Project Partners

Lead Partner

- Health ClusterNet

Associate Partners

- Health Services Management Training Centre (EMK), Semmelweis Medical University, Budapest
- Department of International Health, School for Public Health & Primary Care, Maastricht University
- Regione del Veneto - Segreteria Sanità e Sociale - Servizio per i Rapporti Socio Sanitari Internazionali
- Division of Public Health, University of Liverpool
- European Centre for Health Assets and Architecture

Collaborating Partners

- Assembly of European Regions (AER), Committee 2 - Social Policy and Public Health
- University of Management & Communication (with Department Medical Clinic A, Ruppiner Kliniken GmbH, Neuruppin) (Potsdam , Brandenburg)
- Hungarian National Development Agency, Human Resource Development Programme
- Department for Coordination of Infrastructure Programmes, Polish Ministry of Regional Development
- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic , Unit for Structural Funds
- Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Managing Authority for Operational Programme (Health-Providence) Greece
- Regional Development Committee (European Parliament)
- European Investment Bank
- EUREGHA
- EUROHEALTHNET
- European Association of Development Agencies
- European Health Management Association
- Quartiers en Crise - European Regeneration Areas Network
- Landesinstitut für Gesundheit und Arbeit (LIGA-NRW)

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Euregio III

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Health Programme 2008-2013

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Euregio III

Do you know how to use Structural funds for health?

Are you ready to use Structural Funds in the period 2007 - 2013?

What you need to improve health investments in your regions?

Health investments in SFs 2000-2006:
learning lessons to inform regions in the 2007-2013 period

healthclusternet

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT TRAINING CENTRE

Maastricht University

REGIONE del VENETO

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

ECHAA

Why talk about health in Structural Funds?

Within the European Union in recent years there has been growing recognition of the importance of sustainable regional development and the contribution of health to achieving it. This means health development leading to growth in social and human capital and the multiplier effect this can have in contributing massively to economic growth. This is reflected in the EU's Cohesion Policy and in the 2007-2013 round, Structural Funds explicitly included health sector investment, with an early emphasis on health infrastructure.

In the newer Member States and Convergence regions across Europe, governments, politicians and policy makers see SF as an important funding source for supporting the modernisation of health services. However, effective health investment needs to be well planned. Have public authorities invested in option appraisal to clearly inform investment planning and decisions? Do public servants and hospital managers know how to use Structural Funds efficiently? Do they have enough data and evidence of the benefits of investments in health? What are the main difficulties in applying for funding and managing structural funds in the health sector?

In this context EUREGIO III (EIII) project has been developed.

The project

The EIII project follows the success of the EUREGIO project and will currently work in cooperation with EUREGIO II in order to extend and complement the results achieved by the three projects in identifying and sharing best actions for the effective use of structural funds for health to help reduce health inequalities among regions in the EU.

The outputs of the project focus on practical "how to" knowledge that will be most helpful for the work of directors, managers and professionals in Operational Programme Managing Authorities, Programme Secretariats and SF end-users such as regional and local health systems who seek access to SF for health investments.

"Most literature states that investment in health and in the healthcare sector spurs social and economic growth. In the Veneto Region there is a general consensus that the investment should encompass in a comprehensive way the health and social sectors, the manufacturing and business sectors, the tourism sector and the agricultural sector. By benchmarking existing regional best practices for the effective use of SF for health, we believe that the EUREGIO III project will bring substantial benefit to those stakeholders willing to promote social and economic change in the European Union".

Dr Luigi Bertinato , Director of the Office for External Affairs,
Department of Health and Social Services, Veneto Region.

Outputs and deliverables

› **A Scientific Background Paper** to review the lessons that can be learned from previous initiatives and projects that shared examples of good practice to inform the design and delivery of effective and sustainable actions;

› **An inventory on best actions & lessons learned** about planning, seeking funding for, implementing, evaluating and managing health investments in the 2000-2006 SF period, and 2007-2013 period to help identify, assess and profile key factors and actions that are important in the success of projects in constantly changing contexts;

› **An inventory of stakeholders**, expertise and resources across Europe;

› **Training materials, workshops, master classes and web-based guidance** material for decision-makers at national, regional and local levels;

› **Bilateral exchanges** for experiential learning, study visits;

› Several **conferences and seminars** to discuss how to improve the use of structural funds for health among SF beneficiaries, public managers, SF Managing Authorities, EC staff;

› A Website with all the relevant documents and publications of the project and a **practical knowledge database**.