



**“What’s new, Committee 2?”
Social Policy and Public Health
March 2011**

General Issues

**Save the date! 17-18 May 2011
AER Committee 2 Spring plenary session**

The AER Social Policy and Public Health Committee will hold its spring plenary session in Udine (Friuli Venezia Giulia, I) on 17-18 May 2011. This is the opportunity for you to get an update on the activities of the Committee, to discuss latest EU developments with representatives of the European institutions and to learn what other regions are doing. If you wish to contribute and present your regions’ latest activities and projects, please contact the AER Secretariat (c.bulot@aer.eu).

This meeting will be held in the framework of a Conference on alcohol and youth, part of the A.Dri.A project, and will allow us to follow up AER’s work in this area.

For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Equal Europe for People with Disabilities

**Save the date! 16-17 June 2011
Employment & Disabilities - Seminar in Valencia**

The AER network “Equal Europe for people with disabilities” will organise a seminar on Employment and Disabilities, looking at how regions can develop comprehensive employment policies.

This seminar is part of the network’s commitment to support regions in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and will contribute to the development of guidelines for the regions on how to apply the Convention rules. Issues to be discussed include: how to include disability issues into regional employment strategies? What works

and what doesn’t? How can regions work with companies? How to find the right place for the right person?

For more information and to register for this event, please click [here](#).

The European Union ratifies the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities!

Following the publication of the European Commission’s disability strategy that sets out the objective of building a barrier-free Europe by 2020, the European Union officially ratified the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. The AER working group “Equal Europe for People with Disabilities” welcomes this important decision: it is indeed the first time the European Union as a whole ratifies an international human rights Treaty.

For the EU, this means ensuring that all legislation, policies and programmes at EU level comply with the Convention’s provisions on disability rights, within the limits of EU responsibilities. For the regions, it means they should take action in the following areas: access to education, employment, transport, infrastructures and buildings open to the public, granting the right to vote, improving political participation and ensuring full legal capacity of all people with disabilities.

Want to find out more about what the Convention means for regions and what you can do about it? Check out the AER Regions’ Handbook to the Convention:

http://www.aer.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/MainIssues/Disabilities/UN_Dis_Conv_Handbook_204_Hyperlinks.pdf

EU’s First Innovation Partnership

AER Response to the EC Active and Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership (AHAIP)

AHAIP is a pilot partnership under Innovation Europe, a new European Initiative launched under the Europe 2020 Strategy. It aims to pool different resources and stakeholders to achieve common goals and to shorten the gap between research and the market. Healthy ageing was chosen as the first theme, as Europe urgently needs to tackle demographic change and its socio-economic implications.

The AER position on AHAIP stresses the regions' key role in delivering innovation and calls for their inclusion in the AHAIP governance structures. It also calls for the EC to focus not only on creating products and services, but should also invest in creating capacity at regional level and changing administrative procedures and structures, in order to ensure that innovation is fully integrated into a region's processes and is sustainable. For more information and to read AER's position on AHAIP, [visit our website](#).

E-health

AER Regional Forum at the e-health Ministerial conference Budapest! (10 May 2011)

Politicians, health administrators, researchers and industry will discuss priorities at the occasion of the e-health week that will take place on 10-15 May in Budapest (H).

The AER e-he@lth Network has been invited to organise a regional forum on 10th May to present the regional perspective to e-health. This event will showcase how telemedicine is already operating in the regions in the field of chronic disease management (diabetes, cardio-vascular and obstructive lung diseases) and the advantages this technology offers for regional health authorities, patients and health professionals. It will also identify the obstacles to the deployment of e-health solutions.

More information on the e-health ministerial conference [can be found here](#).

AER contributes to the Technical Platform meeting on e-health, Brussels, 24 May 2011

The Technical Platform for cooperation in health is set up by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission –DG SANCO. It aims to showcase regional expertise in health policy and contribute to the CoR policy work in this area.

The next meeting of the Technical Platform will take place in Brussels on 24 May 2011 and will focus on regional actions in e-health. AER will contribute the experience of the AER e-he@lth network on what needs to be done to further deploy e-health policies and tools across Europe.

Further information on this meeting will be made available shortly.

Cross-border Healthcare Directive

Adoption of the cross-border healthcare Directive

On 28th February, the Council approved the European Parliament's amendments on the draft directive on cross-border healthcare, paving the way for a facilitated access to safe and high-quality cross-border healthcare and an enhanced cooperation on healthcare between member states.

The amended version responds to AER concerns regarding the management of incoming flows of patients by allowing member states to introduce a system of prior authorisation for healthcare that is subject to planning requirements. The directive also provides a definition of hospital care and foresees the establishment of national contact points that will provide patients with information about their rights and entitlements.

Member states (and regions) now have 30 months to transpose the directive's provision into national legislation.

AER will now focus on supporting regions to implement the Directive.

For more information on the cross-border healthcare Directive, please [visit our website](#).

European Policy Developments

Progress on the implementation of the European pact for Mental Health and Well-being

The "European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being" was launched in June 2008. It provides an EU-framework enabling exchange and cooperation between stakeholders in the field of mental health.

EU Compass, an online resource tool providing a collection of statements, relevant documents and a database of good practice and policies, has also been set up by the Commission to facilitate the exchange and uptake of good practice across member states.

For further information, please go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/eu_compass/index_en.htm

**2011 call of the European Public Health Programme
Deadline: 27th May 2011 2011**

The European Commission has published the 2011 call for proposals for the public health programme. This year, priority will be given to actions responding to the broader objectives described in EU2020: smart growth and Inclusive growth, as well as active and healthy ageing, and reducing health inequalities. More specifically, the 2011 work plan focuses on 5 main areas: health information and advice, diseases, health determinants, healthy systems and legislation on products and substance.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is 27th May 2011.

For information on the call, monitor the EC website: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/how_does_it_work/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

Thinking of submitting a project application? Need help in identifying partners? Contact the AER Secretariat! (g.ourania@aer.eu)

AER Regional Innovation Award 2011

Apply now for the 6th edition of the AER Regional Innovation Award 2011!

The AER Innovation Award for European Regions aims to give recognition to the European regional authorities and their institutions which have actually stimulated, fostered and implemented innovation in their territory. This year the AER Innovation Award is also looking for regional innovation in health and social policy.

Does your region have an innovative policy in areas such as: e-health, social innovation, social inclusion, delivering health and social services and optimising the use of resources...

Then apply! Deadline for submission of applications is 1st June 2011.

More information on the AER Innovation Award and how to apply is [available here](#).

Euregio III

3rd Master Class: “Improving the Hospital Performance in Economic Crisis”, 22-24 March 2011, Lisbon (P)

The Euregio III project, to which the AER is a collaborating partner, is assessing how regions are spending the funds available to health in the current funding period of the European Cohesion Policy and is developing guidelines on how to improve spending in health in the next period. A third Master Class Programme for people working in structural funds and health and interesting in learning more will be held on 22-24 March 2011 in Lisbon and will look at the utilisation of EU Structural funds in order to improve the hospital performances.

More information on this event can be found at:

<http://www.euregio3.eu/events/show/3rd-master-class-lisbon-portugal/>

Dates for your Diary!

Date	Location	Event
22-24 March	Lisbon (P)	Euregio III Master Class: “Improving the Hospital Performance in Economic Crisis”
10-15 May	Budapest (H)	E-health week and AER Regional Forum “Regions at the forefront – this is where telemedicine is happening”
17-18 May	Udine (I)	Committee 2 Spring Plenary Session and Conference on Alcohol and Youth
1 June	DEADLINE	Deadline for submission of applications for the AER Innovation Award 2011
16-17 June	Valencia (E)	Seminar on “Disabilities and Employment” – AER Working Group “Equal Europe for People with Disabilities”
24-25 November	Azores (P)	AER General Assembly

If you would like to have information from your region included in our newsletter, please contact us! (c.bulot@aer.eu)

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