



Political Priorities 2012-2013 & Work Programme 2012 AER Social Policy and Public Health Committee (2)

Adopted by the AER General Assembly, meeting in the Azores (P) on 24th November 2011

Political Priorities 2012

Overarching theme: Active and Healthy Ageing – adapting to changing realities

Cross-cutting principles

- ▶ Equal opportunities: consider the gender perspective in the Committee's work and encourage regions to respect this principle in their work
- ▶ Youth inclusion: cooperation with the AER Youth Regional Network and regular input in each other's work
- ▶ Identifying synergies: increase cooperation with other AER Committees, for example through joint events

Priority 1: Innovation in Health and Social services

- ▶ E-health: implementing e-health tools and services across the regions
- ▶ Building capacity in the regions as regards: change management, new models for financing services, strategic planning.
- ▶ Cross-border healthcare and patients' mobility: assessing the impact of the new European legislation and helping regions implement the necessary changes

Proposed Actions

- 1/ Contribute to the European Union e-Health Ministerial conference: AER to organise a session on the regional perspective to e-health
- 2/ Organise 1 meeting of the AER e-he@lth network
- 3/ Organise 1 capacity-building event for regions on how to adapt their systems and open up to innovative service design and delivery
- 4/ Draft an inventory of regions' competences in the field of e-he@lth
- 5/ Create a new technical working group on cross-border healthcare

Mandate: understand what changes the regions need to make to the organisation, management and delivery of their healthcare services in order to comply with the new Directive.

Who could join the group: experts in the field from AER member regions; civil servants working in the organisation and delivery of healthcare services in member regions

Group activities: 2 meetings per year

Budget & Staff implications: no interpretation – English as sole working language; 1 external expert per meeting (subject to Committee resources); AER Secretariat will support meeting organisation

Links to European Union level developments:

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHAIP); European e-health action plan; Europe 2020 strategy; European Directive on patient mobility in cross-border healthcare; European financing opportunities, in particular European Cohesion Policy.

Priority 2: Building inclusive societies

- ▶ Disabilities: supporting regions in the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of people with disabilities
- ▶ Roma inclusion: contribute to the AER strategy for the integration of Roma people
- ▶ Combating poverty and social exclusion

Proposed Actions

- 1/ 2 seminars of the AER working group “Equal Europe for People with Disabilities”
- 2/ Secure financing for an interregional cooperation project on the implementation of the UN Convention, support the project’s implementation and disseminate the project outcomes.
- 3/ Update the AER publication “A Regions’ Handbook to Understanding and Implementing the UN Convention” Disabilities (last edition: November 2010)
- 4/ Contribute to the activities foreseen under the AER action plan for Roma integration, lead by AER Committee 3
- 5/ Contribute to the organisation of a conference of regional and local authorities on successful policies for migrant integration

AER is discussing with CEMR (Conference of European Municipalities and Regions) to launch a joint initiative that will identify and disseminate good policies in the regions and cities that can contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The CEMR President proposes to organise a conference in Stuttgart in early 2012 to showcase regional and local good practice on the integration of migrants and has asked AER to identify regional authorities that can contribute to this meeting.

Priority 3: Active and Healthy Ageing

Support regions to commit to regional reform in favour of active and healthy ageing

Proposed Actions:

- 1/ Organise a conference in spring 2012 to showcase the possible actions that regions can take to promote healthy and active ageing (ranging from developing a regional active and healthy ageing policy to creating independent living facilities)
- 2/ Draft and adopt an AER declaration listing the commitments AER member regions make to promote active and healthy ageing in their territories.
- 3/ Draft an AER report to monitor regions' progress to satisfying their commitments by the end of 2012.
- 4/ The AER Secretariat will officially join and contribute to the meetings of the EY2012 coalition of stakeholders in order to liaise with other stakeholders, identify experts and partners for AER members and raise the regions' profile in this area.

Links to European Union level developments:

European Year 2012: Active Ageing; European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHAIP).

Priority 4: support regional networking in the field of health and social affairs

Regularly update members on relevant developments and support increased cooperation and exchange between member regions

Proposed actions:

- 1/ "What's new Committee 2" newsletter to update members (every 2 months)
- 2/ Liaise with other stakeholders and interregional networks; in particular, develop a stronger cooperation with ELISAN network by contributing to each other's events (ELISAN = European Local Inclusion and Social Action Network)
- 3/ Maintain regular dialogue with the European institutions
- 4/ Increase cooperation with members' Brussels representation offices
- 5/ Represent AER at key stakeholder fora: European Health Policy Forum (stakeholders and European Commission); European Platform against poverty and social exclusion (stakeholder and European commission dialogue); Committee of the Regions Technical Platform for cooperation in Health.

OG, 9/11/11