



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

Equal Opportunities

**Reminder: Introductory seminar on violence against women,
28th May 2009**

The AER Observatory on Gender Issues will hold an introductory seminar on the topic of violence against women on **28th May in Brussels-B**. This meeting aims at gathering information on the latest development in the work of the European Institutions in this area and to get valuable expertise from the European Women’s Lobby and the Institute for Equality between Women and Men. A couple of member regions will also present their best practices in this field.

Further information on this meeting is available at:
<http://www.aer.eu/events/group-equal-opportunities/2009/observatory-on-gender-issues-fight-violence-against-women-introductory-seminar-and-working-meeting.html>

eHe@lth

AER seminar on cross-border e-health, 10th June 2009

Don’t forget to register for our seminar on **"Cross-border e-he@lth care: Challenges and opportunities"**! This seminar will take place on Wednesday **10th June in Trieste-I** and will be organised by the AER e-he@lth Network at the kind invitation of Friuli Venezia Giulia-I.

The aim of this meeting is to discuss the opportunities and challenges regions face when applying new technologies to health across regional and national borders in Europe. Regions will exchange their experiences and best practices and discuss with other regions possible cooperation and funding opportunities, find partners or join projects.

We are looking for regions to present the initiatives they have adopted in

their territories in relation to cross-border e-health.

If you are interested to contribute to the e-health seminar and share your experience with other members, please contact the AER Secretariat: Ms. Claudia Meschede, tel: +33 (0)3 88 22 74 35, c.meschede@aer.eu or Ms. Camille Bulloot, tel: +33 (0)3 68 46 00 74, c.bulloot@aer.eu

Further information on this meeting is available under:

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

Emergency Planning

**Outcomes of the meeting on regional preparedness for floods
available online!**

The presentations and outcomes of the Emergency Planning Network meeting on “Regional Preparedness for Floods” are now available on the AER website: (Please log on to access all of the documents):

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

A leaflet gathering the outcomes and recommendations discussed in Limoges is also available on this web page. If you wish to bring your own regional experience to improve these guidelines, please contact the AER Committee 2 Secretariat (c.bulloot@aer.eu)

Health

Cross-Border healthcare Directive approved by EU Parliament

The European Parliament adopted the controversial report on the proposed Directive on cross-border healthcare on 23rd April 2009 in Strasbourg, with 297 votes to 120 and 152 abstentions.

Among the European Members of Parliament, voices rose to criticize the lack of a strict system of prior authorisation of treatment and the legal basis of the Directive, the article 95 of the Treaty, referring to the harmonisation of the internal market.

In its response to the Directive proposal adopted at the Committee 2 plenary session in Katowice (Silesia-PL), AER underlined the need for some kind of “early warning system” for the regions to be able to monitor

and accurately foresee supply and demand on their healthcare services and to allocate resources accordingly.

The full AER position on the European cross-border healthcare directive is available at:

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

AER Position on European Workforce for Health

Attracting and maintaining a qualified and satisfied health workforce is a challenge European regions often encounter. In its position on European Workforce for Health adopted by the Committee 2 plenary session in Katowice, AER underlines the need to answer the limitations of the circular migration of health professionals through innovative solutions, such as the development of interregional exchange programmes for healthcare professionals or the integration of the opportunities offered by new technologies.

To access the full AER position on European Workforce for Health, please visit: <http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/health.html>

AER answer to the EU consultation on Health Inequalities

The content of these positions and of the Declaration on Financing Regional Healthcare, as well as the overview of health care systems in Europe provided the basis for the AER answer to the European Consultation on Health Inequalities. AER underlines that the problem of health inequalities in Europe is far from resolved and insisted on the importance of keeping health at the top of the political agenda at all levels of governance. Concrete measures to help closing the remaining gaps have to be identified. The AER answer is available under <http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/health.html>

Equal Europe for People with Disabilities

Join our new Working Group on People with Disabilities!

Following the proposal of the Istanbul Provincial Council, the creation of a working group on Equal Europe for People with Disabilities was

unanimously approved by the Committee 2 plenary session on 20th March 2009. The main objective of this Working Group is to involve the regions in the implementation of the UN Convention for the rights of people with disabilities

AER members will make sure that the matter permanently appears on agenda, share their knowledge and experience and contribute to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Are you interested in joining the Working Group? Does your region have some experience to share with other AER members on mainstreaming the disability perspective? Please contact the AER Secretariat! ([st.com21@aer.eu](mailto:st.com21@ aer.eu))

Further information is available at: <http://www.aer.eu/en/main-issues/equal-europe-for-people-with-disabilities.html>

Interreg Training

European Institute for Territorial Cooperation, Interreg training

Need some help to develop your Interreg projects? The Nord-Pas de Calais region has launched the "European Institute for Territorial Cooperation", intended for the 27 EU Member States.

The main goal of the Institute is to train the actors of European territorial cooperation. The target audience for this training on INTERREG project development includes elected representatives, civil servants and consultants from the 27 Members States.

Next activities:

- **29 May 2009:** Workshop "Develop and form partnership in Europe: A showcase of good INTERREG projects" in Lille (simultaneous translation in English and French)

- **9, 10, 11 June 2009:** A 3 day training session **in French** dedicated to INTERREG cooperation project development and management, in Lille.

For more information and registration, please contact: Claire Desmares (+33 (0) 3 59 57 64, Claire.desmares@iep.univ-lille2.fr)

Please note that these training sessions are not free of charges.

Dates for your Diary!

Date	Location	Event
28-29 May	Brussels-B	AER Conference on Equal Opportunities
10 June	Trieste-I	AER eHe@lth network meeting Cross-border e-healthcare
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