

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

Please explain shortly how the Working Group's aims and activities are linked to the wider R&I landscape and the ERRIN missions:

- 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

- Are the WG activities related to any EU Mission or relevant Partnership?
 - Mission on Cancer
 - Transformation in Health and Care Systems

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

The health Working Group will reach out to the following organisations to see if there can be collaboration on some of our meetings:

 - EUREGHA
 - Mental Health Europe

- What topics and tailored activities could be proposed for less active regions, for example tackling topics directed to widening countries?
 - 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 CARRIED OUT IN 2023

The 2023 EU Health Agenda

19 January

This Health WG meeting provided an overview of the EU 2023 agenda for health, as well as a networking opportunity to start the year.

We first heard from Marta Moya Díaz, Head of Unit, DG SANTE on the Overview of the EU 2023 agenda for health, followed by a Q&A session. The Working Group leaders then presented the Health WG 2023 work plan. We concluded with a networking drink to get to know one another and to identify areas for potential collaboration between regional and local representatives.

Transforming Health and Care Systems

6 March

This Health WG meeting provided insight into the Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) partnership, launched in March 2023.

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.

Mental Health

19 September

This Health WG meeting provided an overview of the Communication from the European Commission on 'A Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health' and how this can translate to regions.

We first heard from Francesca Centola, Policy and Knowledge Officer, Mental Health Europe on the Communication from the European Commission on 'A Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health', followed by a short Q&A session. This was followed by three regional examples of how mental health has been integrated into regional policies and works on the ground. We will conclude with a networking drink.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Skills in Health

October

Topic and scope: EWRC side event (TBC)

In the context of the 2023 European Year of skills, the idea is to stress the issue of skills shortages in the field of health and to showcase initiatives and projects from ERRIN member regions and their stakeholders to make health careers more attractive and to help train/retrain the skillforce so that their skills are better adapted to new jobs and to public health organisations and companies needs.

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

Responsible leader(s): Cedric

Type of activity (project development, information session, exchange of experiences and best practice, policy debate with EU institutions etc.):

Envisaged format: an in-person seminar for the occasion of the European Week of Regions and Cities (side event), when many regional stakeholders are in Brussels

Speakers:

- from ERRIN regions (regional/local authorities, health clusters/industry, universities and VET organisations)
- from the European Commission)

Expected outcome:

- Highlight the difficulties of health employers find adequate skills and showcase local/regional strategies and projects to help train
- Connect regional stakeholders with major European initiative (Pact for skills) and existing European projects (Erasmus+)

Briefly explain how you plan to involve other ERRIN members: The ERRIN Secretariat will issue a call for interest to identify regions interested in presenting and potentially hosting the seminar

Target audience: Brussels based colleagues and networks, local and regional experts in Brussels for the EWRC

Format of the meeting: In person

Please specify **links with other clusters, Working Groups and task forces** and if the activity is organised together with another Working Group or in collaboration with another organisation:

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- SEFS WG

Cancer screening/prevention

December

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?

Responsible leader(s): Helga and Beatriz

Type of activity: Information session

Speakers:

- 1 person from EUREGHA
- 1 person from the Mission Board on Cancer

Expected outcome: To leave the audience informed about the current state of play for cancer screening and prevention in Europe one year after the launch of new guidelines, and to learn about what type of funding lies ahead for those interested in European project collaboration.

Briefly explain how you plan to involve other ERRIN members: We could include 1-2 regional examples of screening or prevention schemes that have proved successful.

Target audience: Brussels-based and regional stakeholders

Format of the meeting: Online

Please specify **links with other clusters, Working Groups and task forces** and if the activity is organised together with another Working Group or in collaboration with another organisation:

- Collaboration with EUREGHA

ACTIVITIES POSTPONED TO 2024

BioManufacturing and re-industrialisation of the EU health sector

Date: Postponed to 2024

Topic and scope:

Biomanufacturing refers to all the technical and industrial processes used for the industrial production of biomedicines, including gene vectors and cell therapies. Biomanufacturing will have a major role in the re-industrialisation and the industrial transition of the EU. However, R&D of technological biomanufacturing innovations is still required to improve their efficiency and reduce their very high production cost. Targeted policies and roadmaps at regional, national and European levels would help increase and channel investments, build cross-border value chains and an integrated European ecosystem.

The webinar will provide an overview of existing European and place-based initiatives and examples of how ERRIN regions support their biomanufacturing ecosystem. It will aim to start a discussion between European regions willing to envisage new collaborations around joint projects contributing to the structuration of a European biomanufacturing ecosystem and EU value chains. More information can be found in the attached draft agenda.

Responsible leader(s): Cedric

Speakers: from the COBIOE project, from the European Commission, from ERRIN regions willing to present their BioManufacturing ecosystems

Expected outcome: The aim of the webinar will be to present existing EU projects and initiatives, to identify and present regional BioManufacturing ecosystems in ERRIN regions and to help them be more visible and get to know each other in the perspective of future collaborations.

Target audience: Brussels colleagues but also regional stakeholders experts in the field in order to create connections between ERRIN regional ecosystems (hence the option to organise this discussion online)

Format of the meeting: Online event

Link with the I&I WG

Innovation procurement

Date: postponed to 2024

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

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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 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.

Responsible leader(s): Maria and Ylva

Speakers:

- Institutional speaker, also presenting the challenge within innovation procurement
- Regional examples - focused on the Procure4Health project

Expected outcome: Regional stakeholders will gain a further understanding of the use of innovative procurement when purchasing and/or co-developing together with industry innovative solutions to be implemented in the health systems.

Target audience:

- Brussels-based people
- Regional stakeholders, including public procurers

Format of the meeting: In person

Please specify if some other ERRIN member has indicated an interest in co-organising or presenting a regional case:

- Region Skåne
- Region Hovedstaden

Both regions are involved in the Procure4Health project

