



Annual Report 2011

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 14'000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our mission is to be the proactive platform for public health professionals in research and practice and be a bridge between these professionals and policymakers.

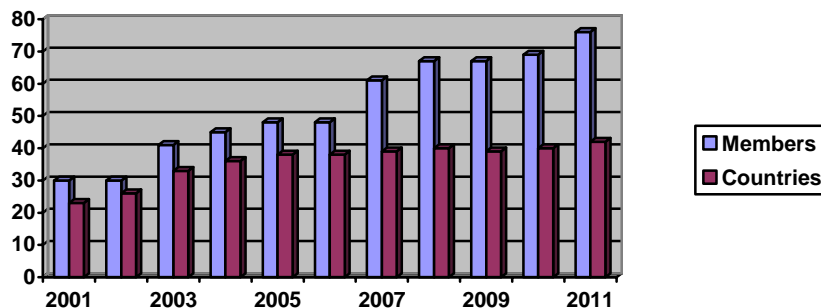
This document summarizes the activities of the European Public Health Association in 2011. We hope that this annual report provides you with more insight on our activities. Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our EUPHA office.

Walter Ricciardi, EUPHA president

At the end of October 2011, we have **76 members from 42 countries**:

- 43 national associations of public health from 36 countries
- 8 individual members from 6 countries
- 17 institutional members from 13 countries
- 8 international members

Growth in members 2001-2011



In our database, we have 14814 entries of which 5271 (36%) are EUPHA members. We currently have 4513 (30%) full members.

At the beginning of 2011, we have contacted all individuals who are members of our full members with a personal email informing them that they are EUPHA members (through membership of their national association) and of the benefits of EUPHA.

All members were given a membership number and reminded of their login and password to enter the EUPHA database. If the data was not visited for over a year, a kind reminder to update the personal profile popped up.

New members in 2011:

- Ms Natia Skhvitaridze as an individual member from Georgia
- Mr Saveliy Rudzsky as an individual member from Ukraine
- And as institutional members:
 - Center for Public Health Research CSISP, Valencia, Spain
 - Faculty of Public Health – Sofia, Bulgaria
 - National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development, Bucharest, Romania
 - Department of Public Health Sciences of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

EUPHA benefits:

- All EUPHA members can participate in all activities of EUPHA
- all full members have direct access to the electronic version of the European Journal of Public Health
- All full members are part of the EUPHA book club where you can buy books published by our partner – Oxford University Press – at 20% discount

- All EUPHA members have access to EUPHApedia, our newest search engine with more than 2100 articles.
- All EUPHA members can participate in our annual scientific European Public Health Conference with a membership reduction of € 50.

Updated European map

We have updated the presentation of our members by using the European map (http://www.eupha.org/site/european_map.php) and organising the member pages in an interactive way. All countries are also linked to EUPHApedia articles on the countries.

Activities in 2011:

The aim of EUPHA is to:

- assist and support our members in their activities;
- give European visibility to the activities of our members.

Activities included:

1. Participating in annual conference of our members:

- Presentation at the Hungarian conference by Walter Ricciardi
- Presentation at the ASPHER Deans and Directors in Serbia by Dineke Zeegers Paget
- Organisation of a joint workshop at the EHMA annual conference by the EUPHA section on health services research
- Sending promotional materials to the Slovak annual conference to be displayed.
- Organisation of a EUPHA and EUPHANxt stand at the Italian annual conference



EUPHA stand at the SITI conference in Rome, Italy

2. Jointly organising with the Polish Association of public health a workshop on health impact assessment at the EU ministerial meeting in Poznan, Poland from 7-8 November 2011.

3. Providing country overviews (some examples are already available) on EUPHA involvement. Providing overviews on specific themes (EUPHActs or EUPHA snapshots) to assist in policymaking at international and country level.

4. Providing supporting documents for our national members upon request.

And

EUPHA is planning to expand its activities for members. New activities could include:

- Supporting our national member before and during the EU presidency in its country;
- Organising country workshops at our conference
- Patronage of certain activities/topics of EUPHA by our national members
- Re-uptake of the twinning between members.

2011 was the year of networking activities for EUPHA. A large number of invitations to attend meetings, participate in expert groups were followed up. The list below is not exhaustive, but highlights the most important:

EU ministerial conference in Poznan, Poland – 7-8 November 2011

- The EU presidency of Poland (until December 2011) includes a ministerial conference in Poznan, Poland to fulfil the Health Minister's priority in "Closing the health gap between EU Member States". This conference brings together representatives from all EU Member States and. The meeting aims for the acceptance of the draft conclusion on closing the health gap between European societies and its subsequent adoption by the EU Council.
- Thanks to the efforts of Stan Tarkowski, EUPHA and the Polish Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the Polish Association of Public Health are organising a session "**Implementing Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Implications for national and EU level**".
- EUPHA has co-authored a policy brief on this topic together with the European Observatory on health systems and policies and published an official EUPHActs on Health Impact Assessment.

European Commission

- Several projects co-funded by the European Commission include EUPHA's involvement, either as the main partner (PHIRE), or as partner (STEPS, DePH, AIR, etc.).
- DG Sanco publishes in the European public health news of the EJPH.
- EUPHA is an active member of the European Health Policy Forum, which meets twice a year in Brussels and is the forum where EU meets NGO.
- At the last European Health Policy Forum, the STEPS report was presented by Mark McCarthy.
- EUPHA reacted to the green paper on Public Health Research.
- EUPHA participated in the Advisory workshop on the common strategic framework for the health challenge in July (Mark McCarthy)
- For the STEPS project, EUPHA co-organised a (first ever) press conference in Brussels.



STEPS in Brussels

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC

- Ruth Gelletlie, president of our section on infectious diseases control, is our representative in the Advisory Forum to ECDC.
- EUPHA (Ruth Gelletlie) participated in the Expert meeting on accreditation of field epidemiology training worldwide (7-9 September 2011)
- EUPHA (Dineke Zeegers Paget) participated in the ECDC lunch workshop on public health capacities with a focus on communicable diseases at the European Health Forum in Gastein (6-8 October 2011).
- ECDC will have a pre conference, a workshop and a stand at the Copenhagen 2011 conference.

WHO – Regional office for Europe

- The collaboration with WHO/EURO has intensified in 2011. Our president, Walter Ricciardi, is one of 2 representatives from NGOs invited to be a member of the external steering committee Health 2020 (the other NGO being ASPHER).
- WHO's regional director publishes in the European public health news of the EJPH.
- At the European Health Forum in Gastein (6-8 October 2011), EUPHA (Dineke Zeegers Paget) was a discussant in the workshops on Health 2020.

EUPHA sections

- Several of our sections are active in co-organising events, projects in Europe. This includes:
- The EUPHA section on public mental health is a patron of the Public mental health and family medicine conference, 8-12 February 2012 in Granada, Spain.
- The EUPHA section on migrant and ethnic minority health are co-organising the 2012 Migrant health conference in Budapest, Hungary.

Collaboration with our partners

- EUPHA attended the General Assembly of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and is discussing further collaboration with other, regional members of the WFPHA.
- At the annual conference of the European Health Management Association (EHMA), EUPHA co-organised a workshop.
- With ASPHER, EPHA, EHMA and Eurohealthnet, EUPHA co-established the Agency of Public health accreditation in Europe (APHEA).
- EUPHA sponsored the participants of the Graz summer school.

Other activities

- 2011 is the first year that we actively sought collaboration with the press. This happened on two occasions:
- The STEPS report organised a press conference in Brussels.
- Walter Ricciardi published an interview in Research Media (www.researchmedia.eu) on EUPHA;

As EUPHA, we think that it is a priority today that both the general and the technical public realise that all policies, all laws, all behaviours by families and citizens have an impact on health. Health is not just a matter to be solved inside general practices and hospitals. The realisation that we can greatly improve the general wellbeing by looking at the health consequences of all our personal and collective decisions, is a step in the good direction for the future of all Europeans. We will work to raise this awareness, and we are confident we can make it.

www.eupha.org



Quote Research Media

At the end of 2011, we have 20 active sections. The EUPHA sections have grown in size and in activities in 2011. The average growth in members is 38%.

Number of members/section (25 October 2011)

EUPHA section	members (25/10)
Child and adolescent public health	709
Chronic diseases	590
Environment related disease	399
Ethics in public health	528
Food and nutrition	494
Health Impact Assessment	76
Health promotion	1054
Health services research	1003
Infectious diseases control	421
Injury prevention and safety promotion	254
Migrant and ethnic minority health	444
Public health economics	508
Public health epidemiology	1089
Public health genomics	142
Public Health Monitoring and Reporting	173
Public health practice and policy	1107
Public mental health	492
Social security and health	421
Urban public health	472
Utilisation of medicines	180

Activities 2011

- 2011 was a very active year for the EUPHA sections and included:
- Producing a section brochure to increase the visibility of the sections;
- Renewing and updating the sections' website and making them interactive and linked to EUPHApedia;
- Finalising the EUPHA section rules;
- Finalising the keywords for abstracts (submitted to be accepted by the International Scientific Committee);
- Using the mailman system to inform members on activities, calls for interests, etc.;

Furthermore:

- The section on **public health economics** elected a new president, Beatriz González López Valcárcel;
- The section on **migrant and ethnic minority health** will elect two new presidents at their annual meeting, Prof. Allan Krasnik and Dr Charles Agyemang;
- The president of the **section on infectious diseases control** remains a highly appreciated member of the ECDC Advisory Board;
- The section on **public mental health** is a partner in the WPA Thematic Conference in collaboration with WONCA: Mental Health and Family Medicine Working Together, from 8-11 February 2012 in Granada, Spain.
- The section on **migrant and ethnic minority health** is co-organising the 4th Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Europe from 21-23 June 2012, Milan, Italy.
- There was an increase in invitations to theme-specific conferences. We encourage our section presidents to attend these if possible.
- Several sections are working on project proposals (e.g. **urban public health**) where EUPHA plays a role.

EUPHA sections at Copenhagen 2011

Presidents of all EUPHA sections are invited to score the abstracts for the upcoming conference. For 2011, 11 actively participated in the scoring.

At the conference, the EUPHA sections are organising:

- 5 pre conferences
- 13 workshops and 4 moderated poster workshops from 14 sections
- All sections organise their annual meeting during the conference.

Top 25 of countries active in EUPHA sections

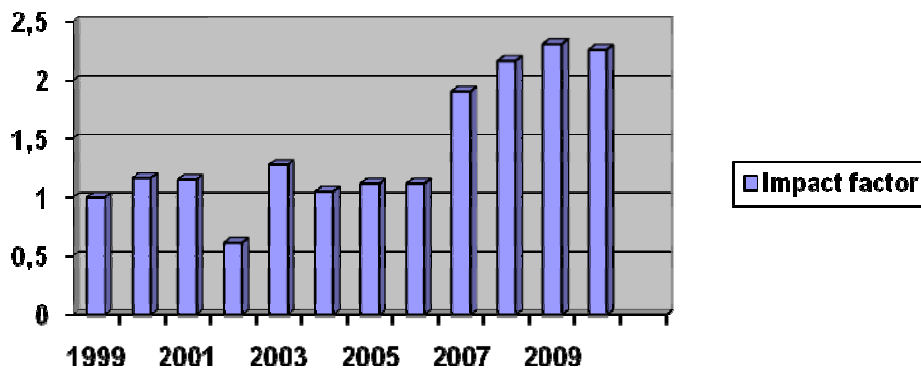
At the end of October 2011, we have more than 10'000 public health professionals from 100 countries involved in our sections' networks.

rank	Country	%	rank	Country	%
1	The Netherlands	13,5	14	Switzerland	2,4
2	United Kingdom	9,8	15	Norway	1,9
3	Denmark	7,0	16	Turkey	1,8
4	Italy	5,7	17	Poland	1,5
5	Sweden	5,2	18	United States	1,5
6	Germany	4,0	19	Canada	1,4
7	Belgium	4,0	20	Bulgaria	1,3
8	Spain	3,8	21	Lithuania	1,3
9	France	3,6	22	Russia	1,1
10	Portugal	3,0	23	Ireland	1,1
11	Romania	2,7	24	Slovakia	1,0
12	Finland	2,5	25	Greece	0,9
13	Austria	2,5			

The European Journal of Public Health (EJPH) is a multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health, publishing contributions from social medicine, epidemiology, health services research, management, ethics and law, health economics, social sciences and environmental health. The EJPH is published bimonthly. The EJPH is owned by EUPHA.



Impact factor:



The 5-year impact factor is 2.747.

Original manuscripts submitted and published during 2004-2011:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (30Sep)
<i>Manuscripts received</i>	352	336	427	503	490	656	719	582
<i>% accepted</i>	16%	24%	16%	19%	21%	29%	20%	21%
<i>Manuscripts published</i>	82	105	97	92	84	104	89	82

Brief statistics on manuscripts

During the past year, manuscripts have been submitted from 57 countries from all continents. Highest number of submissions were received from Italy (59), the Netherlands (54), United Kingdom (54), Spain (53) and Sweden (31).

Highest number of accepted papers originated from the United Kingdom (21), Netherlands (19), Italy (9), Sweden (9) Belgium (7) and Spain (6)

In addition to original manuscripts, 11 editorials and 15 Viewpoint articles have been published from December 2010 – October 2011.

Reviewers:

During the past years, 460 persons from 44 different countries have been helpful in reviewing manuscripts. Most reviewers originated from the Netherlands (66), followed by the United Kingdom (64), Sweden (60), Italy (33), Spain (28) and the United States (25).

EUPHA markets the journal by:

- allowing access for all our full members (4516) to the electronic version of the EJPH via the EUPHA database;
- Sending hard copies of the EJPH to 190 addresses throughout Europe, including our national and institutional members, European Parliament, European Commission, WHO/EURO and Council of Europe
- Linking the EJPH to EUPHApedia (external search);
- Displaying the EJPH at conferences we organise, co-organise or attend.

Partners:

Our partners in the organisation of the EJPH are:

- Oxford University Press, the official publisher of the journal; and
- Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, where our editorial office is based.
- Swedish Research Council, offering a grant to host the editorial office in Sweden.

The EJPH Editorial board:

Peter Allebeck (editor-in-chief)	C Mathers
Diana Delnoij (editor)	Johan Mackenbach
Alastair Leyland (editor)	Mark McCarthy
Walter Ricciardi (editor)	Martin McKee
Sara Sjölund (managing editor)	M McMichael
Edison Manrique (managing editor)	Natasha Muscat
Syed Rahman (managing editor)	Tom Novotny
Tit Albreht	Fred Paccaud
L. Berkman	M Petticrew
Helmut Brand	Pekka Puska
Aileen Clarke	Menno Reijneveld
Eero Lahelma	VV Vlassov
Thierry Lang	Witold Zatonski
R Leidl	Marina Pollán



2011: Electronic newsletter

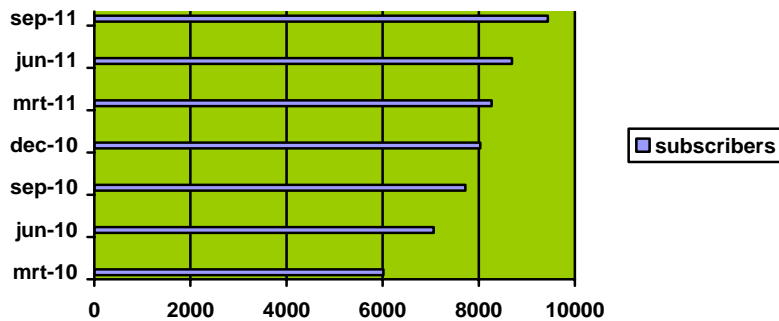
The EUPHA electronic newsletter was created in March 2006. The newsletter is an open tool of EUPHA with 2 key objectives:

- To build the knowledge of public health professionals worldwide;
- To increase the visibility of EUPHA as an association that builds capacity, knowledge and policy in the field of public health, with an emphasis on Europe.

Since March 2007, the electronic newsletter is sent on a monthly basis to public health professionals in our database who are interested in receiving the newsletter. EUPHA membership is not a prerequisite to subscribe to the newsletter.

On 30 September 2011, we had 9438 subscribers to the newsletter.

Distribution:



Usual table of content:

1. Information on the upcoming European Public Health Conference
2. Call for proposals, papers and job opportunities
3. Interesting news
4. EUPHA update
5. EUPHA members update
6. Upcoming courses and conferences
7. Interesting publications
8. European Commission news
9. European Centre for Diseases Control news
10. WHO publications
11. EUPHApedia – building knowledge and capacity together

Distribution data:

Summary:

Region	No. of countries	No. of subscribers
Europe	52	8514
Americas	15	198
Africa	30	221
Asia/South Pacific	32	274
Total (August 2011)	129	9207

Newsletter subscription by region (August 2011)



Top 5 ranking countries subscribed to the newsletter by region:

	Europe	Americas	Africa	Asia/South Pacific
1	Denmark (792)	United States (92)	Nigeria (93)	India (40)
2	Netherlands (767)	Canada (63)	Ghana (21)	South Korea (28)
3	Germany (761)	Brazil (10)	Gambia (15)	Pakistan (24)
4	France (727)	Peru (8)	Cameroon (13)	Nepal (23)
5	United Kingdom (626)	Argentina (5)	Egypt (10)	Australia (22)

Further distribution:

EUPHA actively invites our members and our partners to further distribute the newsletter, announce its publication in their tools (the Netherlands Public Health Federation includes the link in their newsletter) as well as invite them to make the EUPHA newsletter available on their website (for instance done by the Slovak Public Health Association).

Financial information:

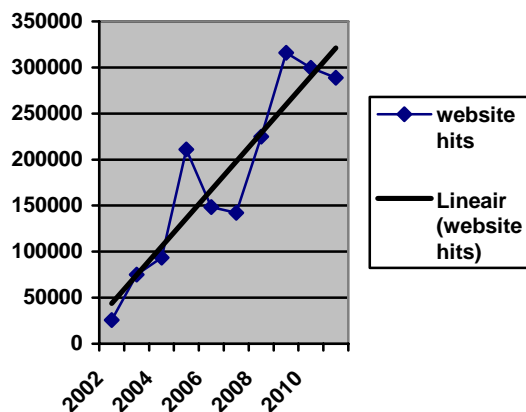
There are no financial costs in the production of the newsletter. Setting up the newsletter takes about 2 working days at EUPHA office. The distribution is organised through the mailman system (costs 60 Euro/year).

2011: Website and social networks

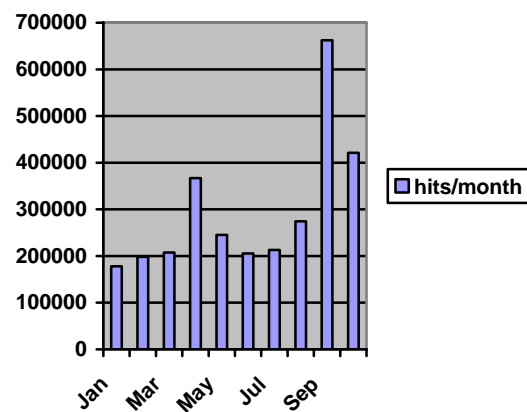
The EUPHA website is a very visible and extensively used marketing tool. It includes information on who we are, our activities, our members and hosts the website of the European public health conference. The average hits/months over the year 2011 is 283506.

The high number of hits per month is partly linked to hosting the abstract handling and conference registration of the European public health conference. This can be seen in peaks in activity in April (abstract submission) and September (early registration).

Website hits/year

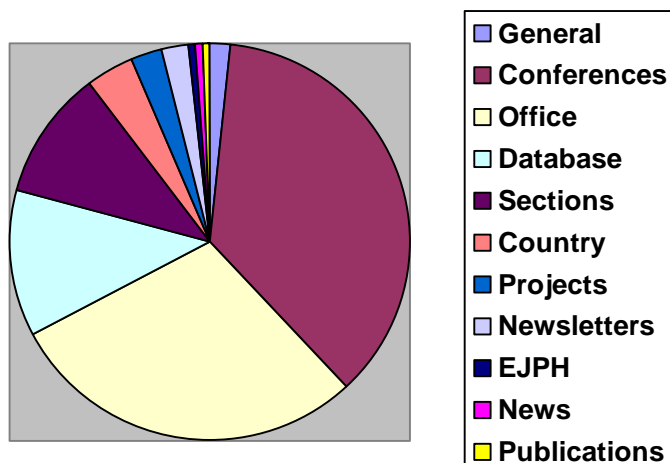


Website hits/month in 2011 (until October):



The website also hosts the EUPHA membership database and through the database, a link has been set up to the electronic access of the European Journal of Public Health for all full EUPHA members.

Most visited pages (data August 2011)



Financial information:

Running costs:

- website general: 6454 Euro
- mailman system: 1056 Euro
- conference general: 3754 Euro
- conference mailman: 60 Euro

In 2011, we have heavily invested in further developing the website, including:

- Update of lay-out website and development of email module (sending emails directly via the system to members): 3155 Euro
- The further development of dynamic projects pages: 1850 Euro (PHIRE project)
- The development of dynamic conference pages: Free of charge
- The further development of the conference registration system: 17050 Euro.

EUPHA and Social networks:

In June, we have created a facebook page for EUPHA and two twitter accounts:

- EPHconference: for the conferences; and
- EUPHActs: for EUPHA

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eupha-European-Public-Health-Association/196843717014707>

This page was created for the EUPHANxt project and is a more informal tool to update anyone interested in EUPHA. It is – at the moment – only advertised through the EUPHANxt website and currently has 46 followers. We aim to update the page every week.

Twitter:

The EPHconference twitter is linked to the opening page of the conference website. It includes updates on the programme, speakers and activities. At the moment, we have 14 followers. During Copenhagen 2011, we aim to twitter on the conference during the conference.

The EUPHActs twitter is not yet advertised on the website; it has 13 followers at the moment. It includes information on EUPHA activities and is linked to the EPHconference.

Example of facebook:

The EUPHA Choir, successful at Amsterdam 2010, will be performing at Copenhagen 2011 as well. We already have more than 150 singers signed up!





EUPHApedia

Building knowledge and capacity together

EUPHApedia is a search engine for all public health issues. It was created at the end of 2010 and launched on 9 February 2011. EUPHApedia has both an internal search engine (uploaded documents) and an external search engine (link to other websites) where documents can be found by relevance or by most recent and by keyword or phrase.

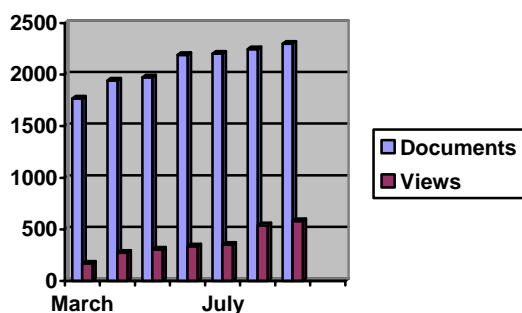
EUPHApedia was started as a pilot project and the first results of usage and evaluation can be found in this document. At the end of October, there are 3 countries uploading information and 19 countries that have used EUPHApedia.

EUPHApedia does not aim to compete with existing tools, such as Pubmed and Heidi, but aims to offer practical experiences and grey literature to a large public health audience. The system invites our members to upload their experiences (practice, policy, training and education) so they can be shared with other members. EUPHApedia falls under all three building activities of EUPHA (knowledge, capacity and policy).

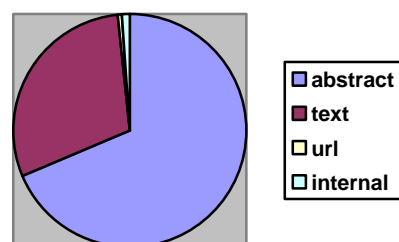
EUPHApedia has been largely advertised:

- First week of April: email to all our members (approx. 4500) informing them of the new tool;
- Monthly updates in the electronic newsletter on the content of EUPHApedia
- On the opening page of the website, EUPHApedia lists the most recent top articles included in the system.
- We have linked country-specific information to the EUPHA members' information on the European map.
- We have linked theme-specific articles to the sections' websites. In fact, 30% of all articles are linked to our theme-specific sections.
- In the European Public Health News of the EJPH, we included information on EUPHApedia.

Included documents and views (until October 2011)



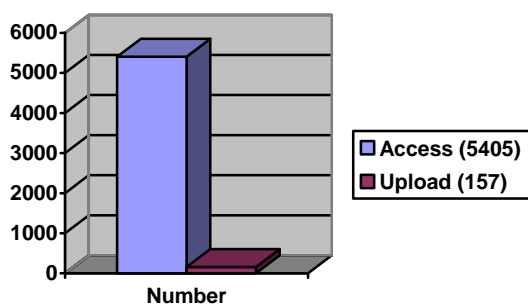
Categories of documents



The uploaded documents can be public or private/internal. The internal documents include the minutes of the Governing Council meetings 1992-2010 and the draft papers of the PHIRE project.

Accessibility:

EUPHApedia can be accessed by EUPHA members, some partners of EUPHA and EUPHANxt subscribers (since August 2011). Members of our Governing Council, section presidents and the Executive Council can upload information. Work package leaders of the PHIRE project also can upload information, as the project is linked to EUPHApedia. Others can request to be allowed to upload information (10 requests received).



Other use of EUPHApedia:

EUPHA office has used EUPHApedia to set up the snapshots: a short summary of abstracts submitted to our conferences on a specific topic. We also use it in the development of EUPHActs.

Financial information:

The development of EUPHApedia amounted to 7790 Euro. The first year of running costs received a 40% reduction from the webmaster and amounted to 1788 Euro. As of 2012, the running costs will be 2980 Euro.

Evaluation:

After the letter of invitation, quite a few members and section presidents reacted positively to EUPHApedia. Some requested official links to their website (external search engine); others requested permission to upload information. The number of active users, however, remained quite low.

In general, it was stated that FAQ on the opening page may be very useful.

In searching in EUPHApedia, comments received were:

- that the documents were by relevance, whilst some want them by most recent (this has been adapted);
- that it is not possible to search within your search results;
- that it is not possible to search with more than one keyword.

In uploading in EUPHApedia, comments received were:

- That a text can not be edited after uploading. You need to delete the document and re-upload it;
- That it is difficult sometimes to find the right category for the document;
- That when uploading a PDF, there is no possibility to add a summary.

Further steps:

1. We will take into account the comments received and update EUPHApedia.
2. We will open EUPHApedia for anyone visiting the website to increase usage;
3. The permission to upload will be limited to EUPHA members;
4. We will intensify the use of EUPHApedia for policy building activities.



2011: EUPHAnxt



EUPHAnxt is a free and open initiative, launched in June 2011 by EUPHA. With this new initiative, EUPHA aims to:

- encourage the younger persons with an interest in public health to join our network;
- encourage these younger persons to join our national members;
- allow access to our extensive network of experts;
- collect the input in public health from the younger generation;
- encourage collaboration throughout Europe for now and the future.

EUPHAnxt Benefits:

- A special website dedicated to the younger persons with an interest in public health (http://www.eupha.org/site/projects.php?project_page=9);
- Subscription to the monthly electronic newsletters of EUPHA;
- Open invitation to join any of our 18 sections and 2 proposed sections;
- Access to EUPHApedia, a search engine for all public health issues.
- Annual conference benefits: if it is no longer possible to subscribe as a student, exceptionally in 2011, EUPHA offered the EUPHA member rate for EUPHAnxt subscribers.
- Following EUPHA and our conference on twitter and facebook.

EUPHAnxt @ Copenhagen 2011:

- EUPHAnxt subscribers will be provided with **special badge** during the Annual event to promote networking and encourage communication between the members of the “young community”, sharing common goals.
- **The Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award 2011**. One session is entirely dedicated to young presenters. The best 6 selected will present their abstract to a panel of experts. A prize is awarded during the closing ceremony.
- **Young researchers Forum**. This pre conference is organised by ASPHER and offers an opportunity for MPH, PhD and postdoc researchers to present their work to a select audience of peers and key representatives of the European PH community.
- **EUPHAnxt Coffee Corners** will be organised during the conference. Here, EUPHAnxt subscribers have a chance to meet key people in public health to learn more on the broader context in PH, get suggestions on how to enhance their personal/professional development pathway and profile, edit their curricula and get inspiration from PH senior leaders.
- **“Water the Public Health Tree!” Initiative**. A virtual Public Health tree will be set up close to the EUPHA stand where we invite EUPHAnxt subscribers, but of course also all conference participants to share thoughts and beliefs on public health in Europe.

EUPHAnxt Slogan of the Year:

EUPHAnxt subscribers are invited to launch an annual slogan for advertising EUPHAnxt and express their expectations from this fresh network. The best slogan will be selected by a panel of expert and used all over the year as leitmotiv of all EUPHAnxt activities. Check : http://www.eupha.org/site/projects.php?project_page=9!!!

EUPHAnxt Collaborates with:

An open invitation to join EUPHAnxt was sent to over 30 student-related organisations. The following have accepted to become partners:

- IFMSA – International Federation of Medical Student Associations
- EFPSA – European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations
- ISA – International Sociological Association
- EPSA – European Pharmacy Students Association
- ASPHER – Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region

EUPHAnxt is run by:

EUPHAnxt is mostly run by the interns at EUPHA office:

- Agnese Lazzari (until the end of June 2011)
- Arjan van der Star (from the beginning of April to the end of June 2011)
- Fabrizio Bert (from the beginning of August to end of November 2011)

EUPHAnxt Number of subscribers:

101 have subscribed until the 1st of October 2011.

EUPHAnxt finances:

For changing the website, the costs were 340 Euro. The extra activities for Copenhagen 2011 will be included in the EUPHA general conference costs.



2011: STEPS



STEPS – Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research

STEPS has engaged civil society organisations, researchers and ministries in mapping public health research systems in Europe and has encouraged debate on public health research between civil society organisations (CSOs) and governmental structures in 12 new Member States (MS).

Activities in 2011

STEPS was completed in June 2011. In the last phase of the project, partners undertook a number of activities at national and European level. Good progress has been recorded for all partners in these activities. *STEPS* partners have held workshops between civil society organisations, research organisations and ministries of health in the 12 EU new member states, which have the lowest levels of research, described public health research systems across all EU member states, investigated the use of the Structural Funds for research, and created debate on the importance of public health research and innovation for Europe.

On 3 May, *STEPS* hosted the Open Event 'Health Research – Europe's Future' in Brussels, on the occasion of the EC's Green Paper on Innovation and Research. The event was organised by EUPHA and EPHA. EUPHA presented a position paper, prepared by EUPHA's Research Lead Mark McCarthy. At the event there were presentations and discussions of the consultation to an audience of 60 invitees. We made a press release, and *STEPS* partners were reported on radio, television and news agencies.

Following the event, partners met with their country's Research Attaché at the national Permanent Representative offices. They also met with staff from DG Research about future proposals for Social Innovation, and with Dr Antonia Parvanova, MEP and member of the Environment and Health committee. Some country partners also spoke with their national MEPs.

The *STEPS* report was presented by Mark McCarthy at the European Health Policy Forum in Brussels on 12 October 2011. The Health Policy Forum is the coordination meeting between DG SANCO and 55 European health NGOs.

The Report was received positively, and the meeting encouraged the *STEPS* work to be presented at the next meeting of the Senior Level Working Group on Public Health, a EC body formed of MS' representatives. Contacts have been made with the Danish European Presidency with the aim to have *STEPS* presented at the next WG meeting in February 2012.

The Report was also presented at the European Health Forum Gastein, a conference of 600 European health officials, academics and industry representatives which is held annually at Bad Gastein, Austria. The European Health Forum Gastein also discussed the development of social innovation to provide the evidence-base for policy and practice.

Main conclusions

Health research and innovation provide the evidence base for health policies and practice. Public health draws on research at population and organisational level, using statistical, social and behavioural science methods, linking with laboratory and clinical medicine, and with wider fields including environment, nutrition and economic sciences.

Health is achieved through public health interventions as much as through medical treatment. Yet the EU's current Framework Research Programme allocates just 5% of all Health research funding to public health research – the rest is for biomedical and biotechnology research. And the EU member states, which provide most of all European health research funding, have equivalent patterns.

EU policy is promoting research and innovation forward to 2020 for economic development and to address Grand Challenges for society – including 'active and healthy ageing'. This requires collaboration towards a European Public Health Research Area.

STEPS recommends leadership by European ministries of health in developing public health research:

- national strategies for research on public health (including health systems and services) to meet the major health challenges;
- a minimum of 25% of all health research funding allocated to public health research, both by member states and the European Union;
- coordination between ministries of science, education and finance, including use of the national Structural Funds, to develop public health sciences in universities and institutes of public health;
- better engagement with public health researchers, users and partners, especially through civil society organisations;
- greater coordination and leadership of public health research within the European Union research and innovation programmes.

Although *STEPS* has officially ended, the advocacy activities on strengthening public health research in Europe will continue in the near future. The *STEPS* report can be downloaded from www.steps-ph.eu/wp-content/uploads/STEPS_Report.pdf

Finances

The final technical and financial reports have been submitted by the Coordinator, University College London, to DG Research in August.

PHIRE (Public Health Innovation and Research in Europe) is a 30 month project coordinated by EUPHA and funded by the European Commission DG SANCO. It was previously reported at the Governing Council in 2010.

PHIRE is aimed to assist development of EUPHA activities in the Sections and the Member National Associations by focusing on EUPHA's primary concern – health research. It builds in previous studies engaging EUPHA – SPHERE (2005-2007) which described European-level public health research and made thematic bibliometrics, and STEPS (2009-2011) which described the engagement of civil society organisations in public health research in the EU new member states and made descriptions of research structures across the 27 EU countries.

Progress in 2011

PHIRE is structured around the annual EUPHA conference in November each year. The first phase finishes now, in November 2011, and the second phase runs to the end of next year, 2012. PHIRE has been organised through two sub-groups:

EUPHA Sections have each identified a project in their field that was funded by DG SANCO and started in 2003-2005. The Section leads have asked volunteers from their Sections to provide a description of impact and uptake of the project in their country, using a structured format. This subgroup is led by Dr Margaretha Voss from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.

Project	EUPHA Section
VENICE - Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort	Public Health Epidemiology
CHOB - Children, obesity and associated avoidable chronic diseases	Food and Nutrition
URHIS I - European system of urban health indicators	Urban Public Health
HA - Healthy Ageing	Public Mental Health
EAAD - European Alliance Against Depression	Public Mental Health
CSAP - Child Safety Action Plans, Phase I	Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion
EUCID - European Core Indicators in Diabetes Mellitus	Chronic Diseases
ENHIS - Implementing Environmental and Health Information Systems in Europe	Environment related diseases

EUPHA Member National Associations have been requested to describe the call(s) made at national level on public health research during 2010. This sub-group is led by Dr Claudia Conceicao from EHESP, France.

The results from these Phase 1 activities are being presented at the PHIRE Platform Workshop at the Copenhagen Conference (Saturday 12 November, 11.30 am).

Next

In Phase 2 of PHIRE, each EUPHA Member Association is asked to make four activities:

- make a brief **country situation analysis** using the data collected in Phase 1
- hold a **meeting of stakeholders**, including the Ministry of Health;
- make a **report on impact** of European innovation and research
- contribute to the **final discussion** at the 5th EPH Conference in Malta in 2012.

Context

During 2012, the European Commission will develop its work programmes for the period 2014-2020 for DG Health, DG Research, and DG Regions.

PHIRE is seeking to strengthen public health research in the EU Member States, and to increase the engagement of Ministries of Health into developing public health research.

Health research and innovation are highly funded by the EU and in member states. But the research supported is mostly biomedical, cellular and genomics research, while spending for innovation favours industrial partners, including pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and e-health, rather than not-for-profit social and systems innovation.

There is a lack of public health and health systems research. The EU Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2011) has spent less than 5% of all 'health' research funds on public health and health systems research in Europe.

Moreover, there is a lack of collaboration – member states do not know what is happening in research in other countries. EUPHA can provide the network of information.

To strengthen public health research, as well as ministries of science, **ministries of health** and **research stakeholders** must be more involved in each of the elements presented here.

Finances

The project's budget is € 750,000. PHIRE is coordinated by EUPHA and implemented by eight partners in cooperation with EUPHA Sections and EUPHA member associations. Partners are NIVEL, Netherlands institute for health services research; Karolinska Institutet, Sweden; EHESP, French National School of Public Health; UKFPH, UK Faculty of Public Health; LIH, Lithuanian Institute of Hygiene; SAVEZ, Slovak Public Health Association and the ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care, Malta.

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DePH - Developing Public Health Capacity in the EU

The one-year project ended in May and was implemented by a consortium including University Maastricht, EuroHealthNet, EHMA, ASPHER, European Observatory and EUPHA. EUPHA played a significant role in dissemination of project results and data collection. Many of the country informants came from EUPHA's extensive network of public health professionals.

The project aimed at reviewing the public health capacities of Member States (MS) across six different domains: (1) Leadership and Governance, (2) Organizational Structures, (3) Workforce, (4) Financial Resources, (5) Partnerships and (6) Knowledge Development. The goal was to identify areas of action where the EU could support the strengthening of these capacities. The following recommendations were developed:

- A Joint Action Program between the MS and the EC should be the focus for 2012.
- The EU can support the MS in setting priorities for public health. Information sharing could contribute to the national debates and processes.
- To balance potential shortages in particular with regards to the public health workforce, the EU could support further research that promotes increasing the health literacy of the population or the benefits of ICT services in public health.
- A system of Health Accounts for Public Health Services could be established at European Level. Health Accounts are coherent information systems, which monitor and record various relevant trends, activities and actors in public health
- The performance of certain public health functions needs further assessment. A system of 'tracers' could be used to monitor and assess what is being done in public health in the different Member States.
- By further facilitation of Structural Funds for Health, also the public health infrastructure can benefit from the direct investments. National funding initiatives should be supported and governance capacities should be strengthened to apply for these funds.
- The competencies of the public health workforce should be further defined and harmonized at the European level. This includes the development of professional standards for the academic and non-academic, medical and non-medical workforce.
- Guidelines for public health development could be developed to guarantee a certain level of quality in public health service delivery. Guidelines on quality assurance already exist in various areas (i.e. several cancer screening programmes).

The final report was submitted to DG SANCO in August. The lead partner, Maastricht University, is presenting a poster on the project methodology and findings at the Copenhagen 2011 Conference on Friday 11 November at 12:30 pm.

AIR Project - Addressing Health Inequalities Interventions in Regions

The project aims to identify best practices in reducing inequalities in primary care settings in European regions. EUPHA is one of the fifteen partners and has a role in the dissemination of project results. In addition, EUPHA office made a brief short review of Dutch best practices in reducing health inequalities which was shared with the research partner for the Low Countries. Other partners include the Institute for research and information in health economics (IRDES), France, the School of Public Health Andalusia, Spain. Overall project coordination is by the Regional Council of Aquitaine, France.

The project is halfway in its data collection and analysis phase. Analysis and evaluation of interventions will be done between October and November 2011 and recommendations and guidelines will be presented at the final conference in Budapest (April 2012).

Open Society Institute 2011

For another year, we have received a grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI) which allows around 40 public health experts and delegates from national public health associations from Central and Eastern European countries to participate in the 2011 conference.

Malta 2012 – 5th European Public Health Conference

The application for the conference in Malta, November 2012, has been evaluated positively by the EC. We have been offered the maximum sum available for European conferences. We will conclude negotiations with the EC in the next weeks.



Amsterdam 2010

3rd European Public Health Conference, Amsterdam 2010

The 3rd European Public Health Conference in Amsterdam took place from November 10-13 2010 and was organised in collaboration between the Netherlands Public Health Federation, EUPHA and ASPHER. The theme "Integrated Public Health" was reflected in five plenary sessions.

A total of 91 oral sessions and 24 moderated poster sessions were held during the three days of the conference. Amsterdam had several records to show for: a record number of main and pre-conference participants - nearly 1700 (including pre-conference-only participants), a record number of pre-conferences - 20, and a record number of submitted abstracts - 799 single, 82 workshops from 53 countries.

Information on abstracts/workshops submitted

Overview single presentations 2010

Subject	total	oral	poster
Research	647	507	140
Policy	64	51	13
Practice	57	47	10
Training and Education	31	24	7
total	799	629	170

Comparison 2008-2010

	2008	2009	2010
Total number of abstracts	746	561	881
Single presentations	703	516	799
- research abstracts	534	415	647
- policy abstracts	41	37	64
- practice abstracts	86	44	57
- training and education		20	31
- oral presentation preferred	507	414	620
- specific poster presentation	84	102	170
Workshops	39	45	82

The International Scientific Committee 2010 consisted of 53 experts from 30 countries, of which: 28 regular ISC members (nominated country representatives), 14 section representatives, 5 local members, and 5 EUPHA/ASPHER representatives. For the first time, ISC members could indicate three topics of preference and in the allocation of abstracts these preferences were taken into account. The average score of single presentations was 3.357. The highest score was 5.000, the lowest 1.250. The average score of workshops was 3.405. The highest score was 4.600, the lowest 1.000.

The 2010 EPH conference was strongly supported by and organised in partnership with following Dutch organisations:

- ZonMw - the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research
- NIVEL - Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research

- RIVM - National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

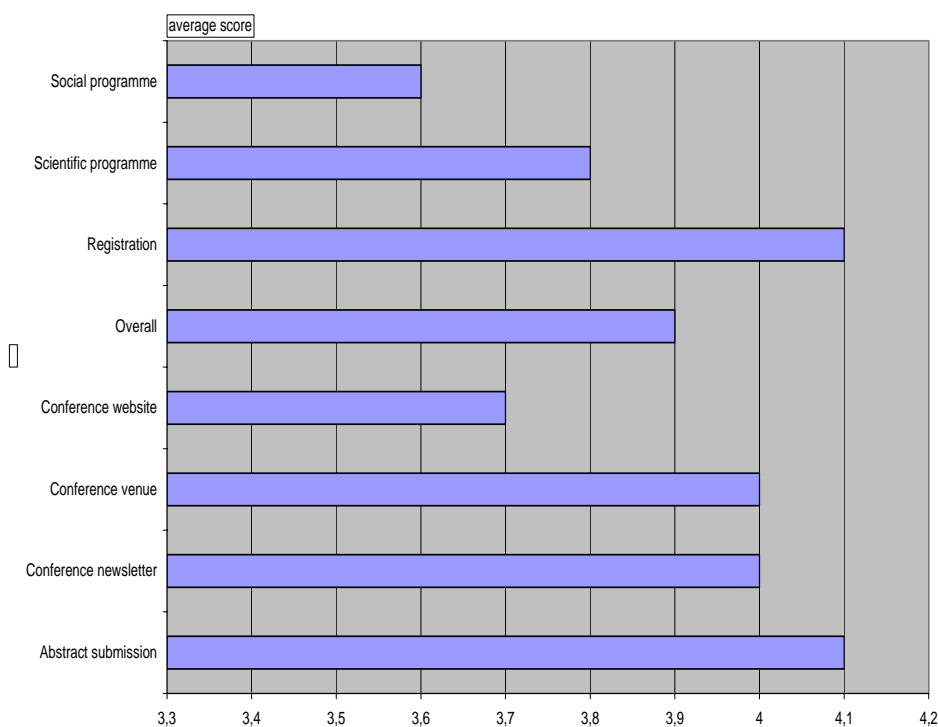
The Amsterdam organisers were very pleased with the high number of supranational partners actively involved in this conference, including:

- European Commission
- WHO – Regional office for Europe
- European Centre for Diseases Control
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- Open Society Institute (OSI)
- European Observatory for Health Systems and Policies

A new feature was the interactive online programme which was implemented a few months before the conference. It allows participants to compile their personal programme from the wide range of offers and print it before attending the conference. It also allows participants to add certain events to their registration - such as pre-conferences.

The 2010 EPH conference was the first to offer an online evaluation. 349 participants responded (= 26%) to the call. Many submitters took the trouble to enter very useful comments, suggestions, criticism or praise which we try to implement in our further development.

Evaluation overview of scores (poor = 1, excellent = 5)



80% of those who evaluated Amsterdam 2010 stated they would attend Copenhagen 2011.

Finances:

One topic which accompanied us throughout the process was the budgetary constraints. Due to formal reasons Amsterdam could not submit a conference proposal to the EU and was therefore without these essential funds. The budget for 2010 is still under negotiation.





Copenhagen 2011



4th European Public Health Conference, Copenhagen 2011

The 4th European Public Health Conference takes place from 9 to 12 November 2011 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Besides a very interesting and colourful main conference programme, participants can choose between 18 pre-conferences focusing on a large array of interesting subjects.

For Copenhagen 2011, we had 755 abstracts submitted from 55 countries.

Abstract submission overview 2011

Subject	total	oral	poster
Research	639	492	147
Policy	50	35	15
Practice	43	33	10
Training and Education	23	17	6
total	755	577	178

The International Scientific Committee 2011 consisted of 53 experts from 31 countries. Of these 35 scored the abstracts, 18 did not score. For the second time, ISC members could indicate three topics of preference and in the allocation of abstracts, these preferences were taken into account. The ISC was chaired by Torben Jørgensen.

On average, every single abstract was scored by 4,515 scorer. The average score of single presentations was 3,302 (comparison 2010 average was 3,357). The highest score was 4,800, the lowest 1,000. Oral presentations: cut-off point is 3,700 (standard deviation 1,282).

On average, every workshop was scored by 3,397 scorer. The average score of workshops was 3,366 (comparison 2010 average was 3,405). The highest score was 4,750, the lowest 2,000. Workshops: cut-off point is 3,600 (standard deviation 0,707):

The planning and conduct of such a large conference as the annual European Public Health Conference cannot take place without the help and involvement of a lot of national and international bodies and persons. The Danish organisers are very grateful to the international and Danish bodies and persons having been involved in the planning. The economic support from the European Commission, from Danish foundations like Trygfonden and Nordea Danmark fonden and from public authorities like the Danish Ministry of Health/The National Board of Health is very important. The core team of planning and conduct of the conference has been Dineke Zeegers Paget and Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb from EUPHA and Torben Jørgensen and Finn Kamper-Jørgensen from the Danish Society of Public Health.

This year, we developed and started to work with a new registration system which allows us direct access to overviews like the one below.

Copenhagen 2011

50	Agreed conference waiver
73	Cancelled
72	Day registration for Friday 11 November 2011
14	Day registration for Saturday 12 November 2011
50	Day registration for Thursday 10 November 2011
339	Full conference BEFORE 15 September 2011
93	Full conference for EUPHA and ASPHER members AFTER 15 September 2011
393	Full conference for EUPHA and ASPHER members BEFORE 15 September 2011
32	Full conference for exhibitors
128	Full conference registration AFTER 15 September 2011
178	Pre conference ONLY (No main conference registration)
138	Student registration full conference
1560	Total registrations

Finances:

In Copenhagen, as in Amsterdam, the financial management of the conference proved to be a challenge. The conference venue is an internationally well-known venue, which hosted the Climate Summit in 2009. The Bella Center has been a good and flexible partner in preparing for the conference, but it is very costly. The local organisers have managed to form a conference planning group, which has managed many organisational steps in preparation for the conference. It is thanks to them and the productive collaboration with the conference secretariat that this conference developed the way it is.





Malta 2012



Progress Report on Malta 2012 – the 5th European Public Health Conference

The last 12 months have been very busy. We have had some progress on our major tasks at hand:

- organising the June meeting
- seeking out sponsors
- consolidating our existing preparations (venue, partners, bookings, etc)
- issuing call, interviewing of the new DMC
- finalising our list of plenary speakers and communicating with the nominees
- preparing our 1st announcement
- handling considerable correspondence including 3 confirmed requests for pre-conference activities
- seeking out collaborators in Malta

One of the issues which arose during the last year was the resignation of our conference organising company (DMC) in June. This has led to an increased burden of work whereby a new DMC had to be engaged to continue the work commenced by the previous DMC.

Our initial DMC, Unconventional Malta, which we had selected and worked with on the conference since preparations for our bid back in August 2009 informed us that it would not be continuing the job in June 2011. Apparently, the company is slowly closing down its operations but the eventual closure of our collaboration was neither pleasant nor painless. Several meetings and discussions were held with this DMC to look at possible options although the end result was that the DMC resigned.

They have however provided us with all information on all bookings and other work already completed and since we had been working all along with them, continuity of work should not be a problem.

This resignation came at a crucial time and affected our ability to discuss matters clearly with potential pre-conference activity partners and sponsors as we were not yet in a position to estimate accurate costs for such matters (these depend on our agreement with the DMC). We worked hard to select a new DMC. A call was issued to all accredited DMC, as provided by the local MALTA Tourism Authority. We held clarification meetings with each of the bidders and the LOC will have selected DMC based on set criteria by Copenhagen 2011.

Despite this we have confirmed our bookings for the venue of the conference, the welcome reception site and the gala dinner site. MAPHM has paid the bill for the ex-DMC for the work they had done and also paid the deposit on the gala dinner venue. We are in contact with the venue of the conference, namely the Hilton Hotel who has secured our booking. However we urgently need to sign the contract and pay the deposit. This will be done once the DMC confirms the contract. Our starting budget was practically non-existent so we are heavily reliant on EUPHA's support for such matters and are grateful for it. We may have to come back for more advance payments in order to pay deposits which will be required before income starts coming in from registrations.

Through a limited amount of sponsor searching, we have been able to secure some support from several pharmaceutical representative agencies in Malta and also of a local bank. However, we are nowhere near reaching our targets for sponsorship money. It is hoped that further progress will be made in the coming months.

We have worked hard over recent weeks to try and confirm the list of ten plenary speakers. Despite our best efforts, only 8 could be confirmed to date while 2 others are pending and we have a first reserve in the ready. We are grateful for the nominations by EUPHA, ASPHER and the Italian Federation for confirming speakers. Admittedly, our local scientific committee nominees have a heavy UK bend. This is a reflection of historical public health developments in Malta and could not entirely be helped. We hope this close relationship may even result in an increased presence of UK public health professionals for Malta 2012. However, we believe we now have a healthy balance of plenary speakers and will work to confirm the 10 final names in the coming days.

Our first announcement as well as promotional information packs have been finalised and delivered to Copenhagen.

We had 3 confirmed requests for pre-conference activities for Malta 2012 and expect that several others will be following suite. The Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (one of our partners) will be bidding for the 2012 ESCAIDE conference to be held back to back with our conference. We hope this will be positive for both as this conference should attract about 500 participants.

We also had several researchers, authors and other public health professionals establishing contact with us about our own event. We are trying to establish a strong internet presence and a new young team of public health graduates in Malta are helping to make this happen and to keep an active 2-way collaboration with potential participants.

We feel positive about our plans to date and are confident that this conference will add value to European public health and to public health in Malta. We also fully intend that participants will have a great public health experience in Malta.

While the incoming chairperson of the forthcoming EPH conference may not be as vocally inclined as his predecessor, we will attempt in compensation to utilise our particular resources and the charm of the Maltese culture to the full.

Julian Mamo, Chair of the LOC 2012

Finances:

Malta 2012 has received a positive reply from the European Commission, subject to negotiations.