLTH-2023-STAYHLTH-01-01: The Silver Deal
  - HORIZON-HLTH-2023-CARE-08-01: Eur. Partnership on Pers. Med.
- EU4Health: CR-g-23-19.01/02: Mental Health & Cancer
- Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

The Health WG will promote calls and partnership opportunities at each WG meeting. Calls with more than 6 months before the deadline will be considered for further support through coffee meetings.

*How does the group support partnership building and collaborate with other European organisations or networks?*

- EUREGHA
- Mental Health Europe

*To encourage less active regions, for example tackling topics directed to widening countries, the health WG will:*

- As a measure to include less active member regions in the field of health, we will aim to actively engage with and invite stakeholders from those regions to present their work or specific project within the context of one of our workshops planned for 2023.

*Facilitation of project development:*

The WG follows the Work Programmes closely and organises workshops and information seminars based on calls of specific, strategic interest to our members.

The WG regularly invites other European organisations/networks to contribute to and collaborate on joint initiatives and meetings.

## ACTIVITIES

### 2023 EU agenda for health

**Date:** Q1 – January | In Person

This event will be a presentation of the Commission’s 2023 health agenda by DG SANTE, followed by a networking opportunity. It will allow the group to :

1. gather first-hand information on the Commission 2023 agenda in the field of health;
2. identify the main policy initiatives and events to monitor and potentially get involved in during the year;
3. have a dialogue with EU policy makers;
4. discuss the 2023 activities with the whole membership of the WG.

**Speakers:**

- DG SANTE: Marta Moya Diaz, HoU “Inter-institutional relations”
- Health WG leaders presenting the activities for 2023

### Transforming Health and Care Systems

**Date:** Q1 March | Online

Principle number 18 in the EU Pillar of Social Rights states that “everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services”. The EU Care Strategy published in 2022 further elaborates on this point, taking a holistic approach to health and care. Following these initiatives, comes a new partnership, funded under Horizon Europe, aiming to tackle the challenges and systemic cracks that have become evident throughout the pandemic.

The Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) partnership follows up on previous flagship initiatives such as the AAL Programme and the EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing. Through the use of innovative solutions, the THCS partnership is set up to change and conform the way health care is delivered throughout Europe. The overall goal is to ensure all European citizens have access to high quality, sustainable and resilient healthcare services, leaving no-one behind.

Through the Horizon Europe 2021-2022 Work Programme for Health, the partnership call was allocated an amount of €100m, giving an indication of the task at hand. What is the outcome, and what can we look forward to as the partnership consortium gets ready for the official launch in March 2023.

**Speakers:** Sabrina Montante, senior adviser and THCS coordinating team

### Mental health

**Date:** Q2 April | In Person

**Topic and scope:**

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The 'Healthier Together' (2021) – EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative supports EU countries in identifying and implementing effective policies and actions to reduce the burden of major NCDs. One of the key strands under this initiative is 'Mental health and neurological disorders', under which the initiative supports the implementation of high-impact actions across the entire spectrum from prevention to inclusion. In line with this, the Commission has announced the launch of a policy initiative focused on mental health in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 according to the Commissions Working Programme 2023.

## **BioManufacturing and re-industrialisation of the EU health sector**

**Date:** Q3 May-June | Online

### **Topic and scope:**

Biomanufacturing refers to all the technical and industrial processes used for the industrial production of biomedicines, including gene therapy vectors.

Innovative therapies are very complex to produce and manufacturing these treatments requires a high-level technological environment and very precise procedures. R&D of technological innovations is still required to improve their efficiency and reduce their very high cost.

Several European players have launched initiatives in the field, cf. EuropaBio BioManufacturing platform and EIH Health, EIT Manufacturing and CEBR joint initiative to map BioManufacturing ecosystems in 18 Member States.

A Horizon Europe EIE project (COBIOE) involving CEBR and EIT Health aims at enriching the mapping of European regions capacities in the field, to integrate the identified ecosystems and stakeholders and monitor regional, national and EU policies, establish a strategy for the value chain connection. Ultimately, the aim of the project is to contribute to better EU wide collaboration and to the structuration of a European ecosystem and EU value chains.

There is a strong link with major political issues of the re-industrialisation of the EU, production of medicines in Europe, EU strategic autonomy and the new Health IPCEI.

## **Innovation procurement**

**Date:** Q4 October | In Person

### **Topic and scope:**

Innovation procurement includes the development of innovative solutions through the procurement of Research & Development services as well as the procurement of innovative solutions that do not yet exist or are not yet widely available on the market. The European Commission supports public buyers looking to develop or purchase innovative solutions by providing [guidance on innovation procurement](#) and funding to aid in the establishment of collaborative frameworks with innovation ecosystems. Several projects on innovation procurement (pre-commercial procurement and public procurement of innovation) have been running under the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programme, notably in the health domain, but the Commission is still looking for the best way to support this type of activity. Therefore a new CSA project, Procure4Health, has been launched under Horizon Europe to overcome the barriers to EU-wide adoption of innovation procurement by creating

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an open community of health&care procurement stakeholders. The community will identify common needs and try to address them as well as influence policy making in the field.

## Skills in Health

**Date:** October | In Person

**Topic and scope:** EWRC side event (TBC)

In the context of the 2023 European Year of skills, this meeting will stress the issue of skills shortages in the field of health. The Health WG will showcase initiatives and projects from ERRIN member regions and their stakeholders that make health careers more attractive. Other projects that help to train/retrain the workforce so that their skills are better adapted to new jobs and to public health organisations and company's needs will also be showcased.

Focus on skills linked to the innovation agenda (digital skills, skills for clinical trials staff, etc)

## Cancer screening/prevention

**Date:** December | Online

**Topic and scope:**

With [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) launched in 2021, the Commission set out a new EU approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care. With new technologies, research and innovation as the starting point, the Cancer Plan takes a holistic approach, tackling the entire disease pathway. The cancer plan was followed by a new [Council recommendation on Cancer screening](#), which was adopted in December 2022, with the aim of ensuring 90% screening coverage for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers by 2025.

How are we doing one year later? Which initiatives are in place in the regions, and what type of funding is available?

## Overview:

1. **2023 EU agenda for health**
  - Topic: Presentation of the EU Commission agenda
  - Leadership: **Cedric and Beatriz**
  - **Q1** – January
  - Type: Info session and networking meeting
  - in person
  - Topic:
    - SANTE to present their topics for 2023
2. **Transforming health and care systems**
  - Leadership: **Helga**
  - **Q1** - 6 March
  - Topic: transforming health and care systems (partnership)
  - Info session
  - Online event

- Speakers: Sabrina Montante
- 3. **Mental health:**
  - Leadership: **Maria and Ylva**
  - **Q2** - April
  - Topic:
    - Commission new Initiative on Mental health
    - Diseases within mental health – illnesses
    - Cases: Young people, mental health prevention, post-COVID,
    - WHO
  - Type of activity:
    - exchange of experiences and best practice – showcase regional experience/position
    - policy debate with EU institutions
  - in person
- 4. **Biomanufacturing and re-industrialisation/strategic autonomy of the EU health sector**
  - Leadership: **Cedric**
  - **Q3** May-June
  - Ecosystem project on this in Ile de France, other regional examples
  - Online event
- 5. **Innovation procurement**
  - Leader: **Maria and Ylva**
  - **Q4** October
  - Ongoing CSA project (Maria and Ylva involved) – procure4health (ends in 2023)
  - Hybrid or in person
- 6. **Skills**
  - Leader: **Cedric**
  - October (EWRC side event)
  - Synergies: SEFS WG
- 7. **Cancer**
  - Leaders: **Helga and Beatriz**
  - November/December
  - Topic: Implementation of beating cancer plan
    - Prevention
    - Related funding
  - Synergies: Collaboration with EUREGHA

Supporting documents are available at: <https://errin.eu/wq-resources>