



HEALTH CLUSTER

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025

CLUSTER DESCRIPTION AND KEY PRIORITIES

ERRIN's Health Cluster comprises the Health Working Group, providing a space for ERRIN members to align their efforts to address key EU priorities and strengthen the R&I capacities of the regional innovation ecosystems in health. The Working Group actively monitors and engages with major EU priorities, strategies and instruments, including the **Horizon Europe Programme**, its **partnerships** and its **Mission on Cancer**, as well as the **EU4Health programme**. It gathers intelligence to support the role of regions in the EU research and innovation policy landscape and facilitates interregional knowledge-sharing.

Further strategic initiatives of interest to the Working Group are the **Beating Cancer Plan**, the forthcoming **EU Life Science Strategy** and **Biotech Act**, the EU **pharmaceutical reform**, the **Large Scale Partnerships on skills** in health, **Regional Innovation Valleys**, the **European Health Data Space** and the **AI Act** and the **EU Mental Health Strategy**.

Thematic areas of interest to the group include **digital transformation of health and care**, **One Health** approach, **prevention**, in particular in relation to the **ageing population** in Europe and mental health, and **environmental impact** of health care. In 2025, the Health Working Group aims to team up with other ERRIN Working Groups to find synergies around some of these topics. More details about the Working Group and projects of strategic interest can be found at the end of this file.

CLUSTER CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Responsible
30 January	2025 Kick-off meeting Health WG and the EU 2025 Health Agenda with DG SANTE	Health WG
May	The role of regions in the Cancer Mission	Health WG
September/October	Digital transformation of health care to meet evolving needs in an ageing society	Health WG ICT WG
October/November	Environment and health	Health WG Synergies: Bioeconomy WG CCRI

ACTIVITIES

Kick-off meeting Health Working Group and the EU 2025 Health Agenda with DG SANTE

30 January | 15:00–17:00

Health WG

Responsible leaders: Louise Årebäck

In person followed by a networking drink

This first session of the year offered an opportunity for all ERRIN members of the Health Working Group to come together to network and jointly kick off the activities for 2025. Marta Moya Díaz, Head of Unit Inter-institutional relations (A2), DG SANTE, presented the European Commission's ongoing and planned initiatives for 2025.

The Working Group leaders presented the annual work plan for 2025, providing an opportunity for members to familiarise themselves with the planned activities and discuss their potential involvement in the planned work. The meeting was concluded with a networking drink to allow members to get to know one another and to identify areas for potential collaboration between regional and local representatives.

Role of regions in the Cancer Mission

May

Health WG

Responsible co-leaders: Cédric Daumas and Louise Årebäck

In-person

In spring 2024, ERRIN's Health WG organised a meeting jointly with EUREGHA, the European network of regional and local health authorities, on the role of regions in the Cancer Mission. The meeting was the occasion to listen to the European Commission Cancer Mission secretariat who gave an update on newly released calls, and to explore some regional examples of innovative initiatives in the area of cancer care and prevention. At the meeting, members also received an update from the ECHoS project coordinating the national Cancer Mission hubs. Because of recent developments and the progress of the implementation of the Cancer Mission, the Health WG and EUREGHA will follow up with another meeting on the Cancer Mission to delve deeper into the concrete opportunities for regional engagement in the Cancer Mission and the ECHoS project.

Digital transformation of health care to meet evolving needs in an ageing society

September/October

Health WG with support from the ICT WG

Responsible co-leaders: Ingeborg Bennink and Maria Tørnsø Østergaard

In-person

Digital transformation of health and care services is of central interest to a large number of ERRIN members. Areas of interest include Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health, the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the expansion of digital health initiatives such as telehealth.

Additionally, there is a broader shift towards a more digital healthcare system which promotes innovation aimed at enhancing service delivery.

Another key topic of interest among members is the demographic change in Europe, characterised by an ageing population and a rising number of individuals living with chronic conditions. Prevention is often regarded as a crucial strategy for effectively managing this demographic shift. If implemented smartly and inclusively, the digital transformation of health and care offers opportunities to maintain the health of older citizens and patients in a cost-effective manner.

Given the intertwined nature of health and ICT, this session is designed to foster the exchange of best practices between the health and ICT working group members. The session will aim to 1) showcase innovative practices from regions and cities that can serve as inspiration for others, 2) explore the policy landscape surrounding digital health, healthy ageing and prevention, and 3) provide insights into digital funding opportunities for cities and regions within this context.

In this context, the ICT Cluster and Working group would support in:

- Integrating this specific meeting into the wider digital policy context at European, regional and local levels
- Supporting the Health Cluster and Working group in the identification of relevant regional use-cases, projects and challenges
- Supporting any digital-related follow-ups that may be identified in the meeting for the benefit of the members

This meeting can also be the occasion to showcase the Regional Innovation Valley on digital health (UNITE), in which ERRIN members take part.

Environment and health

October/November

Health WG, synergies with Bioeconomy WG

Responsible co-leaders: Maria Tørnsø Østergaard and Louise Årebäck

In-person

Increasingly, awareness is drawn to the effects of environmental factors on people's health. While spending time in nature has proven positive effects for people's physical and mental wellbeing, exposure to pollution affects public health negatively. Furthermore, health care organisations and hospitals are becoming more aware of their impact on the environment through materials and energy use, handling of waste streams, etc. Lately, several calls in the Horizon Europe and EU4Health programmes have been dedicated to exploring the relationship between environment and health, as part of a One Health approach.

This Health Working Group meeting will discuss the link between the environment and health. The session will explore the EU policy landscape and provide an opportunity for members to share good practices from local and regional levels in addressing the interlinkage between environment and public health. Potential funding opportunities for local and regional entities, specifically Horizon Europe and EU4Health, could also be addressed. Additionally, this session could explore the links to One Health and the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI).

ERRIN's Bioeconomy Working Group is planning a half day event in September/October dedicated to circular economy. The Health Working Group will seek to contribute with a health angle to this event, for example by proposing a good practice example from the health sector.

Placeholder for autumn or spring 2026: Immunology

Time TBD

Health WG

Responsible co-leaders: Cédric Daumas and Louise Årebäck, with support from Catalonia

In-person

Immunological processes play a central role in both communicable and non-communicable diseases development, including both infectious and non-communicable diseases such as cancer. This topic may need more attention in forthcoming R&I funding calls and programmes to strengthen Europe's position in this critical field. The meeting will feature examples from ERRIN member regions in immunology and possibly other areas within the precision medicine domain. The European Commission will be invited to present relevant calls.

OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS IN ERRIN PROJECTS

ERRIN PROJECTS:

The Working Group will actively monitor and promote opportunities for engagement in Horizon Europe cluster 1, Mission on Cancer, European Partnerships in health, such as the THCS partnership, and the EU4Health programme.

Relevant call topics will be made available via the **ERRIN [Project Development Tool](#)**. For topics with significant interest from members and sufficient time to deadline, the Working Group will consider organising coffee meetings to facilitate collaboration.

The Working Group will pay particular attention to the ECHoS project, coordinating the national Cancer Mission Hubs, for opportunities to engage regions in this important initiative.

OTHER PROJECTS OF STRATEGIC INTEREST TO THE WORKING GROUP:

[BeWell](#): Blueprint alliance for a future health workforce strategy on digital and green skills

[ECHoS](#): Creation of a European Network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

Regional Innovation Valleys on health:

- **[PRECISEU](#)**: Personalised medicine Empowerment Connecting Innovation ecosystems across Europe
- **[UNITE](#)**: European Digital Health Valleys

OTHER ISSUES/TOPICS/NETWORKS TO BE MONITORED:



The Health Working Group will continue building alliances with other networks relevant to its priorities, notably **EUREGHA** and **Mental Health Europe**.

In between Working Group meetings, the leaders will maintain contact with the **Cancer Mission secretariat** in sync with the overall ERRIN advocacy on Missions. The group are planning to organise an informal lunch-and-learn exchange between members about the **general differences, opportunities and challenges between the health care systems** of each country/region in addition to the four meetings foreseen.

LEADERS:

Health Working Group

- Cédric Daumas, Île-de-France Europe,
- Beatriz Irala Aliaga, Government of Navarra, beatriz.iralaliaga@navarra.es
- Maria Tørnsø Østergaard, Greater Copenhagen EU Office, mto@cphoffice.eu
- Ingeborg Bennink, Cities Northern Netherlands, i.bennink@citiesnorthernnetherlands.eu
- Louise Åreback, Region Västra Götaland, louise.areback@vgregion.se

ERRIN CONTACT

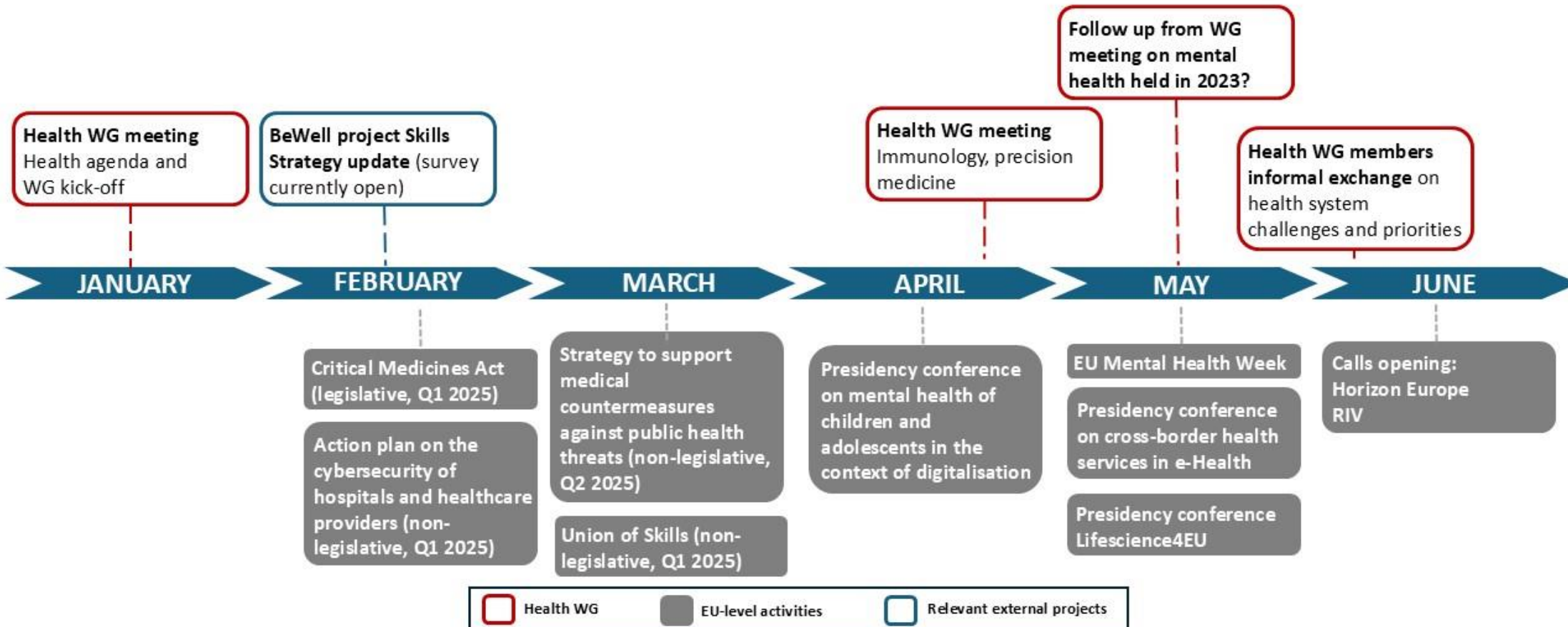


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HEALTH CLUSTER 2025 TIMELINE



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