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## PREFACE

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This is the first annual report of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA). The 2000 annual report offers a summary of the activities of EUPHA in the period December 1999 to December 2000. We had a very eventful year in which a number of new activities were developed and mid- and long-term strategies both for activities and finances were elaborated.

We hope that this annual report provides you with the necessary information on our activities. Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our EUPHA office.

Marc Brodin, EUPHA president 2000-2001

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## EUPHA 2000: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The 2000 EUPHA conference was held in Paris from 14 to 16 December. The main themes of the conference were reducing health inequalities and nutrition. More than 1000 participants registered. It was the first time that EUPHA actively collaborated with the European Union: part of the conference was linked with the French presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union. It was also the first time that EUPHA obtained funding from the SOROS foundation for presenting authors from central and Eastern Europe.

In Paris, the EUPHA poster prize was awarded for the first time. The participants at the conference all received a voting bulletin to choose the three best posters. The EUPHA poster prize, consisting of a EUPHA certificate and a waiver of conference fees for the year after, was awarded during the closing ceremony to Andrea Geckova from the Slovak Republic for her poster "Inequality in health among Slovak adolescents".

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## EUPHA 2000: THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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The European Journal of Public Health (EJPH) is published four times a year and sent to all our individual members. In the year 2000, the four planned issues were published, as well as two supplements, being:

- One supplement with EJPH, 10 number 3 on smoking cessation, financed by Smithkline Beecham, UK.
- One supplement with EJPH, 10 number 4 on the proceedings of the International Policy Conference "Targets for health: shifting the debate", financed by Merck, Sharp and Dome.

There has been a continuous and steady increase in the number of articles submitted to the Journal. In the year 2000, 195 articles were submitted. The acceptance rate is 30%. The number of institutional subscriptions in 2000 increased to 308.

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## EUPHA 2000: ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTIONS

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### **Section on health promotion**

Presidents: Heiko Waller and Alf Trojan

The section on health promotion has organised a workshop at the 1999 EUPHA conference in Prague on legal and financial conditions of health promotion – views back and ahead from different European countries. Speakers came from the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Belgium and Hungary. At the 2000 conference, the section organised a workshop on the topic of reducing health inequalities through

health promotion. 4 speakers presented models of good practice from France, Ireland and Germany. The section currently has 55 members.

### **Section on public health policy and practice**

Presidents: Mark McCarthy and Nils Rosdahl

The section on public health policy and practice has been very active in 2000. The work of the section was presented at a number of meetings (e.g. to the Italian Society for Public Health (September) and to the UK Public Health Association (March)). The section currently has 20 active members.

At the Paris conference, the section organised two workshops to develop a debate on public health practice and public health standards, with invited presentations from the USA and several European countries. The final workshop discussed possibilities for further collaboration. An editorial was written for the EJPH (2000: 10: 81-82) on promoting public health practice.

### **Section on epidemiology**

This section only exists on paper at the moment. Plans to re-activate this section are being developed.

### **Section on health services research**

This section only exists on paper at the moment. Plans to re-activate this section are being developed.

### **Section on social security and health**

President: Kristina Alexanderson

The setting up of this new EUPHA section was discussed and approved by the Executive Council in June 2000. The Governing Council endorsed its instalment. The section organised a workshop at the Paris conference on research on sickness absence. The section currently has 35 members.

## **EUPHA 2000: OTHER ACTIVITIES**

In January 2000, EUPHA set up a policy paper for the support and development of a multidisciplinary approach to public health in Central and Eastern European countries. One of the activities under this policy is to promote presentations from experts from this region at the EUPHA annual conferences. This was put in place at the 2000 conference thanks to the generous support of the SOROS foundation.

The setting up of a 'future' group was proposed and discussed at the Executive Council in June. This group of researchers and public health practitioners is asked to evaluate the first decade of EUPHA and formulate proposals for the second decade. The first results of this working group will be presented in December 2001.

The Executive Council also set up a preparatory group on the future of the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH). This group is to examine the future possibilities of publishing the EJPH, taking into account the link between EUPHA and the EJPH as well as the financial side of publishing a journal. The group will present first ideas in June 2001 to the Executive Council.

Of course, one of EUPHA's main activities was to start organising the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUPHA in 2002. A number of activities are planned in collaboration with the local organisers of the 2002 conference.

The EUPHA database, agreed to by the Governing Council in 1998, consists of the individual members of EUPHA and of experts in public health. For this, EUPHA office is using the existing

databases from our members, the database of the EUPHA conferences and other existing databases, such as the reviewer database of the EJPH. The database was started in 2000 and is progressing slowly.

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### EUPHA 2000: NETWORKING

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EUPHA has sent representatives to a large number of meetings within Europe, among which the European Health and Environment Network meeting in Amsterdam in May and the meeting of EU country national associations of public health in Luxembourg in June. A second meeting of the latter group took place during the Paris conference.

Contacts with other international organisations working in the field of public health:

- **ASPHER** – Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region. EUPHA was present at the annual conference of ASPHER in October in Aarhus, Denmark. The possibility of joint meetings between ASPHER and EUPHA was again taken up and the Governing Council of ASPHER will look into this proposal. Negotiations have also started to combine efforts in Central and Eastern European countries. ASPHER is setting up a project to promote the development of schools of public health in that region, while EUPHA is promoting the multidisciplinary approach to public health.
- **EPHA** – European Public Health Alliance. EUPHA was present at the Multi-stakeholder conference on the EU public health framework, organised by EPHA in October in Brussels.
- **EHMA** – European Health Management Association. Even though several proposals for collaboration were elaborated in 1999, no official follow-up was given to these proposals. Next year, we hope to intensify the collaboration with EHMA.
- **WFPHA** – World Federation of Public Health Associations. EUPHA was present at the WFPHA annual meeting in May in Geneva, Switzerland. The WFPHA president-elect – Theo Abelin – is also a member of EUPHA's Governing Council and a better exchange of information is therefore ensured. WFPHA and EUPHA have agreed to collaborate on the WFPHA tri-annual conference to be held in the United Kingdom in the Spring of 2003.
- **WHO**: EUPHA had numerous contacts with both WHO Headquarters in Geneva and WHO's Regional Office for Europe. It is planned that the contacts with WHO will be intensified next year.
- EUPHA has obtained the consultative status at the **Council of Europe** in April this year.
- EUPHA has been present at a number of meetings where the **European Commission** was also present. Informal contacts were set up and next year, we plan to increase our contacts with the European Commission.

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### EUPHA 2000: FINANCES

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The financial situation of EUPHA has improved, but should still be seen as precarious. On the one hand, there is good news from the income side. There was a substantial increase from the contributions, as the Governing Council had agreed to an increase in membership fees in December 1999. The profit share of Oxford University Press (from the profits of the EJPH) also increased significantly.

On the other hand, the EUPHA office can only function because of a generous grant from the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. As this grant is given for a limited time (until the end of 2001), there is a need to further improve the EUPHA finances.

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### EUPHA 2000: SPONSORS

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For the year 2000, EUPHA was sponsored (financially and/or technically) by:

- The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports in the Netherlands
- Merck, Sharp and Dome
- The SOROS Foundation/Open Society Institute
- The Netherlands Institute of Health Services Research (NIVEL)
- The French Society of Public Health
- The Netherlands School of Public Health

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#### **EUPHA 2001 ONWARDS: CONFERENCES**

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The 2001 EUPHA conference will be held in Brussels, Belgium, from 6 to 8 December 2001. The main theme of the conference is health information systems throughout Europe and their interaction with the European public health policy development and action. Negotiations on collaboration for the conference are ongoing with DG-V of the European Commission, OECD, Eurostat, WHO and the European Parliament. As planned, the first announcement to this meeting was distributed at the Paris conference and is available on our website: [www.nivel.nl/eupha](http://www.nivel.nl/eupha).

The 2002 conference on bridging the gap between science and policy in public health: information, education and training is planned in Dresden, Germany from 28 to 30 November. The planning of this conference is ahead of schedule and negotiations with a number of possible sponsors, among which the German Health Ministry and the German Research Ministry, are ongoing. This conference will also be the official celebration of EUPHA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The 2003 EUPHA conference will be held in Rome, Italy from 20 to 22 November 2003. The main theme of the conference will be "Globalisation and health in Europe: harmonising public health practices".

The EUPHA conferences are based on a rotation schedule (South, North, East, West) and EUPHA plans to follow the schedule listed below:

- 2004 Northern Europe
- 2005 Eastern Europe
- 2006 Western Europe
- 2007 Southern Europe
- 2008 Northern Europe
- 2009 Eastern Europe
- 2010 Western Europe

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#### **EUPHA 2001 ONWARDS: PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

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For the year to come, EUPHA is planning to concentrate on the following activities:

- Consolidate the ongoing activities and projects.
- Recruit new members.
- Increase the representation of the public health practitioners. First initiatives were taken in 2000 and these now need to be further elaborated.
- Intensify the collaboration with other European and international NGOs working in the field of public health.
- Intensify the collaboration with the WHO, WHO/EURO, the Council of Europe and especially the European Commission (within the new public health framework).
- Prepare the tenth anniversary of EUPHA.

- Ensure EUPHA's finances after 2001 (subsidy of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport will end then).
- Look for (long-term) sponsors.

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#### EUPHA 2001 ONWARDS: FINANCES

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At the Executive Council meeting in June, several options to strengthen the financial position of EUPHA over the next 4 years were discussed. These options included both increase in income (e.g. conference profit share, increase in members, finding long-term sponsors, increase project work) as well as a decrease in costs (printing and distribution costs of EJPH). For the year 2001, extra expenses have been reserved for:

- Increase in the number of pages of the EJPH to overcome the backlog of documents;
- Development of projects and working groups; and
- Planning and organisation of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary EUPHA.

We should keep in mind that the financial situation of EUPHA is still precarious as it still heavily depends on outside sources of funding.

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#### EUPHA 2001 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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President	Marc Brodin, France
President-elect	Viviane van Casteren, Belgium
Past-president	Alena Petrakova, Czech Republic
Treasurer	Juan Cabases, Spain
Secretary	Jouke van der Zee, The Netherlands
Editor-in-chief	Martin McKee, United Kingdom

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