



**“What’s new, Committee 2?”  
Social Policy and Public Health  
March 2010**

**General**

**AER Conference: “What Does Alcohol Do To Your Region?  
And What Can You Do About It?” Barcelona-E, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May**

Did you know that the consumption of alcoholic beverages is estimated to be responsible for some 9% of the total disease burden within Europe? Join us in Barcelona on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 for our **Conference on preventing alcohol-related harm** and learn about the negative impact of alcohol and about the policies and actions you can take to prevent it. This meeting, organised by the Assembly of European Regions and kindly hosted by the Department of Health of the Government of Catalonia, will be followed by the **spring plenary session of AER Committee 2**. We invite you to present your region’s latest activities, your projects and to learn about what other regions are doing. More information on the conference, including a draft agenda and a link to online registration, is available on our website – please [click here](#).

**Equal Europe for People with Disabilities**

**Meeting of the Working Group, Barcelona-E, 10<sup>th</sup> May**

The Working Group “Equal Europe for People with Disabilities” will meet in Barcelona on May 10<sup>th</sup>, in connection to the Committee 2 meeting. The meeting will focus on regional policies to implement the **UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities**. This convention places obligations on regional authorities to raise awareness about disability issues and ensure accessibility of their services and territories. Join us to find out what your region can do in this area! More information and an agenda will be available soon [here](#).

**UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities  
receives backing from the European Parliament**

MEPs of the Human Rights Committee have expressed themselves in favour of EU membership of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. The European Parliament renewed its call on governments of the member states to ratify the Convention. Indeed, the ratification by all member states is a condition for the Convention to be effectively integrated into EU law.

**Emergency Planning**

**Reflection on the Future of the Emergency Planning Network**

We are currently evaluating the AER Emergency Planning Network to develop a new strategy and work plan for AER activities in this area. Is your region active in this area? Do you have specific needs? We are interested in your ideas! If you wish to contribute and give your opinion on what we should focus on, please contact the AER Secretariat ([g.ourania@aer.eu](mailto:g.ourania@aer.eu)). Information on the work of the AER Emergency Planning Network is available [here](#). The results of this evaluation will be presented at the next plenary session of Committee 2 in Barcelona (12<sup>th</sup> May 2010).

**Financing Regional Healthcare**

**Announcement: Euregio III Workshop, Krakow-PL, 26-30 April**

A workshop on “Optimising Health through Application of EU Structural Funds” will be held on 26-30 April 2010 in Krakow. The aim of the workshop is to develop knowledge and skills to design, implement and evaluate structural fund investment for health. This workshop is for regional politicians, those at national and regional levels with responsibilities for planning and development, people involved in making decisions over SF investments, as well as people responsible for writing bids for SF investments in health. For further information and to register, please [click here](#).

**Health Investments in Structural Funds  
Euregio III Stakeholders' Conference, Venice-I, 25-26 February**

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The aim of this event was to identify best practice and key challenges to using structural funds to invest in health. Participants highlighted problems of accessing structural funds, aligning national plans to regional needs and ensuring that investments in other policies respected health policy priorities (the 'health in all policies' principle).

For further information on this conference and to download the presentations please [click here](#).

*Euregio III is an EC-funded project that is identifying innovative approaches to using EC Structural Funds for health and helping regions spend the funding allocated to health in a way that ensures sustainability and maximum impact. AER is a collaborating partner to this project.*

For further information on the Euregio III project please [click here](#).

**E-health**

**EU E-health Ministerial Conference and World of Health IT,  
Barcelona-E, 15-18 March**

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Politicians, health administrators, researchers and suppliers will gather along with health professionals to discuss priorities in e-health, share their practical experiences of IT applied to health and discover the latest tools developed in this fast-evolving area. The chairperson of the e-he@lth network, Agneta Granström (Norrbotten-S) has been invited by the European Commission to contribute to this annual Ministerial Conference where she will represent AER.

<http://www.ehealthweek2010.org/>

**Read the Conclusions of ALEC2010!  
Luleå-S, 3-5 February**

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The conclusions of AER's Arctic Light e-health Conference (ALEC2010) held on 3-5 February 2010 in Norrbotten-S are now available online. With more than 200 participants from different backgrounds, ALEC2010 was the opportunity to exchange experience and develop new partnerships across sectors in order to fully exploit the potential of e-health.

The conclusions of this conference are available [here](#) (please log on!).

**Dates for your Diary!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>15-18 March</b>	Catalunya-E	EU E-health Ministerial Conference and World of Health IT
<b>26-30 April</b>	Malopolskie -PL	Euregio III Workshop "Optimising Health Through Application of EU Structural Funds"
<b>10 May</b>	Catalunya-E	Meeting of the Working Group "Equal Europe for People with Disabilities"
<b>11-12 May</b>	Catalunya-E	Committee 2 Spring plenary & Conference: <i>What Does Alcohol Do To Your Region and What Can You Do About It?</i> (EN, FR, E)