

# Empowering cross-border networks to confront public health challenges together!

In 2023, amidst post-pandemic recovery, it became increasingly clear that health systems need to be re-evaluated and adapted to transcend national borders in order to better meet people's needs. While citizens' lives effortlessly cross borders, health systems are often confined by national boundaries. This demands a fundamental shift, whereby health systems adapt to people's needs rather than vice versa. The shared challenges of border regions emphasize the collective need for adaptability and collaboration. Strengthening cross-border health networks has become an essential response to persisting challenges that transcend borders.

## euPrevent's achievements in 2023

Reinforcing cross-border collaboration remains the focus of euPrevent. In 2023, having recognized that robust networks are essential for effectively combating future (public) health challenges, euPrevent prioritized network strengthening. Significant milestones were achieved in various fields, including mental health, environmental health, infectious disease, citizen participation and addiction issues.

## Some highlights in 2023

2 new projects started:



YES (Youth Euregional Scan) 2023



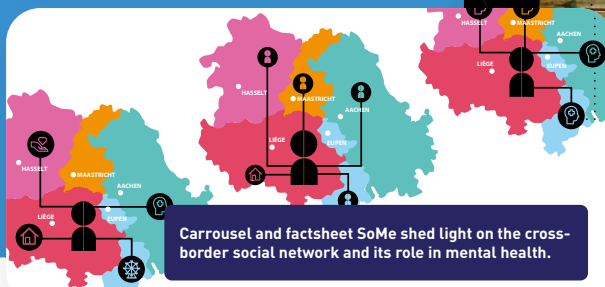
SoMe (Social Networks and Mental Health)



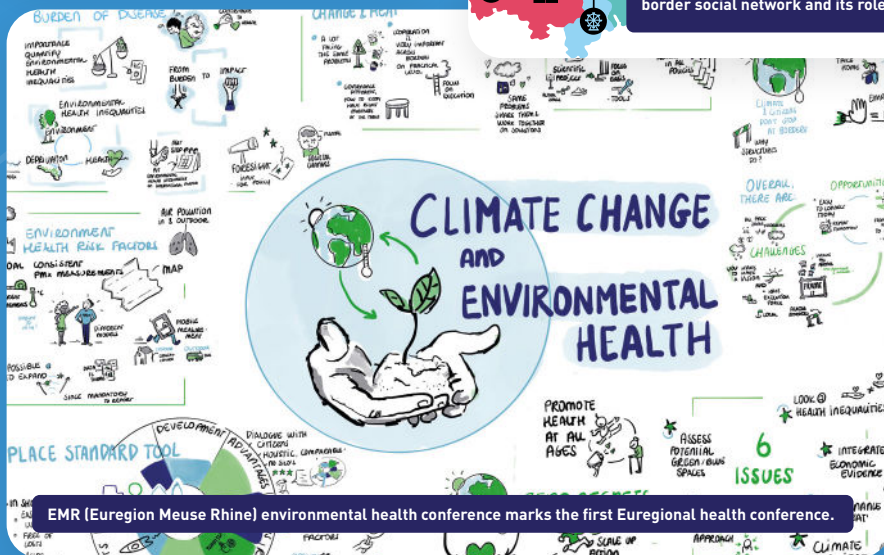
PROFILE activity conference attracted 170 participants.



Theatre play Sterrelicht was developed to increase awareness of loneliness.



Carrousel and factsheet SoMe shed light on the cross-border social network and its role in mental health.



EMR (Euregion Meuse Rhine) environmental health conference marks the first Euregional health conference.



Project ACP held its stakeholder kickoff meeting.

## Mental Health

### EUPREVENT | PROFILE

The Project **PROFILE (Prevention of Loneliness of Older People in the Euregio)** has developed various tools, e.g., guidelines and training modules for professionals dealing with people suffering from loneliness, and the theatre play "Sterrelicht". This project's products serve as inspiration and a catalyst for exploring the issue further, and have sparked new initiatives for positive change.



[euprevent.eu/profile](https://euprevent.eu/profile)

### EUPREVENT | SOME

Project **SoMe (Social Networks and Mental Health)** was an impactful micro-project. The project provided deeper insight into cross-border prevention and care systems for mental health, and underscored the vital role (cross-border) social networks of citizens play in their mental health and well-being.

## Environmental health

### EMR environmental health conference:

euPrevent organised, together with the EGTC EMR, the first health conference in the EMR with environment and health as the theme. This conference shed light on how environmental health differs across borders and how we can cooperate in addressing differences and challenges. One conference initiative was to establish a LinkedIn group to follow up discussions on environmental health and climate changes in the EMR.



[euprevent.eu/cross-border-collaboration-extends-beyond-conferences](https://euprevent.eu/cross-border-collaboration-extends-beyond-conferences)

## Infectious diseases

### Quality seal

Experience in recent years has illustrated the importance of collaborative efforts to control infectious disease across borders. In this regard, the fourth Euregional hospital quality seal was awarded to three hospitals in the EMR: St. Elisabeth Hospital Geilenkirchen (Germany), Jessa Hospital Hasselt (Belgium) and Maastricht UMC+ (the Netherlands). Exchanging expertise and information is clearly essential in order to be able to provide citizens in border areas with reliable, needs-based care.



[euprevent.eu/cross-border-infection-protection-sealed](https://euprevent.eu/cross-border-infection-protection-sealed)

## Crossing programme

### Project YES (Youth Euregional Scan) 2023

Ongoing euregional youth scan in the EMR provides valuable data on young people aged 13-16 years. This initiative, which fosters collaboration among public health professionals to develop targeted policies, has now been extended to the Euregion Meuse-Rhine North (EMRN), with Interreg VI A Deutschland-Nederland support.

### EUPREVENT | ACP

### Project ACP (Active Citizenship Participation)

This project aims at structural and sustainable citizen participation in cross-border decision-making in the EMR, particularly in matters relating to climate change and health. Tools have been developed, including the place standard tool for climate health, to encourage closer engagement. Stakeholders have convened to start discussions on pertinent issues, marking a crucial step forward in advancing the project's objectives.



[euprevent.eu/project-euprevent-ACP](https://euprevent.eu/project-euprevent-ACP)

## Other products

### Collaboration with Flanders

At the request by its Flemish partner, euPrevent organised a series of webinars on **positive health**, covering the fundamental principles of positive health, and their application in promoting a healthy living environment. The webinars were well received, whereby our Flemish partners expressed a desire for more in-depth insight and concrete examples at policy level. Our German partners made a similar request, leading to plans for a series of webinars in German.

### Network events with partners

euPrevent's partners from various program lines gathered together to reflect on current activities and to strategize cross-border collaboration. Recognizing the importance of a robust cross-border network, they are committed to strengthen their collaborative efforts to more effectively tackle the common public health challenges.