

**“What’s new, Committee 2?”  
Social Affairs and Public Health  
December 2008**

**General**

*The Committee 2 Secretariat Team sends you our best wishes for the holiday season and a happy, health 2009!*

*This ‘What’s New?’ edition presents our last initiatives for the year and gives you a taste of what’s to come!*

*We thank you for the excellent cooperation during this year and we look forward to getting back to work with you in 2009!*

*Happy holidays!*

*Rania, Claudia, Stéphane*

**Happy Holidays!**



**AER Election Outcomes**

Following elections at the AER 2008 General Assembly in Tampere (FIN):

- ⇒ Christina WAHROLIN (Värmland, S) is Acting Committee 2 President
- ⇒ Monica KARLSSON (Norrbotten, S) is Chairperson of the AER Observatory on Gender Issues (OGI)
- ⇒ Maria Stella CIARLETTA (Calabria, I) is Vice-President of AER OGI

The members of AER Committee 2 congratulate them on their election to these posts.

We also congratulate Michèle Sabban on her election as AER President and Constantin Ostaficiuc on his election as AER Vice-President.

**Committee 2 Spring plenary meeting and Conference  
Structuring & financing regional healthcare,  
19-20 March 2009, Katowice, Slaskie-PL**

The demand on healthcare is increasing: higher patients’ expectations, emerging technologies, new diseases and new treatments. Healthcare budgets, on the other hand, are not rising quickly enough ...

What is a sustainable investment in healthcare? Where can regions find the money to invest in healthcare? Can the EC structural funds help and how? Is there a role for the private sector in providing healthcare?

Join us in Slaskie (PL) to discuss how regions can respond to the pressures placed on their healthcare systems. A provisional agenda will be published in early January 2009.

**Istanbul proposes new thematic network on Disabilities**

Istanbul (TR) propose to establish a new thematic network within Committee 2, to focus on equal rights for disabled persons. If you are interested in this area then please contact us – more information on the proposal is available at:

<http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/social-affairs.html>

**Alcohol**

**4<sup>th</sup> AER Alcohol Peer Review: alcohol & pregnancy  
18 March 2009, Katowice, Slaskie (PL)**

This half-day afternoon meeting will look at how regions can contribute to preventing alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the potential of the of early identifications and brief interventions in primary healthcare as a method for preventing alcohol-related harm.

**Cross-border Healthcare Services**

**AER launches members’ consultation**

The proposed Directive on cross-border healthcare gives patients the right to travel to another EU country to receive treatment, in most cases without the prior authorisation of their domestic system. Its proposals may have significant implications on regions’ capacity to organise, manage and finance their healthcare services:

→ Without some form of prior warning system, how can regional authorities accurately estimate how many patients they can expect to treat and thus allocate the necessary resources (financial and human)?

For a fuller analysis of the Directive's proposals and to download the key EU documents, visit our website (AER members only- please log in) :

<http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/health/cross-border-healthcare-services.html>

## Emergency Planning

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Interreg IVC call – deadline: 30 January 2009

Interreg IVC co-finances interregional cooperation in the field of risk prevention. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for projects (deadline 30 January 2009), AER is supporting members interested in setting up partnerships. If you have a project idea or if you are interested in finding project partners, visit our website: <http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/emergency-planning/risk-prevention-under-interreg-ivc.html>

We wish every success to those regions setting up partnerships and project applications!

### Emergency Planning & Climate Change 30-31 March 2009, Limoges, Limousin (F)

The AER Emergency Planning network will contribute to the AER conference on climate change taking place in Limousin (F) on 30-31 March 2009. Join us in Limousin for our seminar on *Flooding- putting together a regional prevention and response plan* on 30 March 2009. During the climate change conference on 31 March we will organise a workshop on spatial planning as a tool to respond to the risks posed by climate change.

For regular updates on the network's work, please visit: <http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/emergency-planning.html>

Further information on the Limousin conference is available at: <http://www.aer.eu/en/events/regional-development/2009/limousin.html>

## Equal Opportunities

### AER OGI 2009 conferences

The AER Observatory on Gender Issues (AER OGI) is planning two conferences in 2009, with a special focus on violence: how can it be identified and prevented and how can regions respond to its impact. We look forward to welcoming you to Calabria, I on 28-29 May 2009 and to Karlstad (Värmland, S) on 15-16 October 2009 to discuss and learn with you.

Check our website for regular updates on our work: <http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/equal-opportunities.html>

## eHe@lth

### Getting eHe@lth in 2009

The AER eHe@lth network will continue to contribute to external events and to encourage the exchange of knowledge and practice among its members. An eHe@lth seminar on smart care, looking at demand-driven ICT-solutions in and around the home and what kind of policies can support their development and implementation, will take place at the occasion of the Committee 2 Autumn plenary meeting on 5-7 October 2009 in Noord-Brabant (NL). For regular updates on our network's activities, please visit our website:

<http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/health/e-health.html>

### Start filling in your 2009 Agendas!

Date	Location	Event
18 March (afternoon)	Slaskie (PL)	4 <sup>th</sup> AER Alcohol Peer Review Pregnancy & nursing + Early identification & brief intervention in primary health care
19-20 March	Slaskie (PL)	Committee 2 Spring plenary & conference: <i>Structuring and Financing Regional Healthcare</i>
30-31 March	Limousin (F)	AER Emergency Planning network seminar <i>Flooding- putting together a regional prevention and response plan</i> + contribution to the AER Conference on Climate Change
28-29 May	Calabria (I)	AER Conference on Equal Opportunities
5-7 October	Noord - Brabant (NL)	Committee 2 Autumn plenary & conference: Innovation Roadmap for Demographic Change + eHe@lth network meeting on Smart Care
15-16 October	Värmland (S)	AER Conference on Equal Opportunities