



**“What’s new, Committee 2?”
Social Affairs and Public Health
February 2009**

General

**Financing Regional Healthcare
Committee 2 Seminar & Plenary Session
19-20 March 2009, Katowice, Silesia-PL**

The AER Committee 2 spring session will examine how regions should structure and finance their healthcare systems, in particular in light of the current economic crisis and its potential impact on health. We will also discuss the role of the private sector in providing healthcare and how the European Structural Funds can contribute to financing regional health expenditure.

Our plenary session will be an opportunity to hear about our networks' activities and discuss the impact of European initiatives for patients' and health professionals' mobility for the regions.

For further information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.aer.eu/events/health-social/2009/springconferencecom2.html>

**Equal Europe for Disabled
19-21 February 2009, Istanbul-TR**

Join us in Istanbul to share your regions' experience in developing and implementing successful policies for the disabled. Registrations are still open! We are also looking for regions interested in presenting their policies and initiatives. To register for this meeting and to present your region's work, please visit: <http://www.aer.eu/en/events/health-social/workinggrouphandicaped.html>

Alcohol

**4th AER Alcohol Peer Review: alcohol & pregnancy
18 March 2009, Katowice, Silesia-PL**

This half-day afternoon meeting will look at how regions can contribute to preventing alcohol consumption during pregnancy and nursing. We will also look at how primary health care can play a role in preventing alcohol-related harm, through early identifications and brief interventions. For further information and to present your regions' work at this meeting, please visit:

<http://www.aer.eu/en/events/health-social/2009/4th-aer-alcohol-peer-review.html>

Cross-border Healthcare Services

AER 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 prior authorisation from 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)?

An AER preliminary evaluation of the Directive's impact is available at:

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

(AER members only- please log in to access the document)

Is your region working on this issue? Do you share the AER concerns raised in our preliminary evaluation? **Contact us** and contribute to the AER position! Send your positions to Ms Eva Tabernig ([st.com21@aer.eu](mailto:st.com21@ aer.eu)).

Emergency Planning

**Seminar - Regional Preparedness for Floods
30 March 2009, Limousin-F**

The aim of this meeting is to help regions develop and improve their plans for preventing and responding to floods. Regions will learn from each other's experience what issues they should consider when developing their plans and what the most successful policies are.

Contact us! We are looking for regions interested in presenting their regional preparedness plans for floods.

For further information and to register, please visit:

<http://www.aer.eu/en/events/health-social/2009/epnseminar.html>

Further information on the AER Climate Change 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, where we will discuss the legal framework for preventing violence. Our meeting in Värmland-S on 15-16 October 2009 will focus on the role of the public health sector in preventing violence.

Check out our website for regular updates on our work:

<http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/equal-opportunities.html>

eHe@lth

Getting eHe@lthy in 2009

The AER eHe@lth network will contribute to the European eHealth Ministerial Conference in Prague on 19-20 February, with a presentation on the use of structural funds in ehealth. An AER eHe@lth network seminar on smart care, looking at demand-driven ICT-solutions in and around the home and the regional policies that can support their development and implementation, will take place on 5 October 2009, at the occasion of the Committee 2 Autumn plenary meeting 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>

Message from the Secretariat

Rania Georgoutsakou, Committee 2 Senior Policy Coordinator, will be on maternity leave as of 16 February and will return in August 2009.

Claudia Meschede, currently Committee 2 Policy Coordinator, will replace Rania in her functions.

We are very happy to welcome back Ms Camille Bullo, who will act as Committee Policy Coordinator during this period.

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Ms Camille Bullo: c.bullo@aer.eu, tel & fax: +33 (0)3 68 46 00 87

Dates for your Diary!

Date	Location	Event
19-20 February	Prague-CZ	AER eHe@lth network contributes to European eHealth Ministerial conference
19-21 February	Istanbul-TR	Equal Europe for Disabled (EN only)
18 March (afternoon)	Silesia-PL	4 th AER Alcohol Peer Review Pregnancy & nursing Early identification & brief interventions in primary health care (EN only)
19-20 March	Silesia-PL	Committee 2 Spring plenary & conference: <i>Financing Regional Healthcare</i> (EN, FR, PL, E)
30 March	Limousin-F	AER Emergency Planning Seminar <i>Regional Preparedness for Floods</i> (EN only) AER Conference on Climate Change (EN, FR, DE)
28-29 May	Calabria-I	AER Conference on Equal Opportunities (EN, FR, I, E)
5 October	Noord - Brabant - NL	AER eHe@lth network meeting Smart Care
6-7 October	Noord - Brabant - NL	Committee 2 Autumn plenary & seminar: Innovation for Demographic Change – Drafting an AER Roadmap for Demographic Change (EN, FR, E)
15-16 October	Värmland-S	AER Conference on Equal Opportunities